So how exactly does the 10X safety factor work? Think of it as an extra layer of protection. For example, think about a toddler riding in a car. A seatbelt would not provide the appropriate amount of protection. Add a car seat - this is an example of increasing the safety factor many times over (10X). Add an alarm to alert the driver to anything left in the car, which protects the child from anything left in the back seat, which protects the child from being left in the car, which is another 10X. This example results in two 10X safety factors. Prior to the passage of FQPA, pesticide risk assessments generally had two 10X safety factors added. FQPA added a third 10X safety factor to provide even greater protection of infants and children.

FQPA provides more stringent parameters around use of pesticides on food crops.

FQPA provides enhanced protection for infants and children.

FQPA requires that pesticides are reviewed regularly.

Federal regulators must review each pesticide approved for use in the U.S. a minimum every 15 years. Each registered pesticide is also subject to continuous review whenever new scientific data becomes available.

Any newly discovered or unexpected risks (revealed by new research, incident reports, etc.) attributed to a pesticide must be reported promptly to EPA by the registrant (if they are known to the registrant).

Accelerated the reassessment of all pesticide tolerances in effect at the time FQPA was enacted.

Using these newly developed methodologies, EPA completed the reassessment of the 9,721 pesticide tolerances in effect in 1996 during the 10 years after FQPA was enacted. In the process, EPA revoked or modified almost 4,000 tolerances.