

Workplace Health and Safety Queensland

Information guide – Rural industry

12. Chemicals – storage and disposal

Below are some simple advice to assist rural producers with their obligations for storage and disposal of chemicals under the *Dangerous Goods Safety Management Regulation 2001* and the *Workplace Health and Safety Regulation 2008*.

For more information on materials classified as hazardous substances, stated dangerous goods or combustible liquids, see fact sheet '16. *Dangerous Goods and Combustible Liquids*' for the application of the Dangerous Goods Safety Management Regulation 2001 and AS 2507-1998, The storage and handling of agricultural and veterinary chemicals.

Read the label

- The label provides advice on safe handling, storage and use. The chemical's identity and toxicity are also given.
- A container of dangerous goods will have one of the opposite label markings on the container.

Read the MSDS

Chemical manufacturers are required to supply Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS).

These sheets provide detailed information on health hazard information, precautions for use, first aid and safe handling information, as well as chemical data. An MSDS also provides information on storage and disposal procedures, and is available from the chemical supplier.

Storage

- Store in a well ventilated and lockable well-lit shed that has an impervious floor

and impervious shelving. Storage sheds must not be located in flood areas.

- Check the label for advice about storage.
- Store away from respirators, protective clothing and equipment.
- Keep pesticides separate from animal feeds, fertilisers, seeds and other chemicals.
- Keep incompatible dangerous goods separated. The MSDS should state which goods are to be kept separated. A minimum separation of at least 3m is recommended between incompatible goods.
- Store chemicals in a depot with a bund or some other spill containment system where possible.
- Clean up spills immediately and minimise rubbish and debris.
- Ensure appropriate materials (chemical gloves, boots, apron and respirators) are kept close by to clean up any spills. These may include soil, water, absorbent pillows, lime or sand.
- Store chemicals in original containers, with labels intact. If labels come off, always re-label container. Never store chemicals in drink or food containers.
- Secure chemicals from unauthorised access.
- Eliminate ignition sources (e.g. naked lights, sparks, and mobile phones) in areas where flammable goods are stored or handled.
- Reduce combustible debris in and around a chemical storage depot. Grass should be kept short or at least 3m away.

- Ensure fire-fighting equipment is available and accessible to the depot (supplies of water, sand or extinguishers may be required).
- Ensure tanks of dangerous goods or combustible liquids (e.g. diesel) are labelled appropriately.

Dangerous goods classes

1	EXPLOSIVES	
2.1	FLAMMABLE GASES	
2.2	NON-FLAMMABLE NON-TOXIC GASES	
2.2	OXIDIZING GAS	
5.1	(NITROUS OXIDE & OXYGEN ONLY)	
2.3	TOXIC GASES	
3	FLAMMABLE LIQUIDS	
4.1	FLAMMABLE SOLIDS (and other reactive substances)	
4.2	SUBSTANCES LIABLE TO SPONTANEOUS COMBUSTION	
4.3	SUBSTANCES THAT IN CONTACT WITH WATER EMIT FLAMMABLE GASES	
5.1	OXIDIZING SUBSTANCES	
5.2	ORGANIC PEROXIDES	
6.1	TOXIC SUBSTANCES	
6.2	INFECTIOUS SUBSTANCES	
7	RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL (CATEGORY I)	
7	RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL (CATEGORY II or III)	
8	CORROSIVE SUBSTANCES	
9	MISCELLANEOUS DANGEROUS GOODS AND ARTICLES	
	MIXED CLASS LABEL FOR ROAD AND RAIL TRANSPORT	
	SUBSIDIARY RISK LABEL TO BE USED WITH ELEVATED TEMPERATURE SUBSTANCES	

Disposal

- Check the label for advice on disposal of chemicals or containers.
- Triple rinse empty containers to remove all traces of the chemical, then uncap, puncture and crush.
- Return containers that carry the drum MUSTER logo to the manufacturer or supplier. Contact ChemClear regarding the disposal of unwanted rural chemicals. Ask your local government

authority what their requirements are for collection.

- Don't burn containers.

Transport

- Avoid transporting chemicals with food, water, animal feed or other reactive hazardous substances (see storing chemicals above).
- Secure hazardous substances on the vehicle so they can't move or fall.
- Keep a record of the chemicals you are carrying.

Care for the environment

- Observe any warnings on the label regarding toxicity to non-target areas (animals or plants)
- Contact your local government authority.

Correct storage and disposal of chemicals on your property will ensure the health and safety of yourself and others.

It is important to:

- always read the label and the MSDS first
- ensure chemicals are stored in an appropriate secure place
- follow acceptable practices for disposal

Useful contacts

1. Queensland Transport.

For information about dangerous goods transport requirements on Queensland roads: Phone: (07) 3320 4446

Web: www.transport.qld.gov.au

2. Drum MUSTER

For information about collection of empty, cleaned, non-returnable crop production and on-farm animal health chemical containers: Phone: (02) 6230 6712

Web: www.drummuster.com.au

3. ChemClear

For information about the disposal and management of unwanted rural chemicals: Phone: 1800 008 182

Web: www.chemclear.com.au

More information

Further information is available from www.worksafe.qld.gov.au or by calling the WHS Infoline 1300 369 915.

© The State of Queensland (Department of Justice and Attorney-General) 2010

Copyright protects this document. The State of Queensland has no objection to this material being reproduced, but asserts its right to be recognised as author of the original material and the right to have the material unaltered.

The material presented in this publication is distributed by the Queensland Government as an information source only. The State of Queensland makes no statements, representations, or warranties about the accuracy or completeness of the information contained in this publication, and the reader should not rely on it. The Queensland Government disclaims all responsibility and all liability (including, without limitation, liability in negligence) for all expenses, losses, damages and costs you might incur as a result of the information being inaccurate or incomplete in any way, and for any reason.

Workplace Health and Safety Queensland, Department of Justice and Attorney-General

Information guide – Rural industry – 12. Chemical – storage and disposal
PN10082 Version 2. Last updated December 2009.