



ARE YOU THE FULL BOTTLE ON CHEMICAL REGULATIONS?

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Following the harmonisation of chemical regulations across the country in 2020, key changes to record keeping, training, and chemical use have been rolled out over a twelve-month period, some of which are relevant to sugarcane growers.

While many of these changes have been communicated already, a summary of the relevant changes and your current requirements are detailed in this article.

The information below points to key changes and does not cover all the regulatory requirements. Please contact your local Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) office or Smartcane BMP facilitator for further information.

Chemicals of interest

Schedule 7 (S7) poisons (sugarcane relevant products)

- Paraquat
- Diquat
- MSMA products

Prescribed agricultural ERA products

- a) Ametryn*;
- b) Atrazine;
- c) Diuron;
- d) Hexazinone;
- e) Tebuthiuron

Changes to record keeping

There have been some minor record keeping requirement changes.

These changes apply to all chemical use, not just S7 poisons or prescribed chemicals.

The required weather conditions that must be recorded are:

- a) Ambient temperature; and
- b) Relative humidity; and
- c) Wind speed and direction; and
- d) The extent of cloud cover, if any; and
- e) If there is rain, the amount of rain

Records must be made within three days of the chemical use.

The Smartcane BMP chemical record keeping book allows you to record all required information. It's available from the facilitators.

*Please note that ametryn use has more specific preparation, use and recording requirements, including restrictions

around use near water bodies, requirements for additional in-field weather observations, and restrictions on quantities applied per year.

Your local DAF office or productivity services organisation has further information.

Key changes to record keeping, training, and chemical use have been rolled out over a twelve-month period, some of which are relevant to sugarcane growers.

Changes to training requirements

Chemical handling training now requires the completion of competency *AHCCHM307 - Prepare and apply chemicals to control pest, weeds and diseases*.

This supersedes and is equivalent to *AHCCHM303 - Prepare and apply chemicals*.

As the new competency is considered an equivalent to the previous competency, no additional training is required for growers who already hold the former competency.

Any grower undertaking chemical handling accreditation for the first time is required to complete the following; *AHCCHM304 Transport and Store Chemicals and AHCCHM307 Prepare and Apply Chemicals to Control Pest, Weeds and Diseases*.

To obtain an ACDC licence, growers must also complete *AHCPMG301 - Control Weeds*.

For Smartcane BMP accreditation, growers must have all three competencies (or their equivalent). This requirement has not changed.

Additional Reef Regulation requirements:

Sugarcane - Ground application of ametryn, atrazine, hexazinone or diuron

Since 1 July 2010, anyone in the Wet Tropics, Burdekin and Mackay-Whitsunday catchments intending to apply or supervise the application of these herbicides to sugarcane crops using ground equipment must hold a statement of attainment issued by a registered training organisation stating that the person has successfully completed each of the following competencies:

- (A) *AHCPMG301—control weeds*
- (B) *AHCCHM303—prepare and apply chemicals*
- (C) *AHCCHM304—transport and store chemicals*.

For Smartcane BMP accreditation, growers must have all three competencies (or their equivalent). This requirement has not changed. The changes to the regulations will not require you to undertake further training.

Changes to the minimum training requirements for users of S7 poisons came into effect on 19 June 2021.

Anyone **using** agricultural chemical products containing S7 poisons must now have a statement of attainment for two units of competency:

AHCCHM304—Transport and store chemicals and

AHCCHM307—Prepare and apply chemicals to control pest, weeds and diseases (or their equivalents).

There are strict guidelines around the supervision of someone who uses an S7 product and does not hold the relevant qualifications.

A person must not use the agricultural chemical product unless the person (the user):

- uses the product under the direct supervision of a qualified person; and
- has used the product on no more than—
 - o 4 days in the last month; and
 - o 12 days in the last year.

For further information, there is a link to the *Chemical Usage (agricultural and Veterinary) Control Regulation 2017* on the resources page of the Smartcane BMP website. ■

