

Specific Group I chemical regulations for record keeping, training and exclusions

Commercial users applying Group I herbicides must keep accurate and comprehensive records which are completed within 24 hours of application and retained for a minimum of two years.

They must hold, as a minimum, a current statement of attainment for a prescribed qualification incorporating the competency (AHCCHM303A) 'Prepare and Apply Chemicals'.

This competency requirement forms part of the current Australian Quality Framework suite of prescribed chemical training courses offered by accredited training providers.

All arable cropping land within South Australia falls under the regulations excluding the district councils of Cleve, Franklin Harbour, Kimba, Le Hunte, Streaky Bay, Ceduna, Whyalla, Port Augusta and Flinders Ranges. However, all users of Group I herbicides in the exempted areas are strongly encouraged to meet the same level of record keeping and training as required in the regulations to be consistent with "best practice".

More details can be found on the PIRSA Biosecurity SA website www.pir.sa.gov.au/biosecuritysa/ruralchem



Read the label and follow instructions

General Note: **READ THE LABEL** and follow all instructions. It is an offence under the *SA Agricultural and Veterinary Products (Control of Use) Act 2002* to contravene a mandatory instruction on the approved label of a registered agricultural chemical product.



This Code of Practice was developed in consultation with the Mid North Spray Drift Committee, November 2011 and updated in September 2013.

It is based on the best information currently available. Biosecurity SA reserves the right to amend this Code of Practice as new information on climate/herbicide interactions becomes available.

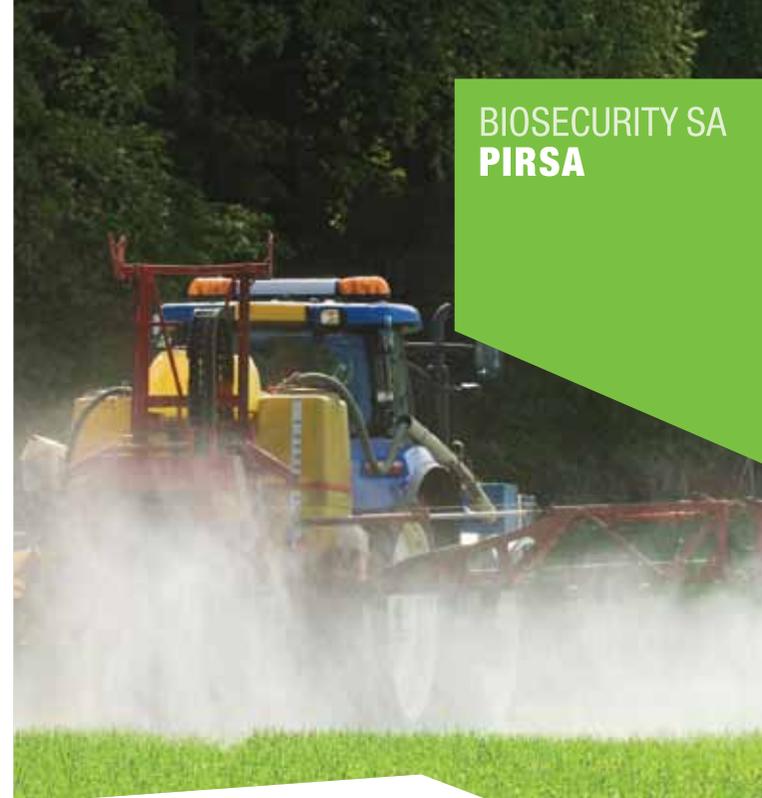
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**BIOSECURITY SA
PIRSA**



Code of Practice Summer Weed Control

PREMIUM
FOOD AND WINE FROM OUR
CLEAN
ENVIRONMENT



Objective

To provide a standard for the safe and effective application of herbicides for summer weed control.

To minimise the risk of off-target damage to grapevines and other susceptible plants from droplet and vapour drift of herbicides.

Recognising a surface temperature inversion

A surface temperature inversion is likely to be present if:

- Mist, fog, dew or a frost have occurred
- Smoke or dust hangs in the air and moves sideways, just above the ground surface
- Cumulus clouds that have built up during the day collapse towards evening
- Wind speed is constantly less than 11 km/hr in the evening and overnight
- Cool off-slope breezes develop during the evening and overnight
- Distant sounds become clearer and easier to hear
- Aromas become more distinct during the evening than during the day

Information from GRDC Fact Sheet: 'Surface Temperature Inversions and Spraying', Nov. 2011.

Wind speed and direction

Spray when wind is blowing away from any nearby susceptible plants/crops. Do not spray when there is little or no wind. For 2,4-D and MCPA products, spray during the day when wind is between 3 and 15 to 20 km/hr (depending on label conditions) as measured at the application site and there is no surface temperature inversion. **READ THE LABEL: 2,4-D products have mandatory label instructions about wind speed.**



Monitoring and record keeping

Monitor and record on-site weather conditions (wind speed, wind direction, temperature, relative humidity) at the start and the finish of spraying and at least for every load during spraying. Watch for changes in weather conditions. Stop spraying immediately if a surface temperature inversion occurs or if spraying conditions become unsuitable for any other reason.

Equipment and products

Use nozzle types and operating pressures that produce a coarse spray quality, or larger. Smaller than coarse spray quality should not be applied in any circumstances. An extremely coarse spray quality is recommended where a glyphosate, MCPA or 2,4-D product is used.

- With other products, when using smaller than extremely coarse spray quality select adjuvants that do not increase the drift potential, such as LI 700 Surfactant or a similar emulsion adjuvant.
- Booms should be no higher than is required to achieve a double overlap at the top of the stubble - typically 50 cm above the top of the weeds for a 110° nozzle at 50 cm boom spacing.
- Spraying over 18km/hr is not acceptable unless boom height is never more than 50cm above the target weed or stubble, using coarse spray quality or larger at the target, and no inversion conditions exist.

- Do not use 2,4-D ethyl, butyl or iso-butyl ester formulations, e.g. 2,4-D Ester 800, by any application method, including spot-spraying, from 1 September to 30 April.



Spray timing

- Spray during the day wherever possible. Vertical mixing of the air makes surface temperature inversions unlikely and will reduce the risk of drift caused by surface temperature inversions.
- Do not spray from 1½ hours before sunset until 1½ hours after sunrise, unless there is no surface temperature inversion. There is a very low risk of surface temperature inversion when there is full cloud cover and/or the wind speed is continuously greater than 11 km/hr.