# Updated Approved Training

1. Section 5 of the NT ***Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Control of Use) Regulations 2005*** requires the Chemical Coordinator to specify via Gazetted Instrument the Approved Training courses for handling a substance.
2. Under the previous notice that was gazetted on the 14 June 2018, there were a number of identified issues which include:
	1. Approved courses were limited to three private sector programs being: AusChem, SMART Train and ChemCert. This limited an applicant’s preference for service providers to complete recognised training to meet the required competencies.
	2. Outdated competencies which have been superseded or ceased completely – for example Apply chemicals and biological agents FDFWGG3001A which ceased on 13 June 2017.

# Furthermore there was an oversight where former training for applicants was being recognised which pre-dated the currently approved training courses or their superseded alternatives. This created an unintended safety issue for the user as Chemical Advisers were undertaking an unauthorised Registered Training Organisation (RTO) function by considering and approving an applicant’s abilities against historic qualifications where training standards and competencies may have been substantially changed.

# While it is recognised that some older users have adopted safe farm practices for many years, current practices may not be consistent with the industry or Australian standard and places the user at unnecessary risk of harm.

1. An updated list of Approved Training (Annexure A) lists the required national module competencies which are now not restricted to certain training providers. The only exception to this is the Spraysafe Accredited Courses for aerial spraying activities where there is only one registered and approved training provider in Australia. The modules are taken from the current published list on the Australian Government Training Standards (training.gov.au).
2. In respect to the small group of applicants who do not currently maintain the current or former approved modules as set out in the schedule, the Department will formally recognise their abilities and skillsets through a temporary exemption that will not exceed a 12 month period. This will allow this group only to continue to operate and upgrade their skillsets to the approved training competencies for future applications.
3. The current process provides the following benefits to users:
	1. Greater freedom of choice for training providers
	2. Ability to upgrade individual modules as required when training standards change
	3. Cost savings to undertake training for module competencies compared to undertaking larger programs / certifications
	4. Flexibility to undertake self-paced training of specific modules (all of which can be provided online by a number RTO’s)
4. The attached *Approved Training Schedule* will take effect on the 8 June 2023.