

ACTIVITIES: Chemical/fertilizer storage

Purpose

To ensure the storing of chemicals and fertilisers is carried out in a safe manner to minimise the risk of injury to the worker.



HIGH RISK!
Ensure all risk control measures are implemented

Hazard Analysis

HAZARDS

- Chemical spill, skin absorption, eye contact, inhalation

- Slips/personal injury

RISK CONTROL MEASURES

CORRECT PPE

Wear hi visibility clothing, sturdy work boots, gloves and eye protection or as per MSDS.

MECHANICAL/PLANT

Use cabin tractor with appropriate filters.

ADMINISTRATIVE

Follow standard operating procedure.

Ensure spill kit is available to clean up any spills.

Ensure MSDS is available.

Ensure eye wash station is available.

CORRECT PPE

Wear appropriate footwear.

Use steps on tractor and sprayer.

ADMINISTRATIVE

Follow standard operating procedure.

Ensure spill kit is available to clean up any spills.

Wear this PPE (or equivalent) before storing or handling chemicals/fertilisers



Hi-vis clothing



Work boots



Gloves



Goggles

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Certificates, licences or training required

- Induction by Farm Manager
- Farm Chemical Users Certificate

Procedure

General guidance

- Due to the diverse individual properties of chemicals that may be located in a Chemical/fertiliser use area, proper storage may be complicated. General considerations for chemical storage are provided below. Specific instructions on chemical storage may be obtained from the MSDS, container label, that are specific to the class of chemical or contact the Farm Manager.
- Ensure that all containers are in good condition, properly capped, and labelled. Refer to the Chemical Container for specific labelling.
- Store flammable liquids that do not require refrigeration in manufactured flammable liquids cabinets and away from ignition sources as per label requirements.
- Ensure that storage areas are dry, adequately ventilated, and away from heat and direct sunlight.
- Avoid storing chemicals above eye level. Select low shelves or cabinets for heavy containers. Never store chemicals or any other item closer than 18" to the ceiling.
- Do not store chemicals on the floor. Chemical containers could present a tripping hazard or could be knocked over causing a spill.
- Secure gas cylinders away from heat sources.
- Shelves are made of non-absorbent material in case of spillage. Wooden shelves are not suitable.
- The store is clearly marked with the appropriate signs to indicate hazardous and dangerous materials.
- Pesticides are stored in an area with sufficient illumination both by natural and artificial lighting to ensure that all product labels can be read easily on the shelves.
- The stores are banded up to 110% the volume of the largest liquid pesticide or fertiliser container to ensure that there cannot be any risk of spillage to the exterior of the store in case of an accident.
- The store is locked, and only authorized staff, with training on safe handling and use of pesticides, have an access key to the store.
- Routinely inspect chemical storage areas and cabinets for hazardous situations (i.e., leaked or spilled chemicals, misplaced chemicals that could create hazard from an incompatibility, integrity of the containers and secondary containment devices, faded labels, etc.).
- Compartments are created within the store for the following:
 - Pesticides to be used on fruit.
 - All liquid pesticides are stored on shelves below powder pesticides within the same group to prevent contamination in the case of a spillage or leak.
 - Obsolete pesticides.
 - Segregation: Segregate and store chemicals according to hazard class. For example, provide physical segregation between acids and bases, as well as oxidizers and flammables.
- Ensure fertilizers are stored separate from pesticides.
- Organic and inorganic fertilizers are stored away from seeds and produce.

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Operation

1. Check product labels are affixed, has not expired, or is not leaking.
2. Plan movement and placement of material to be stored.
3. Utilise lifting equipment where applicable.
4. Assess weight before moving any items.
5. If too heavy, ask for assistance or utilise lifting equipment.
6. Use appropriate lifting techniques; see **SOP ACTIVITIES – Manual lifting**
7. Move material to storage position in an efficient manner.
8. Ensure any spills are cleaned up.
9. Update the chemical/fertiliser manifest and check MSDS folder to ensure the MSDS is current.