

# Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Control of Use) Regulations 2017 – Agvet chemical use changes

## Responsible agricultural and veterinary chemical use is critical to protecting and enhancing consumer confidence and market access.

In Victoria, legislation is in place to balance access to agricultural and veterinary (agvet) chemicals with rules that guide their safe and responsible use and manage the risks posed to users, consumers, animals, market access and our environment.

The Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Control of Use) Regulations 2017 came into effect on 23 July, 2017. While there have been no major changes, the Regulations have been updated to ensure they remain the most effective means of regulating agvet chemical use in Victoria.

Key changes affecting agvet chemical users are summarised below.

## Chemical use records

Record keeping requirements have changed to reduce regulatory burden on chemical users while still maintaining sufficient information to provide traceability and verification of compliance.

The user of an agvet chemical product must ensure an accurate written record of the details outlined below is made within 48 hours of using that product. Records may be made by a third party (e.g. a supervisor or assistant) or via automated data logging, but the user must ensure they are accurate and are kept for two years.

Record keeping templates are available at [www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/chemicaluse](http://www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/chemicaluse)

### Agricultural chemical use records

Product trade name
Date the product was used
Application rate of the product or sufficient information to allow it to be calculated
Crop/commodity that was treated or the situation in which the product was applied
Specific location at which the product was used
Wind speed and direction at the time of application (if spraying outdoors)

Name and contact details of the applicator

Name and contact details of the supervisor (if applicable)

Name and contact details of the person for whom the application was carried out (if applicable)

Exemptions apply to approved household or home garden products available from retail outlets that are applied by hand or via a hand-operated device; any agricultural chemical products used to clean a swimming pool or a spa and for licensed pest controllers who use agricultural chemical products in non-agricultural situations.

### Veterinary chemical use records

Product trade name

Date/s the animal was treated with the product

Species and location of the animal

Identification number (if known), description or name that distinguishes the animal from any other in the herd or flock

Quantity of the product used for each treatment

These records apply to the use of veterinary chemical products that:

- are Schedule 4 Poisons for the treatment of a stock animal by a person other than a veterinary practitioner
- have an applicable withholding period, or
- are a hormonal growth promotant.

Manufacturers of medicated stockfeeds containing Schedule 4 Poisons are not required to keep these records as they are commonly not deemed to be a user. The person feeding medicated stockfeed to their animals is responsible for meeting these record keeping requirements.

### Notification of spraying by aircraft or mister near specified places

Notification requirements still apply for spraying undertaken by aircraft or mister within 200 m of a school, hospital, aged care service or children's service.

At least 12 hours before spraying is to occur within 200 m of these facilities, the **occupier of the land** must make every reasonable effort to inform the **school principal, site manager or person in charge of the facility** of:

Trade name of chemical product to be used

Location of the proposed spraying

Proposed time, date and duration of spraying

At the time a person is **employed or contracted** to carry out spraying by aircraft or mister, the **occupier of the land** must advise them in writing of:

The details of the location/s of any school, hospital, aged care service or children's service within 200 m of the land to be sprayed.

At least 24 hours before spraying is to occur, the **employee or contractor** must provide the **occupier of the land** with:

Trade name of chemical product to be used

Proposed time, date and duration of the spraying

A notification template is available at [www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/chemicaluse](http://www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/chemicaluse)

## 25A Permit changes

The Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) may now issue permits to use 'restricted use' chemicals off-label in Victoria. This eliminates the need for a Victorian section 25A permit in most cases. This change reduces duplication in permit processes and provides users with greater access to approved chemical uses.

'Restricted use' chemicals are agricultural chemical products (not including home garden products) that are:

- Schedule 7 Poisons
- contain atrazine
- contain metham sodium, ester formulations of MCPA, 2,4-D or 2,4-DB or triclopyr.

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These chemicals must only be used according to their label directions unless the APVMA have issued a permit authorising that particular use.

Information on the APVMA permit process, including a search tool for current permits may be found at [www.apvma.gov.au](http://www.apvma.gov.au)

## Prohibiting possession of certain unregistered agricultural chemicals

Regulations now prohibit the possession of certain high risk unregistered agricultural chemicals.

Products containing any of the following active ingredients can no longer be kept by chemical users and must be safely disposed of:

- arsenic (excludes currently registered copper chromium arsenate products)
- fenthion
- fenthion-ethyl
- parathion
- parathion-ethyl
- parathion-methyl
- strychnine.

If you have any of these chemicals in your possession, arrange for them to be safely disposed of via a licensed waste disposal company or chemical collection program (e.g. ChemClear - phone 1800 008 182 or register your collection online at [www.chemclear.org.au](http://www.chemclear.org.au)). Label the product for disposal and store it securely away until it is able to be collected for disposal.

Licensed waste disposal companies and chemical collection programs are excluded from this requirement as possession of the above mentioned chemicals is allowed at a disposal facility, when transporting it for disposal or where there is an applicable permit.

## Further Information

For more information about agvet chemical use requirements in Victoria, visit [www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/chemicaluse](http://www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/chemicaluse)

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