



FACTSHEET 2: Recording Chemical Use

Legislation compels operators to record chemical use

State or territory legislation compels spray operators to record the what, how and why of all their agricultural chemical use, to confirm they followed the pesticide label or permit instructions and met the duty of care.

Records can also document a pattern of reasonable behaviour. This makes it easier to prove whether a pesticide incident was due to unforeseeable circumstances or negligence.

Good records are also very good management tools because operators can compare the performance and resistance of different spray jobs to work out the effectiveness of different tank mixes and in specific blocks.

REQUIREMENTS IN VICTORIA

Victorians need an Agricultural Chemical User Permit (ACUP) to buy and apply agricultural chemicals. Victoria's Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Control of Use) Regulations 2017 states:

- Records must be made within 48 hours of applying an agricultural chemical product, and kept for 2 years.
- Records are required for the use of all agricultural chemicals, not just those directly applied to the fruit. These include:
 - Insecticides
 - Fungicides
 - Herbicides
 - Post-harvest chemicals
 - Growth regulators.
- The following must be recorded:
 - Product trade name (in full), active ingredient and/or APVMA approval number
 - Date it was used
 - The application rate or enough information to allow it to be calculated
 - The crop or commodity treated or the situation (e.g., herbicide application)
 - Where the product was used (e.g., block reference)
 - Wind speed and direction at the time and location
 - Name and contact details of the applicator and supervisor (if applicable).
- Records can be:
 - Hand written
 - Computer generated
 - Kept in record books
 - Part of a quality assurance program.
- Records must:
 - Contain all required information
 - Be clear and accurate
 - Be readily available to an authorised officer on request.



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Ten Tips

1. Record the APVMA Approval Number with the product trade name.
2. Record the application rate in the same terms as the product label.
3. Record the crop, commodity and situation for any spot spraying.
4. The location can be:
 - a block, paddock name or map reference
 - the address of the shed where post-harvest applications were applied
 - the names of roads where spot spraying happened.
5. Record wind speed in kilometres and indicate its direction (e.g., "5km/h from N").
6. Record any change to weather conditions while spraying.
7. If you have to stop spraying because of unsuitable conditions, recording this will demonstrate responsible chemical use.
8. Chemical use records must clearly identify the full name and address of whoever applied the chemical. Signatures are not acceptable.
9. Always record the nozzle brand, model, size, type, boom height at release and system pressure.
10. You can access AgVic record keeping templates by [clicking here](#)



OTHER STATES & TERRITORIES

The above information relates specifically to Victorian growers. If you are operating outside of Victoria, check the requirements of your state or territories legislation and regulations on record-keeping of chemical use.

Agricultural Chemical Application Details					Weather Details (if product is sprayed outdoors)		Contact Details			Additional Information (optional)
Date of Use	Product Trade Name	Application rate of Product OR sufficient Information to allow it to be calculated	Crop/ Commodity treated OR Situation in which product was applied	Specific Location at which product was applied	Wind Speed (km/h)	Wind Direction	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)	e.g notes or additional records as required by quality assurance programs or product label directions

Agricultural chemical product details must be recorded within 48 hours of use and kept for two years



For details of your legal requirements when using agricultural chemicals, visit the AgVic chemical use page.