



FACT SHEET: AGRICULTURAL CHEMICALS

Agricultural chemicals are valuable tools in the production of high quality produce. However, if used improperly, agricultural chemicals are a potential chemical hazard in your operation.

Q: What materials are considered agricultural chemicals?

A: The term agricultural chemical refers only to the pest control products that are used to control crop pests such as insects, weeds and diseases. This includes pesticides such as herbicides, insecticides and fungicides. It does not include commercial fertilizers, soil amendments such as ashes or liming materials, or cleaning chemicals such as bleach.

Q: What are the requirements for proper agricultural chemical storage?

A: All agricultural chemicals must be stored in a dedicated area (e.g. room). They must be stored in a clearly identified and locked location. Agricultural chemicals cannot be stored alongside any other materials, such as equipment. They must be stored in a covered, clean and dry location that is temperature appropriate.

The containers and labels must be intact and stored properly in order to prevent spills (e.g., lids are in place, bags are closed), and labels must be legible. In addition, all agricultural chemical storage areas must be identified with a warning sign. Because the provinces and territories are responsible for regulating the storage of pest control products, provincial/territorial regulations may exist which are above and beyond the requirements listed here. Make sure you are aware of and follow additional provincial/territorial regulations.

Q: Do I need a license to apply agricultural chemicals?

A: The CanadaGAP® manuals require anyone who is applying agricultural chemicals to either:

- have an applicator's license or be certified OR
- be formally trained (e.g., online course)

Regulations for licensing/certification of pest control product applicators vary by province/territory. Some provinces require that applicators be licensed or certified, while others do not. At a minimum, CanadaGAP requires that the applicator meet the above requirements. You must follow all prevailing legislation in your area.

Q: What do I write down under "Earliest Allowable Harvest Date" on Form H1?

A: On Form H1, under the column which asks for "Earliest Allowable Harvest Date," you need to fill in the date that you can start harvesting, which you calculate based on the pre-harvest interval, or days to harvest for that agricultural chemical. It is not the earliest date you predict the crop will be ready for harvest. For example, if an agricultural chemical is applied on August 5 and has a seven-day pre-harvest interval, the earliest allowable harvest date would be August 12.

Q: Who do I contact in my province to find out what the provincial/territorial regulations are?

A: The provincial agencies responsible for regulating agricultural chemicals are:

Newfoundland and Labrador

Department of Environment and Climate Change

Prince Edward Island Department of Environment, Water and Climate Change

Nova Scotia Department of the Environment and Labour

New Brunswick Department of the Environment

Québec Ministère de l'Environnement et de la lutte contre les changements climatiques

Ontario Pesticides Section, Ontario Ministry of the Environment and Energy

Manitoba Agriculture

Saskatchewan Crops and Irrigation Branch, Ministry of Agriculture

Alberta Pesticide Management Branch, Alberta Environment

British Columbia Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

Yukon Department of Environment

Northwest Territories Department of Environment and Natural Resources

Nunavut Department of Environment

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