

Transporting farm chemicals

Spray Sense

When using farm chemicals, you need to move them safely, to and around the farm. The following are some simple steps to take when transporting farm chemicals. Everyone transporting farm chemicals has a *duty of care*: a responsibility to carry out their tasks in a manner which will not cause harm or injury to themselves, other people, their property, animals or the environment.

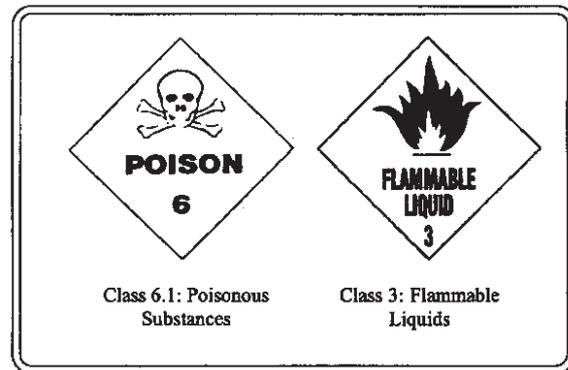
Legal requirements:

Check the label of each farm chemical you plan to move. Become familiar with the different hazard warnings on the label of each container. Many farm chemicals are scheduled poisons, hazardous substances or Dangerous Goods.

Dangerous Goods:

If a farm chemical is considered a Dangerous Good, there will be a diamond shaped hazard symbol on the label like those shown at right. Some farm chemicals are not classified as Dangerous Goods. However, those that are classified are generally in Class 6 (Poisons) and/or Class 3 (Flammable Liquids). The Dangerous Goods Act (1975) and Regulation (1999) together with various Australian Standards and the Australian Code for the Transport of Dangerous Goods by Road and Rail (ADG) control the storage, transport, packaging and labelling of those farm chemicals classified as Dangerous Goods.

All vehicles transporting Dangerous Goods must comply with the ADG Code. Requirements for licensing, documentation and hazard warning signs depend on the quantities being transported and the



Examples of hazard symbols for some classes of Dangerous Goods.

Dangerous Goods classification. The Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) is responsible for the transport of Dangerous Goods.

Before you hit the road:

When you buy farm chemicals, follow these simple tips to avoid problems with spillage or poisoning on your way back to the farm.

- Information on the transport requirements is often found on the pesticide label or on Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) which are available on request from your farm chemical supplier.
- When you collect new containers of farm chemicals, check them carefully for damage and tighten the lids firmly to prevent leakage.
- Make sure your vehicle is roadworthy and can safely transport farm chemicals.
- Try to put pesticide containers and packages inside a tray of some kind, which will contain any spillage.



- Never transport pesticides in the same compartment as food and drinks (either for human or animal consumption). Do not transport animals, plants and seeds, veterinary products, safety equipment (including protective clothing), or other clothing with pesticides.
- Do not transport items classed as Dangerous Goods in large quantities. Otherwise, the vehicle may have to be marked to comply with the Australian Code for the Transport of Dangerous Goods. Private vehicles should transport less than 100 kg or 100 litres of farm chemicals at a time.
- Pesticides should be carried in the back of your truck or van, never in the same compartment as the driver and passengers. Remember that farm chemicals have risks associated with vapours and also direct spillage.

Packing the load:

When packing the vehicle, make sure light items are packed on top of heavy ones to avoid the chance of damage in transit. Make sure the lid or cap is always positioned facing up.

Pack the load securely so that items will not move around during transit, fall over, fall off the vehicle or be projected from the vehicle.



Be careful when transporting farm chemicals – any spillage is a serious problem.

For more information on this series, contact Sandra Hardy, NSW Department of Primary Industries, Locked Bag 26, Gosford, NSW, 2250. Phone 02 4348 1900 or fax 02 4348 1910. This information was correct at time of printing. Updated April 2006.

As with storing pesticides, always keep different classes of pesticides apart. Do not pack insecticides, herbicides and/or fertilisers together.

Make sure there is nothing in the load area that could damage or puncture containers. Protect easily-damaged packaging such as glass. Put the least dangerous items on the top of the load.

Take a direct route back:

Take the safest route from your agricultural chemical supplier to your farm. Avoid exposing containers to extreme heat and water by covering the load with a tarpaulin during the trip. If you do stop along the way, remember to securely lock your vehicle.

If any spillage occurs during transport, clear the vehicle immediately. The main steps in dealing with a spillage are to isolate, contain, decontaminate and dispose.

Put containers straight into the pesticide store:

On reaching the farm, place the containers in your pesticide store as soon as possible. Unload the vehicle carefully. Make sure packaging and containers are not damaged and that lids are tightly closed. Always lift heavy or awkward items carefully to avoid injuring your back. For very heavy loads, use suitable mechanical lifting equipment.

If any containers have been damaged in transit, put them into a container and arrange to return them to the manufacturer.

For more information contact:

Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC). Responsible for statewide transport requirements for Dangerous Goods.
Phone 02 9995 5000

WorkCover Authority. Responsible for storage of Dangerous Goods and their use in the workplace.
Phone 131 050

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