

Chemical and Agvet Management Plan

SAMPLE

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SAMPLE

Purpose and Scope

This Chemical and Agvet Management Plan sets out how [Company Name] will manage the health, safety and environmental risks associated with the procurement, storage, handling, mixing, application, transport and disposal of hazardous chemicals and agricultural and veterinary (agvet) chemicals.

It is designed for operations in: - Broadacre and intensive farming and agriculture - Landscaping and turf management - Gardening and lawn care services - Pest control and fumigation services

The plan applies to all workers, including employees, contractors, labour hire workers, apprentices, trainees and volunteers, as well as visitors who may be affected by chemical use on sites controlled by [Company Name].

Objectives of this plan are to: - Prevent illness, injury and environmental harm arising from chemical and agvet use - Achieve and maintain WHS compliance with relevant legislation, Codes of Practice and standards - Provide clear procedures and responsibilities for safe chemical management - Support training, supervision and consultation on chemical safety

Roles, Responsibilities and Consultation

Officers and Senior Management

Officers and senior managers at [Company Name] must exercise due diligence to ensure that appropriate resources, processes and governance arrangements are in place for chemical and agvet management. This includes: - Providing adequate budget for safe storage, PPE, spill response and waste disposal - Ensuring chemical risk management is integrated into business planning and contracts - Approving this Chemical and Agvet Management Plan and reviewing it at least annually - Monitoring incident reports, audit findings and corrective actions related to chemicals - Ensuring legal obligations under WHS and environmental legislation are met

Managers and Supervisors

Managers and Supervisors are responsible for implementing this plan in their areas of control. Their duties include: - Ensuring only approved chemicals are purchased and used - Verifying that Safety Data Sheets (SDS) are current and accessible - Conducting and documenting risk assessments for chemical tasks - Ensuring workers are trained, competent and supervised when handling chemicals - Enforcing the use of required personal protective equipment (PPE) - Ensuring plant (e.g. boom sprays, knapsacks, foggers) is maintained and fit for purpose - Coordinating emergency preparedness, including spill kits and first aid

Workers and Contractors

All workers and contractors must: - Follow this plan, safe work procedures and label/SDS directions - Use chemicals only if trained, authorised and competent - Wear and maintain required PPE - Report hazards, spills, exposures, defective equipment and incidents immediately - Participate in training, consultation and health monitoring where required - Never decant chemicals into unlabelled or inappropriate containers

Contractors (e.g. pest control operators, aerial applicators) must: - Provide evidence of licences, insurances and competency - Supply their own SWMS or work method statements where required - Comply with site rules and this plan while on [Company Name] sites

Consultation, Communication and Worker Participation

[Company Name] will consult with workers and Health and Safety Representatives (HSRs) on: - Selection and substitution of chemicals - Changes to work methods, equipment or PPE - Development and review of chemical-related procedures - Outcomes of incident investigations and audits

Consultation mechanisms may include toolbox talks, pre-start meetings, safety committees and written communications.

Checklist – Consultation and Responsibilities - Chemical safety discussed at regular toolbox/pre-start meetings - Workers consulted before introducing new chemicals or application methods - HSRs involved in reviewing this plan and chemical procedures - Contractor chemical safety requirements clearly communicated

Legal and Other Requirements

[Company Name] will identify and comply with all applicable WHS and environmental legislation, standards and Codes of Practice relating to hazardous chemicals and agvet products, including but not limited to:

- Work Health and Safety Act and Regulations (jurisdiction-specific)
- Hazardous Chemicals and Managing Risks of Hazardous Chemicals in the Workplace Codes of Practice
- Managing Risks of Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines in the Workplace (where applicable)
- Environmental protection legislation for storage, use and disposal
- Dangerous Goods transport requirements (where relevant)
- Agvet chemical control-of-use legislation and licensing requirements

A register of applicable legislation and guidance documents will be maintained and reviewed annually or when significant changes occur.

Checklist – Legal Compliance - Current copies/links to relevant Acts, Regulations and Codes of Practice available - Agvet chemical licensing requirements identified and complied with - Transport and storage of dangerous goods assessed against relevant standards - Environmental requirements for spray drift, run-off and waste disposal implemented

Chemical and Agvet Inventory Management

Chemical Approval and Purchasing

To prevent uncontrolled introduction of hazardous chemicals, [Company Name] will implement a chemical approval process. No chemical is to be purchased or used unless approved by the nominated manager or WHS representative.

Approval will consider: - Intended purpose and whether a safer alternative exists - Hazard classification and potential health and environmental risks - Compatibility with existing chemicals and storage facilities - Availability of a current SDS (issued within the last 5 years) - Required PPE, plant, training and health monitoring

Purchasing controls: - Use preferred suppliers where possible - Avoid bulk quantities unless justified by usage and storage capacity - Prohibit decanting into consumer-style containers that may lead to misuse

Chemical and Agvet Register

[Company Name] will maintain a current Chemical and Agvet Register for all hazardous chemicals and agvet products used, handled or stored at each workplace.

The register must be: - Up to date and reflect all chemicals on site - Accessible to all workers and emergency services - Linked to current SDS for each chemical

Example structure for the Chemical and Agvet Register:

Product name	Active constituent(s)	Use/purpose	Hazard classification	Supplier	Storage location	Maximum quantity on site	PPE required	Special controls/notes

Checklist - Inventory and Register - Chemical and Agvet Register established for each workplace - SDS available and current (less than 5 years old) - Obsolete or banned chemicals identified and removed - Quantities reviewed to minimise stockpiling and waste

Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment

Hazard Identification

Chemical-related hazards in farming, landscaping, gardening and pest control may include: - Toxic effects from pesticides, herbicides, fungicides, fumigants and veterinary medicines - Skin and eye irritation or burns from corrosive products - Respiratory irritation or poisoning from inhaling mists, vapours, gases or dusts - Fire and explosion risks from flammable liquids, aerosols and gases - Environmental contamination of soil, waterways and non-target species - Manual handling injuries from lifting drums, mixing containers or knapsacks - Confined space risks when using fumigants or gases in silos, sheds or tanks