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MONSANTO ACT TO SAVE WILD LIFE

A CHEMICAL produced at Newport, traces of which were found last year in thousands of dead seabirds, is to be banned where it might harm the environment.

From March 1 Monsanto Chemicals, who manufacture the BCB range at their Corporation Road plant, plan to cut off supplies to customers who put it to uses they consider non-controllable.

"By non-controllable we mean applications where it is not reasonably possible to contain or prevent leakages into the environment," a spokesman for the company, who are the sole UK producers of BCB, said on Wednesday.

Toxic

He expained that while it had not been proved the BCB was responsible for the seabird deaths, the company had decided on the partial ban because of the persistent nature of the chemical.

"We decided on this course of action not because BCBs are regarded as highly toxic but because they could build up in the environment and create an ecological hazard," he said.

Monsanto have already been assured by their three Continental competitors that they will not attempt to step in and take the business which will be lost.

They hope to persuade the other companies to enforce a similar ban on non-controllable applications throughout Europe.

Manufacturers affected by the ban include those producing paints and varnishes, particularly for industrial use. In most cases Monsanto are working to develop suitable substitutes.

The spokesman said he could not reveal what the ban would cost the company, although it represented "a fair commercial sacrifice."

He gave an assurance that none of the dozen workers employed in the BCB plant at Newport would be affected.

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