

## Grower Guideline on Agrichemical Health & Safety Requirements

This guideline summarises the laws and standards that growers and commercial users must follow when using and storing agrichemicals.

More detail can be found in your Grower Manual in the 'GAP resources' section. This guide should be read in conjunction with the guide developed by Zespri and NZKGI on developing an overarching [Health and Safety Plan](#) for your orchard.

**Inventory** – growers must have an up-to-date inventory of all agrichemicals used, handled or stored on each site. Inventory records must be stored somewhere obvious and accessible so inspectors, on-site workers, and emergency services know where they can find it. The inventory must include the substance name, the *maximum* amount allowed on site, its location, storage/segregation requirements, and current SDS (safety data sheet). An easy guide to inventory management can be found on the WorkSafe website [here](#). Some chemicals need a location certificate to allow you to store them on site. Information about location certificates can be found [here](#).

**Safety data sheets** - growers are required by law to have a current Safety Data Sheet (SDS) on site regardless of how much or little product is held. These sheets provide in-depth information about the agrichemical's properties and explains how to safely use, store, transport, and dispose of it. SDSs must be kept with the orchard inventory. Users and growers should read each SDS and understand the risks posed by the agrichemical, as well putting measures in place to manage risk for everyone on site. The SDS can be electronic or in hard copy and must be up-to-date and readily available. SDS can be requested from the chemical supplier. A handy guide to SDSs can be found [here](#).

**Risk management** - It is important to know the risks posed by agrichemicals stored or held on site, and growers should review these regularly to make sure systems and processes manage the risks. Growers should consider whether the chemical should be stored on site or whether there are safer ways to use or store it. They also need to make sure everyone using the chemical has the right Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and that it works effectively.

Growers should consider the knowledge and experience of workers using the chemical, making sure they have appropriate training regularly and instructions to use chemicals safely. Risks posed by agrichemicals before and during application also need to be managed by a comprehensive spray plan.

More information on risk assessments and tools to document the risks on your site can be found in the resource section of the Grower Manual. This includes a template to develop a spray plan for your site.

WorkSafe gives clear guidance on to how to use Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) including Respiration Protective Equipment (RPE) during spraying [here](#).

**Information, instruction, supervision and training** - orchard workers must be informed of any work involving agrichemicals taking place on site, where to find relevant information, and how to handle and store those substances. They must also know what to do in an emergency. Workers must be given site-specific training for each orchard (e.g. hazardous substances, use/storage/disposal, equipment usage, PPE) and records training must be kept.

All workers involved in spray application must hold a current GROWSAFE certificate and staff need the appropriate training or licences required for the equipment they are using.

### Health monitoring

Health monitoring is a way to check if worker health is being affected from exposure to agrichemicals substances at work, and can detect early signs of ill-health or disease. One example is spirometry testing to detect early changes in lung function. Information on health monitoring can be found [here](#).

**Emergency plans** - these provide clear guidance for what you, your workers and the emergency services need to do during an emergency – eg. someone inhaling a toxic substance or having it contaminate land and waterways. Workers must be trained about what to do in an emergency, where to find safety/first aid equipment, and how to use it. Everyone on orchard needs to know where to find the hazardous substances inventory, labelling and SDS.

When orchard activities are underway, at least one person trained in first aid must be present, with an accessible first aid kit nearby. You should also make sure equipment for dealing with leaks and spills and/or chemicals for restricting or decontaminating spills is readily available.

You can find out more about how to develop an emergency plan on WorkSafe's website [here](#).

**Labelling** - agrichemical containers must be labelled so anyone including workers and emergency services personnel know what's inside and can take the correct precautionary measures. It's never safe to have agrichemicals in unlabelled (or incorrectly labelled) containers, particularly food or drink containers. Because sprays are used immediately after being put in the spray container (e.g atom sprayer), you don't need to label that container. However the spray container must always be cleaned thoroughly straight away, removing all potentially hazardous residue. You can read more on page 34 of the GAP resources on Canopy [here](#).

**Signs** – you must put up clear, concise signs informing all visitors of the agrichemicals held or being used onsite, the precautionary measures to be taken and what to do in an emergency. The signs should be clearly visible at key points, such as entranceways and on buildings, or in outdoor areas where hazardous substances are used or stored. The sign information must be in plain English, readily understood and clearly visible from 10 metres. Signs must be maintained and kept updated.

You need to check with your regional council for your local signage requirements during spraying. 'Spraying in Progress' signs must be used in sensitive areas as well as fixed signs at the orchard entrance outlining:

- Name and type of agrichemical used
- The date of spray application
- The safe re-entry date
- Contact details of the spray applicator/contractor

**Storage** - incompatible substances should not be stored together for safety reasons and should remain in their original containers to ensure correct labelling. Information on the storage and handling requirements for each chemical is outlined in the SDS.

**Hazardous waste** – the same requirements apply for waste as they do for agrichemicals (with exception of the need for an SDS). Growers must comply with Zespri waste management and environmental policies outlined in the Grower Manual.

**Additional certification and licensing requirements** – additional training is needed for some chemicals over and above GROWSAFE. There are no additional requirements for products listed in the Zespri Crop Protection Programme (CPP) but this may be required for other chemicals stored on site. Any extra requirements will be clearly specified on the product label or provided to you at the time of purchase.

**Tracking hazardous substances** – there are no tracking requirements for products listed in the Zespri Crop Protection Programme but there are some products (e.g some rodenticides) that must be tracked from manufacture to disposal. For more information use the calculator tool located here [tracking of substances](#)