

Keeping pesticide records



Introduction

If you use pesticides for commercial or occupational purposes such as on your produce or farm or in your business you must keep a record of each pesticide application. This law, called the Pesticides Amendment (Records) Regulation, was introduced into the Pesticides Act on 31 July 2002. The Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) is responsible for enforcing this regulation.

When to make a record

The pesticide record needs to be made within 24 hours of application, written in English, and kept for three years.

It is the responsibility of the person applying the pesticide to make sure an accurate record of the application is made; however, someone else may write the record for your applications.

What pesticide applications should be recorded

The pesticide record covers applications of fungicides, herbicides, insecticides, fumigants, bactericides, rodenticides, baits, lures, repellants and pesticides on animals to control external parasites.

You need to make a record when:

- spraying crops, plants or produce;
- spraying fallow land;
- dipping produce;
- baiting for pests;

- controlling pests in and around buildings (this doesn't apply to farming or forestry operations);
- spraying public places such as golf courses, bowling greens, sports ovals and playing fields or roadsides; or
- controlling external parasites on livestock (but not when using hand-held equipment).

You do not have to make records when:

- spot spraying small isolated infestations in broadacre situations when using hand-held equipment; or
- spot spraying tree crops using hand-held or hand-powered equipment when the property boundary is more than 20 metres away.

What to record

There is certain information which must be recorded about the pesticide application, but there is no special form that needs to be used.

For each pesticide application you need to record:

- **Who applied the pesticide** – their name, address and contact phone number. If a contractor or employee applied the pesticide they need to also record the contact details of their employer.
- **The owner of the land sprayed** – this may be the owner, manager or lessee. Record their name, address and contact phone number.



- **Date and time of application** – record the date and both the start and finishing time of the application.
- **Product details** – you need to record the full product name of the pesticide used.
- **Crop or area treated** – record the crop type or situation where the pesticide was used.
- **Application equipment** – specify the type of equipment used e.g. backpack, mister, truck-mounted boom, airblast sprayer etc.
- **The amount of product used** – you need to record how much of the pesticide was used (rate) and what area was covered. You can do this by specifying the total concentrate or the total spray mix and the area covered (in m² or ha).
- **Where the pesticide was applied** – you need to record the property address and the name or number of the block or paddock sprayed. For this you also need to keep a property map which clearly shows the location, name or number of these paddocks/blocks.
- **The order of paddocks/blocks sprayed** – if more than one block or area was treated at the same time you need to record the order of how they were sprayed.
- **Weather information** – you need to record the wind speed and direction as well as any significant weather changes during outdoor applications. You can estimate the wind speed using the Beaufort Wind Strength Scale included in this section. A portable weather meter (which can measure wind speed, temperature and humidity) will give more accurate readings. These are available for around \$300.

Penalties for not keeping records

DEC officers are responsible for auditing and checking that pesticide records are kept. Penalty notice fines range from \$150–\$400 for individuals and \$300–\$800 for corporations. Maximum penalties for prosecutions are \$22,000 for individuals and \$44,000 for corporations.

Sample Pesticide Record Sheet

Following is an example of one type of record sheet. It includes all the categories that you must record when applying agricultural pesticides.

More information

Contact the DEC
Phone 02 9995 5000
www.epa.nsw.gov.au

Pesticide Application Record Sheet

(To be completed within 24 hrs of spraying and kept for 3 years)

General Information

Operator (*See note at bottom of sheet)

Date of application:

Start time:

Finish time:

Crop Details

Crop sprayed:

Block/area name:

Size of block sprayed:

Product / Application Details

Pest/Disease targeted (not compulsory):

Equipment used:

Product used (full trade name):

Amount of concentrate used:
(Indicate either the label rate
or total amount used)

Total Quantity of spray applied
(in ha or m²)

Total Area of application

Weather Conditions

Wind speed:

Wind direction:

Did weather conditions
change during spraying?

No

Yes (give details)

Other comments:

*Operator: If it is the property owner you need to record name, address and contact details, for an employee you need to record name and employer details, and for a contractor you need name, address and contact details. On this record the name only, as long as you have the other details recorded elsewhere.

Beaufort Wind Scale

	Descriptive term	Units km/h	Units knots	Description on Land
0	Calm	0	0	Smoke rises vertically.
1–3	Light winds	19 km/h or less	10 knots or less	Wind felt on face; leaves rustle; ordinary vanes moved by wind.
4	Moderate winds	20 - 29 km/h	11-16 knots	Raises dust and loose paper; small branches are moved.
5	Fresh winds	30-39 km/h	17-21 knots	Small trees in leaf begin to sway, crested wavelets forms on inland waters.
6	Strong winds	40 - 50 km/h	22-27 knots	Large branches in motion; whistling heard in telephone wires; umbrellas used with difficulty.
7	Near gale	51 - 62 km/h	28 - 33 knots	Whole trees in motion; inconvenience felt when walking against wind.
8	Gale	63 - 75 km/h	34 - 40 knots	Twigs break off trees; progress generally impeded.
9	Strong gale	76 - 87 km/h	41 - 47 knots	Slight structural damage occurs - roofing dislodged; larger branches break off.
10	Storm	88 - 102 km/h	48 - 55 knots	Seldom experienced inland; trees uprooted; considerable structural damage.
11+		103+	56+	Very rarely experienced - widespread damage.

Source: Adapted from www.bom.gov.au/lam/glossary/beaufort.shtml