Pesticide specialists assign the Certainty Index for each exposed human/animal entity using these criteria:

**Definite**

The narrative should document (as clearly as possible):

a) At least one specific symptom that is consistent with exposure to the identified active ingredient(s), given that one non-specific symptom (i.e. headache, nausea) is generally insufficient, and

b) The time course between exposure, onset, and duration of symptoms is consistent with the toxicology of the active ingredient, and

c) The reported exposure pathway is highly plausible and the route(s) of exposure is/are clear, based on the history provided, and

d) A biomarker of exposure (parent compound or metabolite) was detected in a measureable concentration through laboratory analyses, and the biomarker concentration is provided.

**Consistent**

The narrative should document (as clearly as possible):

e) The primary complaint or the majority of reported symptoms are consistent with exposure to the active ingredient(s) according to published information, and

f) The time course between exposure, onset, and duration of symptoms could be conceivably consistent with the toxicology of the active ingredient, and

g) The reported exposure pathway is conceivably plausible based on the history provided.

**Inconsistent**

There is a report of exposure and symptoms, but:

a) The primary complaint or the majority of the reported symptom(s) are not consistent with exposure to the active ingredient(s), and/or

b) The time course between exposure and onset or duration of symptoms is not consistent with the toxicology of the active ingredient(s) and/or

c) The available history does not include a plausible exposure pathway.

**Unclassifiable**

There is a report of exposure, but sufficient information is not available:

a) Unclassifiable – AI unknown
   No active ingredients could be identified.

b) Unclassifiable – Asymptomatic
   The caller reported there were no symptoms.

c) Unclassifiable – Symptoms Unknown
   The presence/absence of symptoms is unknown. This happens when time is of the essence, and data collection is curtailed. This also happens when email messages and voice-mail messages include an exposure report with no mention of signs or symptoms.