

# IARC's Opinion On Glyphosate Is An Outlier

In 2015, the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC)—a sub-agency of the World Health Organization (WHO) based in France—released an assessment classifying glyphosate as “probably carcinogenic” to humans. The opinion is an **outlier**, inconsistent with the conclusions of regulatory authorities and other scientific experts in the U.S. and around the world.

## IARC Ignored Significant Scientific Studies

IARC cherry picked data and did not conduct any original studies in the formation of its opinion.

- IARC reviewed selective data and even ignored data from the National Cancer Institute-supported Agriculture Health Study (AHS), which followed over 50,000 pesticide applicators for over 20 years and found no association between glyphosate-based herbicides and non-Hodgkin lymphoma in real-world use.

Glyphosate-based herbicides are among the most extensively tested products, with more than 1,500 studies and 50 years of research.

- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has extensively studied the health and safety of glyphosate for decades. In its most recent independent evaluation of glyphosate, EPA scientists found:
  - “No risks of concern to human health from current uses of glyphosate.”
  - “No evidence that glyphosate causes cancer in humans.”
- In its evaluation, EPA considered a significantly more extensive and relevant dataset than IARC.

# IARC's Classification Is Contradicted By Leading Health Regulators Around The World And By Other WHO Health Entities

Since IARC's 2015 opinion, the same leading health regulatory authorities in the U.S., Europe, Japan, Australia, Korea, Canada, New Zealand, and elsewhere that previously assessed glyphosate's safety conducted new risk assessments and reaffirmed that **glyphosate is safe to use as directed and non-carcinogenic**.

**2015**

- IARC opinion
- German BfR
- ESFA
- Canada PMRA

**2016**

- WHO/JMPR
- Japan FSC
- Australia PVMA
- New Zealand EPA

**2017**

- European Chemicals Agency
- U.S. EPA
- Korea RDA

**2018**

- U.S. National Cancer Institute

**2022**

- Health Canada
- European Chemicals Agency

**2023**

- European Food Safety Authority

Further, in 2023, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit concluded that "IARC stands essentially alone in its determination that glyphosate is probably carcinogenic to humans, while EPA and regulators from around the world conclude that it is not."

## IARC Is An Outlier Even Within The WHO

IARC is one of four programs within the WHO that has evaluated the safety of glyphosate and is the only one to claim an association between glyphosate and carcinogenicity.

# IARC Claims Cancer Risk In Hundreds Of Everyday Items And Activities

IARC has determined that numerous everyday activities and widely used items pose carcinogenic risks. According to IARC, glyphosate is as dangerous as “hot beverages” and “working as a hairdresser.”

“Possibly Carcinogenic” to Humans		“Probably Carcinogenic” to Humans	
 Pickled Vegetables	 Aloe Vera	 Hot Beverages	 Nightshift Work
 Carpentry	 Textile Manufacturing	 Working as a Hairdresser	 Manufacturing Glass
 Dry Cleaning		 Glyphosate	

## The Consequences Of IARC’s Opinion

After IARC’s opinion was announced in 2015, U.S. trial lawyers seized on its misleading findings and ran advertising campaigns—amounting to hundreds of millions of dollars—to recruit people for lawsuits against glyphosate manufacturers.

Today, thousands of cases have been filed based on IARC’s deeply flawed report. Additionally, after the report’s release, some states have attempted to regulate pesticides in a manner inconsistent with federal law, congressional intent, and scientific consensus. These actions threaten farmers’ access to herbicides like glyphosate and other crop protection tools.