

Group 4 Herbicides – Training and Record Keeping Requirements

Rural Chemicals Operations

This fact sheet outlines legal requirements for users of Group 4 herbicides, pursuant to the Agricultural and Veterinary Products (Control of Use) Regulations 2017. These regulations only refer to commercially used Group 4 herbicides (2,4-D, 2,4-DB, MCPA, dicamba, triclopyr, picloram, clopyralid and fluroxypyr).

A numerical classification system for herbicide modes of action was adopted in Australia in 2021. Under the previous alphabetical system Group 4 herbicides were called Group I.

The regulations apply to prescribed businesses - primary production businesses and pest control businesses (licensed spray contractors).

The regulations aim to reduce the incidence of off-target spray drift by minimising user error through mandated training and record keeping. These will improve use and monitoring in line with compliance requirements. Group 4 herbicides can become airborne easily under certain weather conditions and/or when incorrect application methods are used. This creates the potential for spray droplets to move large distances through the air and cause adverse effects such as damage to sensitive plants.

Training requirements

Persons spraying these specified Group 4 herbicides in the course of a prescribed business and in prescribed areas must hold, as a minimum, a current statement of attainment for the competency unit AHCCCHM303 - 'Prepare and Apply Chemicals'. This competency unit forms part of the current suite of farm chemical training courses already offered by registered training organisations. (see pir.sa.gov.au/ruralchem-training for training providers).

Record keeping requirements

Persons spraying these Group 4 herbicides in the course of a prescribed business and in prescribed areas must keep accurate and complete records for a minimum of two years. The user must provide a copy of the spray records to the property manager/owner or business if not the same person.

An outline of the specific record requirements set by the regulations can be found on the PIRSA website at pir.sa.gov.au/ruralchem-legislation.

All elements described below, apart from relative humidity (RH) and delta T, are required and must be included in the records kept for Group 4 use, and recorded on an appropriate form (electronic or hard copy).

Users and property	Equipment	Product	Weather
User name	Equipment type	Paddock location or identification	Spray time AM or PM (start and finish)
User address	Nozzle type and flow rate	Product name(s), including adjuvants	Wind speed (km/h) (start and finish)
User contact number	Spray pressure	Product rate(s)/hectare (ha)	Wind direction (start and finish)
Property owner (if different to user)	Spray volume (litres/ha)	Crop or situation	Temp (°C) (start and finish)
Address	Travel speed	Area treated (ha)	*RH%
Contact number	Date applied (retain records for two years from this date)		*Delta T

* Not mandatory

Note: At the time of an audit/investigation, the land manager/owner or business is required to produce records (written or electronic) that meet the requirements set out in the regulations.

Where the regulations apply

All agricultural land in South Australia falls under the regulations, with exemptions currently applied to the following local government areas:

- Cleve
- Elliston
- Franklin Harbour
- Kimba
- Le Hunte
- Ceduna
- Streaky Bay
- Whyalla
- Port Augusta
- Flinders Ranges

Although not legally required, it is recommended that users of Group 4 herbicides in the exempted areas meet the same level of record keeping and training as required in the regulations to be consistent with 'best practice'.

This map describes the SA Local Government areas included in the Group 4 herbicide *Agricultural and Veterinary Products (Control of Use) Regulations 2017*.

Note: All Group 4 herbicide users are required to follow mandatory label instructions for Group 4 herbicides regardless of whether they are in an exempted area. Group 4 users in exempt areas can still be audited to ensure their compliance with label instructions.



Compliance

Under the regulations, Group 4 herbicide users operating in prescribed businesses in the regulated areas of the state will only be compliant where they can demonstrate that they have:

- a current statement of attainment for the competency unit AHCCHM303 - 'Prepare and Apply Chemicals'
- records that are accurate and complete for use of Group 4 herbicides as described in the regulations and listed on this fact sheet
- provided a copy of the accurate and complete records of use to the manager/owner/business if that is different to the user.

Audits

Biosecurity SA's role is to monitor and regulate state laws associated with chemical use. Biosecurity SA focuses on proactive education and uses audits to identify gaps in users' knowledge and skills. In cases of either non-compliance or deliberate misuse, Biosecurity SA has the legislative powers to apply a range of actions to improve or prevent further non-compliance. These may include further education and/or warnings, through to legal action.

For more information on appropriate record keeping and examples, and a list of training providers, visit pir.sa.gov.au/ruralchem, or call 1300 799 684.

Other resource material

- [Code of Practice for Summer Weed Spraying](#)