

Pesticide use, transport, and storage

Pesticide Safety Technical Note

Number 9

OFFICIAL

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Pest Control Operators (PCOs) are licensed and regulated by the Department of Health under the *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008* (the Act) and the *Public Health and Wellbeing Regulations 2019* (the Regulations). Licensing of the pest control industry is designed to protect PCOs, consumers, members of the public, and the environment from the harmful effects of pesticides.

Best practice, Australian Standards, and the law

The Guidelines for Pest Control Licensing were developed by the Department of Health to provide information regarding the pest control licence and to assist PCOs in complying with legislation.

In addition to the Act and Regulations; pesticide storage, use and transport is regulated under other Victorian legislation relating to hazardous substances, dangerous goods and agricultural and veterinary chemicals.

Furthermore, PCOs should always strive for best practice in their business operations and seek to minimise the risk to their own health, public health and the environment when using pesticides as part of that business. Australian Standard 2507-1998 provides requirements and recommendations for the storage and handling of agricultural and veterinary chemicals including pesticides.

The purpose of this technical note is to combine legislative requirements with best practice Australian Standards recommendations to give tailored guidance to PCOs in terms of pesticide use, transport and storage.

For information on how to obtain copies of current Victorian legislation, Australian Standards or the Guidelines, go to the following website: <http://www.legislation.vic.gov.au/> or contact the Pesticide Safety team.

Vehicles

Vehicles used for the purpose of a pest control business including the storage, transport and preparation of pesticides should meet the following requirements:

- The vehicle should be labelled with the pest control business name and either the Department of Health business A-number or pest control licence L-number in lettering at least 75mm high
- The driver's cabin should be separate from the chemicals and equipment. No chemicals or chemically contaminated equipment or materials should be stored or transported in the driver's cabin
- The chemical storage area should have appropriate ventilation
- A fire extinguisher (dry powder or CO₂ type) is kept in the vehicle in an easily accessible location. The fire extinguisher should be well maintained in accordance with Australian Standard 1851 – *Routine service of fire protection systems and equipment*
- Emergency telephone numbers should be clearly displayed, by securing to the dashboard or windscreen. The department has developed an emergency contacts sticker, which is available from Pesticide Safety
- A manifest (list) of all chemicals carried on the vehicle should be kept in an easily accessible location, such as at the start of a material safety data sheets folder
- The entire vehicle should be clean and free from pesticide residue.

Chemical storage area

Whether you store your chemicals on your vehicle or in a storeroom at your business premises, there are several requirements you need to comply with:

- The storage area must be in a suitable location away from potential hazards
- The chemical store must be secure and should remain locked when not in use. Where possible, public access should be minimised. For vehicles, this means ensuring that the back of the van is locked when unattended or keeping chemicals in a lockable container
- The chemical store should be fire resistant, ventilated and well lit
- Fire extinguisher (dry powder or CO₂ type) is kept in the vehicle in an easily accessible location. The fire extinguisher should be well maintained in accordance with Australian Standard 1851 – *Routine service of fire protection systems and equipment*
- The shelving and floor of the chemical store should be impervious – that is, unable to absorb spills
- A suitable spill kit must be accessibly located in your chemical store or on your vehicle for use in emergencies. Spill kits should be well stocked and PCOs should be familiar with their contents and use
- The chemical store should be clean, free from hazards, and have incompatible chemicals separated
- Safety data sheets (SDSs) for all chemicals stored should be kept in an easily accessible location for use in case of an emergency
- The chemical storage area should be identified with appropriate signage. Warning placards should also be carried on your vehicle for use on job sites. Circumstances that may require this type of signage include indicating the presence of an obstacle such as a hose over a path or the use of pesticides in an area.

Schedule 7 poison storage

Schedule 7 poisons include pesticides such as arsenic trioxide, methyl bromide and phosphine. Special conditions are placed upon schedule 7 storage areas. They should meet these additional requirements:

- Stored separate to other chemicals in a securely locked container

- Clearly labelled with warnings and the name of the poison.

A permit for the possession and use of arsenic and cyanide is required in addition to any other licence or permit. For an application for an industrial permit, contact the [Department of Health, Regulated Substances Unit](#).

Application equipment

- All equipment used for the application of pesticides should be clean and free from pesticide residue
- Equipment should be well maintained and free from damage or leaks. It is recommended that you check your equipment regularly and replace items subject to wear and tear (such as hoses) at least every 12 months
- Application equipment should be secured to the vehicle and not free to move around the load area during transport or use
- Where used, machinery drive shafts and belts should be fitted with a guard
- All pesticide tanks should be labelled properly for contents. This includes contaminated article containers and clean water containers.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

When working with pesticides, PCOs should always read the label, safety data sheets and follow the directions of each. This includes following any safety directions and wearing the appropriate PPE. This is particularly important for PCOs as they work with chemicals every day and are at greater risk of exposure.

The following PPE and other safety items should be available when chemicals are being handled:

- Long sleeve overalls. After use, these should be removed and transported in your contaminated articles container. They should be washed separately before being used again
- Washable hat
- Eye and face protection
- Impervious boots and gloves. Leather boots must be treated regularly with a waterproofing agent such as dubbin to ensure they remain impervious
- Respirator with suitable spare cartridges. The respirator must be of an appropriate type, be well maintained and properly stored. Spare cartridges must be within the manufacturer's expiration date
- A spare change of clothing should be kept for emergency purposes, along with a sturdy, sealable, appropriately labelled container to store contaminated items
- Soap, towel and at least 10 litres of clean water. These should be stored away from any chemicals
- First aid kit, stocked according to WorkSafe Code of Practice (No.18) - First Aid in the Workplace.

To receive this document in another format, email [Pesticide Safety](mailto:pesticidesafety@health.vic.gov.au) <pesticidesafety@health.vic.gov.au>.

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Available at [Pest Control Technical Notes](https://www.health.vic.gov.au/public-health/environmental-health/pesticide-use-and-pest-control/pest-control-technical-notes) <https://www.health.vic.gov.au/public-health/environmental-health/pesticide-use-and-pest-control/pest-control-technical-notes>