

# Requirements for people authorised to possess and use S7 or RCP pesticides

*Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Control of Use) Act 2004*

## Introduction

The Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade (DITT) promotes minimum use of pesticides. Our role is to authorise and monitor the responsible use of chemicals to ensure that pesticide use does not cause injury to human health, the environment or present a risk to trade. Using pesticides correctly protects your health, your family, your livelihood, the environment and the food you eat.

General principles:

- Use pesticides only when really needed.
- Identify the pest, assess the damage and determine the control measures required and the associated risk.
- Seek advice from the Northern Territory Horticulture Association or DITT on the proper method of control, and use only the recommended pesticide.
- Purchase only sufficient pesticide for the job in hand. This avoids storing the dangerous poison on your premises. A further purchase (on the same authorisation) can be made later if required.

Schedule 7 poisons have a high potential for causing harm at low exposure. They are only available to authorised users that have the proven skills to handle them safely and can demonstrate there is a genuine need to possess and use the pesticide – for example, as part of their workplace role in an agricultural enterprise.

The conditions of use described below are mandatory. It is an offence to use a Schedule 7 chemical product either without a valid authorisation or contrary to the conditions of the authorisation. The penalties for misuse could be high.

## About your authorisation

Your authorisation will have a life of two years unless otherwise specified. Keep it in a safe place, knowing that it is your authority to possess and use a poison (and not just to purchase). You must show your authorisation to your supplier each time that you make a purchase - they will make an entry in their poisons register and ask you to sign the entry.

## Conditions of use

### Possession and use of schedule 7 pesticide

- You must use the pesticide only for the purpose, and only in accordance with conditions, specified in the authorisation document. Read your authorisation carefully to ensure that you comply.
- Schedule 7 pesticides must not be possessed, stored or used at any address other than that stated in the authorisation document. The pesticides, when not in actual use, must be stored in a locked cabinet or storeroom.

## Requirements for people authorised to possess and use S7 or RCP pesticides

- The authorised person only may use the schedule 7 pesticides. They must not supply these pesticides to another person.
- The pesticide must only be used according to the product label instructions.

All pesticides are subject to 'registration conditions'. These conditions are legal requirements with which an authorised person must comply. Registration conditions are written on the pesticide container label and give details about the correct use, including record keeping, host/situation, pests and the application rates.

## Record Keeping

- You must keep a record of each purchase of an S7 pesticide.
- Other records to be maintained as in the product label instructions.
- Spray records must be kept for two years after use and include:
  1. Name and address of person who used the product.
  2. Name of the product.
  3. If the product was used in a ground spraying business or aerial spraying business – the names and addresses of the business, the licensee of the business and the client on whose behalf the product was used.
  4. The rate and amount of product applied.
  5. Method of application – ground or aerial.
  6. If the method was aerial spraying – The name and address of the pilot who flew the aircraft, Type of aircraft and registration, How the product was applied and equipment used to apply it.
  7. Expiry date of product.
  8. The date and time the product was used.
  9. The address or location of the land on which the product was used, down to the paddock location and size of area.
  10. The type of crop, pasture or other plants in the area.
  11. Temperature, wind speed and direction at the time of spraying.
  12. Name of target pest or disease.
  13. Withholding periods.
  14. Details of the permit or authorisation allowing use under the spray permit and any additional recorded information required under that permit or authorisation.

## General safety

- Read the label before handling the chemical, ensuring all details are known and you are familiar with the general requirements for usage. If the label is damaged, not complete or missing and there is any doubt as to the container contents then do not proceed in using and seek further advice. If a label requires replacement then contact your supplier or Chemical Services for assistance.
- Observe product label instructions on area re-entry and produce handling.

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- Store the chemical in a secure location to prevent unintended access and under the conditions as defined on the label to maintain the product integrity and avoid deterioration or material becoming volatile.
- Keep children and pets away from the work area when mixing and applying pesticides
- If you suffer from ill health, especially with respiratory or heart disease, you should not use pesticides.
- Conduct handling and preparation in a work space that provides the necessary work surface areas, containers and equipment, ventilation, access to emergency equipment, such as water for a safety shower, and spill kits.
- Do not handle in confined spaces where there is inadequate ventilation.
- Do not handle food, or place anything in your mouth including drinking or smoking, while mixing or applying the pesticide chemical.
- Handle pesticide chemical cautiously so as to avoid splashing and spillage.

## Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Protective clothing and equipment must be worn when mixing and applying pesticides. This may include:

- Cotton overalls buttoned at the throat and wrists, impervious (PVC) gloves and a washable plastic or hard hat;
- Chemical-resistant boots, worn beneath the overalls so that any spillage is not caught in the boots;
- Face shield and/or half-face respirator with an appropriate cartridge, especially for dust formulations and volatile liquid concentrates.
- Observe the label and product Safety Data Sheet instructions for PPE.
- When the task is completed carefully remove PPE and dispose of or put aside for decontamination, scrub hands and any exposed skin areas, according to label and Safety Data Sheet instructions.

## Environment

- You must give your neighbours adequate warning before you spray. At least 12 hours of notice should be given either in person or by phone. This will enable them to take precautions such as staying indoors, closing their windows, removing washing from the clothesline, protecting pet birds and fish, and bees. It is especially important if your neighbours suffer from asthma or other illness, as they may need to leave the area while you are spraying.
- Avoid spray drift – do not spray if atmospheric conditions are unsuitable and likely to cause spray drift. Observe the product and equipment instructions to obtain the correct droplet size and spray pattern to assist with control of spray-drift.

## Equipment

- Application equipment must be in proper working order. Applicators must be calibrated to minimise spray drift while giving effective coverage.
- Product labels may specify equipment settings or spray patterns to be achieved and these must be observed
- Do not blow out clogged nozzles or hoses by mouth.

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- Do not leave pesticides in application equipment. Clean equipment after use and return to the storage point.

## Disposal

- Return unused containers of pesticides to the supplier store, and safely dispose of empty containers and remaining chemical according to label and Safety Data Sheet instructions.
- Immediately store any remnant pesticide chemical in the secure store.
- Do not decant pesticides into other containers, especially food or beverage containers, as they may be mistaken for a food substance or later used for food storage.

## Poisons information

If poisoning occurs, immediately contact the Poisons Information Centre on 13 11 26.

The centre operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Medicines and poisons safety information can be found at: <https://nt.gov.au/emergency/community-safety/medicine-and-poison-safety>