



ENIGMA
MARKETING RESEARCH

AgSPC.db

**A valuable tool for determining the patent status
of agrochemicals in Europe.**

AgSPC.db is a database of European Supplementary Protection Certificates (SPCs) for Plant Protection Products (PPPs). It was created in 1997 to record and track PPP SPC applications which started to be made following the entry into force of Regulation (EC) No 1610/96 of the European Parliament. **AgSPC.db** has been updated on a monthly basis ever since and is, therefore, a comprehensive record of past, present and future PPP SPCS in 28¹ countries.

PPP SPCs are an intellectual property right that aims to offset the loss of patent protection for PPPs which occurs due to the mandatory testing required to obtain regulatory marketing approval. They apply to specific agrochemical products, come into effect upon patent expiry and last for up to a maximum of five years. They are granted in Europe on a national basis. The actual term of the extension depends on a number of issues, key being the first marketing date of the product.

By June 2018, over 2,150 PPP SPCs applications have been made.

¹ **AgSPC.db** covers all 28 EU countries except Cyprus and Malta plus Norway (which is a member of the European Economic Area and therefore under Regulation (EC) No 1610/96) and Switzerland (which has its own National law from 1998).

Any company planning to enter the agrochemical market in Europe must not only establish when the patent for the active ingredient, mixture products or other secondary patents expire, but also whether SPCs to these patents have been granted and, if so, when they expire. **AgSPC.db** provides this SPC information in an easy to use format. It is important to understand that patent information is only a snapshot in time and it is essential to keep up-to-date with SPCs.

In addition, **AgSPC.db** is an extremely useful tool for competitor intelligence as it clearly shows which markets in Europe companies are targeting for increased protection.

AgSPC.db is sold under an annual licence agreement and is provided as a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet with quarterly updates.

AgSPC.db can assist companies to:

- Identify expiry dates for all PPP SPCs.
- Track life-cycles of new SPCs from application to expiry.
- Develop strategies for market introduction of generic products.
- Analyse strategies for post-patent and post SPC expiry market defence strategies.
- Monitor competitor intelligence.

An Example of SPC data from **AgSPC.db**: Amisulbrom SPCs in 2014 & 2018 - demonstrates how quickly the situation changes.

SPC Data for amisulbrom (May 2014)

Product	Company	SPC Country and Number	S ²	Patent Number	Patent Application Date	MAI ³	MAC ⁴	SPC Expiry
AMISULBROM	NISSAN CHEMICAL	DE111042P	G	DE69842143	23/10/1998	UK 070928	DE 090408	28/09/2022
AMISULBROM	NISSAN CHEMICAL	GB110041P	A	EP1031571	23/10/1998	UK 070928	UK 070928	27/09/2022

SPCD Data for amisulbrom (April 2018)

Product	Company	SPC Country and Number	S	Patent Number	Patent Application Date	MAI	MAC	SPC Expiry
AMISULBROM	NISSAN CHEMICAL	CH140001P	G	EP1031571	23/10/1998	⁵	CH 131210	22/10/2023
AMISULBROM	NISSAN CHEMICAL	DE111042P	G	DE69842143	23/10/1998	UK 070928	DE 090408	28/09/2022
AMISULBROM	NISSAN CHEMICAL	ES143004P	G	ES2362500	23/10/1998	UK 070928	ES 131202	28/09/2022
AMISULBROM	NISSAN CHEMICAL	FR150020P	G	EP1031571	23/10/1998	UK 070928	FR 141107	28/09/2022
AMISULBROM	NISSAN CHEMICAL	GB110041P	G	EP1031571	23/10/1998	UK 070928	UK 070928	27/09/2022
AMISULBROM	NISSAN CHEMICAL	GR170002P	A	GR3075005	23/10/1998	UK 070928	GR 161104	28/09/2022
AMISULBROM	NISSAN CHEMICAL	PT170842P	G	EP1031571	23/10/1998	GB 070928	PT 170628	28/09/2022

² S = Status (A = Application; R = Rejected; W = Withdrawn; G = Granted)

³ Country and date of the first authorisation in the EU (YYMMDD)

⁴ Country and date of the first authorisation in the SPC country (YYMMDD)

⁵ Switzerland is not in EU, therefore MAI not relevant

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The data for **AgSPC.db** is obtained from Official Patent Journals from EU Member States plus Norway and Switzerland.