



Note Number: AG1222

Published: November 2007

Updated: September 2008

Post-Harvest Treatment of Agricultural Produce.

Introduction

Quite a few agricultural commodities are treated with agricultural chemicals after they are harvested. This practice is known as 'post-harvest chemical use'.

The objective of post-harvest treatments is to address pest and/or disease problems that may arise during transport and storage, whether the storage is short or long term. Pest problems may include weevils and other insects infesting cereal grains during storage, fungal pathogens such as botrytis infecting table grapes, superficial scald infecting pome fruit, and more.

Agricultural produce destined for interstate transport may be treated with agricultural chemicals to meet quarantine requirements.

Tracing chemical use

Victoria has an excellent reputation for the production of "clean, green" agricultural produce. As part of the production system, DPI has developed a strategy of testing for chemical residues and tracing commodities detected with unacceptable residues back to the property of origin.

The aim of this traceback strategy is to determine how the unacceptable residue occurred on the property, identify whether any systemic issues relating to chemical use have led to the unacceptable residue, and to put processes in place to prevent a recurrence in the future.

There have been a number of instances where an unacceptable residue has been caused by a post-harvest chemical treatment being applied by a transport company or packer without the knowledge or permission of the agricultural produce owner.

The owner of the agricultural produce is responsible for ensuring that their produce meets food standards, and may be held accountable for any unacceptable chemical residues detected.

Permission to treat produce

Growers must be aware of the chain of custody through which their produce passes, and of any potential chemicals used by others in the chain.

For growers involved in Quality Assurance systems, the potential unauthorised treatment of their produce must be regarded as a significant Critical Control Point and processes must be put in place to negate this risk.

Since 2002, it has been a requirement of the *Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Control of Use) Act 1992* ("the Act") that people who wish to apply agricultural chemicals to agricultural produce they do not own obtain written permission of the owner of the produce before applying the chemical.

There is no special form required to obtain permission to treat agricultural produce. This is to provide flexibility to agricultural produce owners, packers and/or transporters who may wish to treat the produce.

The owner of agricultural produce may give permission for a single treatment with one chemical, or for a range of treatments over a longer period of time.

Overleaf is one example of a form that may be used to record permission to treat agricultural produce with an agricultural chemical. This form may be photocopied and is available for download from the DPI Chemical Standards website.

The person undertaking the agricultural chemical treatment should retain the permission form as a reference and provide a copy to the produce owner upon request.

Further References

- DPI Chemical Standards website - www.dpi.vic.gov.au/chemicalstandards

- DPI Chemical Standards Officers
North West

Alan Roberts (03) 5430 4416

Dave Rumbold (03) 5430 4806

North East

Steven Field (03) 5824 5532

Jane Rhodes (03) 5833 5234

South West & Port Phillip West

Jo Robinson (03) 5355 0522

Neil Harrison (03) 5336 6616

South East Gippsland & Port Phillip East

Michael Laity (03) 9785 019

Acknowledgements

This Agnote was developed by Alan Roberts, November 2005.

It was reviewed by:

Alan Roberts, September 2007.

Alan Roberts, Farm Services Victoria, September 2008

Table 1. Example - Permission to use an agricultural chemical product on agricultural produce form.

DEPARTMENT OF
PRIMARY INDUSTRIES

Permission to use an Agricultural Chemical Product on Agricultural Produce
issued under the *Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Control of Use) Act 1992*
Please complete ALL sections and write in CAPITAL LETTERS

1. Commodity (Description)

2. Names/types of chemical products to be used¹

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

3. Name of the person(s) or company undertaking the use of the chemical products

4. Name of address of the owner of the agricultural produce

Name: _____


Street/Road/Property: _____

Town/Suburb: _____ State: _____ Postcode: _____

Signed (owner): _____ Dated: _____

5. Period for which this authority is valid:²

¹ This can be a particular chemical product, or a group of chemicals.
² This can be any length of time the owner wishes to approve.



The permission to use an agricultural chemical on agricultural produce form is not a replacement for chemical use records.

ISSN 1329-8062

Published and Authorised by: Department of Primary Industries
1 Spring Street
Melbourne, Victoria

This publication is copyright. No part may be reproduced by any process except in accordance with the provisions of the *Copyright Act 1968*.

This document was provided as a PDF document from the DPI website

For more information about DPI visit the website at www.dpi.vic.gov.au or call the Customer Service Centre on 136 186

The advice provided in this publication is intended as a source of information only. Always read the label before using any of the products mentioned. The State of Victoria and its employees do not guarantee that the publication is without flaw of any kind or is wholly appropriate for your particular purposes and therefore disclaims all liability for any error, loss or other consequence which may arise from you relying on any information in this publication
