



ERMA NEW ZEALAND

# INFORMATION SHEET

CODE OF PRACTICE HSNOCOP 3-1  
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## NZS 8409:2004 Management of Agrichemicals

### A quick word about Codes of Practice: What are they and what is their significance?

Codes of Practice are able to be approved by the Authority under Sections 78 and 79 of the HSNO Act. In practice they are approved by the ERMA New Zealand Chief Executive under delegated authority.

Codes of Practice are “how to” documents. They tell you how you can meet the requirements of the HSNO regulations and controls, in a way that is legally defensible. However, they are **not** mandatory! If you have other ways of meeting the requirements then you can adopt those instead.

Most Codes will be developed by industry or user groups rather than by ERMA New Zealand.

### Where can you get a copy of this Code?

Code of Practice HSNOCOP 3-1 was developed by Standards New Zealand and can be purchased from their office at a price of \$129.95 (plus gst) in either hard copy or electronic format. The contact details for Standards New Zealand are as follows:

Private Bag 2439  
Wellington  
Email: [snz@standards.co.nz](mailto:snz@standards.co.nz)  
Website: [www.standard.co.nz](http://www.standard.co.nz)

However, a hard copy of the Code will be held at reception in our Wellington Office for inspection.

The Code will be available from 11 October 2004.

## What is this Code about and who should use it?

This Code of Practice has been prepared with the aim of ensuring that where agrichemicals are handled or used, the practices followed are safe, responsible, and effective, with minimal adverse impact on human, environmental and animal health.

The Code as NZS 8409:2004 Management of Agrichemicals supercedes NZS 8409:1999 Code of Practice for the Management of Agrichemicals. It provides practical and specific guidance on the safe, responsible and effective management of agrichemicals, including plant protection products (herbicides, insecticides, fungicides), veterinary medicines, fumigants used in rural situations and agricultural use of detergents and sanitizers.

Most agrichemicals covered by this Code will be classified as hazardous substances under the Hazardous Substances (Minimum Degrees of Hazard) Regulations and, depending on their hazard classifications, will have a range of HSNO controls applied.

The Standard NZS 8409:2004 Management of Agrichemicals has been approved as a Code as a means of compliance with the following HSNO requirements which are set out in the controls attached to particular substances at the time of their HSNO approval, and more generally in the HSNO Hazardous Substances Regulations:

- Controls relating to use and handling, which are generally set out in the Hazardous Substances (Classes 6, 8 and 9 Controls) Regulations
- Controls relating to storage, which in the case of flammable substances are set out in the Hazardous Substances (Classes 1 to 5 Controls) Regulations
- Controls relating to disposal, which are generally set out in the Hazardous Substances (Disposal) Regulations
- Controls relating to first aid information, emergency management information and planning, and secondary containment, which are generally set out in the Hazardous Substances (Emergency Management) Regulations.

Approval of the Code is also limited to those products and substances covered by the scope of the Standard in section 1.1.1 and taking note of the exclusions listed in section 1.1.2 of the Standard, as shown below.

The Standard applies to:

- Agricultural compounds
- Veterinary medicines
- Agrichemicals for home and garden, nursery, turf and amenity use
- Fumigants used in agriculture, and
- Detergents and sanitizers used in agriculture (except those specifically excluded (see below)).

The Standard does not apply to:

- Fertilizers (there is a code of practice for fertilizer use available from FertResearch)
- Vertebrate pest control products
- Oral nutritional compounds, and

- Dairy detergents and sanitizers that have been approved under the Dairy Industry Regulations (1990 or subsequent Animal Products legislation) when used on farms

The Code is intended for all agrichemical users. It specifies the requirements for the commercial use of agrichemicals for applicators (e.g. farmers and growers), contractors (e.g. aerial and ground application, and veterinarians) and distributors (e.g. manufacturers, wholesalers and retailers).

Use of some agrichemicals requires the user to be certified as an Approved Handler and use of and knowledge of this Code will assist a person in meeting the qualification criteria under the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms (Personnel Qualifications) Regulations.

It is expected that there will be some amendments to the Code following the transfer of veterinary medicines to the HSNO Act controls which is scheduled to occur in July 2005 and the finalisation of the HSNO transfer process in general.

It is noted that NZS 8409:2004 has also been approved as a Code of Practice under section 28 of the ACVM Act 1997.

## **What is in the Code?**

It is not feasible to give a full summary of the Code in this information sheet, but the material below is intended to give a good indication of coverage.

The Standard is divided into seven sections:

1. Introduction
2. Management of agrichemicals
3. Land transport of agrichemicals
4. Storage and supply of agrichemicals
5. Use of agrichemicals
6. Disposal of agrichemicals and containers
7. Emergency preparedness and management.

A series of appendices, which the Standard divides into those considered compulsory to meet the requirements of the Standard and those considered to provide general advice and supporting information to assist with understanding and conformance with the Standard, is included. All of the appendices are considered to be part of the Approved Code.

The Standard uses a risk management approach for each of the major activities of transport, storage, use and disposal – described further in section 2 of the Standard – and planning for and dealing with emergencies with respect to agrichemicals is covered in section 7 of the Standard.

Section 2 – Management of Agrichemicals – covers risk management, responsibility, information, product information sources, documentation and certification, tracking and competency of personnel.

Section 3 – Land Transport of Agrichemicals – covers responsibility, general requirements for agrichemical transport, transport of dangerous goods for agricultural use within quantity limits, transport for hire or reward or for agricultural use in large quantities, transport emergencies, and competency. This section specifically addresses compliance with the Land Transport Rule: Dangerous

Goods 1999. However, compliance with this Rule in general means compliance with HSNO in transport circumstances.

Section 4 – Storage and Supply of Agrichemicals – sets out the requirements and recommendations for the safe storage, handling and supply by suppliers and users of packaged agrichemicals that are hazardous substances and/or dangerous goods. Agrichemicals classified as hazardous substances under the Hazardous Substances (Classification) Regulations will be subject to the controls applied under several of the Hazardous Substances controls regulations, according to the hazards associated with the substance. It covers risk management, responsibility, information needs and requirements, documentation, and competency of persons.

Section 5 – Use of Agrichemicals – covers the responsibilities for safe use of agricultural compounds and plant protection products, safe use of veterinary medicines and animal health products, safe use of compounds for agricultural produce, soil or greenhouse fumigation, and safe agricultural use of detergents and other cleaning and sanitizing compounds.

Section 6 – Disposal of Agrichemicals and Containers – deals with the safe disposal of concentrate agrichemical, surplus agrichemical spray mixture, empty agrichemicals containers and contaminated Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).

Section 7 – Emergency Preparedness and Management – deals with the need to anticipate incidents or adverse events with agrichemicals, and to have a plan ready to action when such events occur. The Hazardous Substances (Emergency Management) Regulations prescribe the requirements to manage any emergency involving a hazardous substance. This section addresses how to prepare for agrichemical emergencies and the quantities of agrichemicals that trigger the need to have an emergency response plan. An outline of the information needed and actions to take in an emergency is given.

The contents of some of the Appendices are summarised below.

Appendix E – Agrichemical Poisoning and First Aid – addresses first aid provisions where agrichemical poisoning is implicated.

Appendix G – Spray Drift Hazard and Weather Conditions – addresses provisions to restrict and control off target movement and spray drift hazard associated with the use of pesticides.

Appendix K – Emergency Management – deals with emergency preparedness in relation to the hazards from spillage or fire where agrichemicals are involved. Both these events can occur at any time but the most hazardous situation is either in storage areas where large amounts of different agrichemicals may be held, or in transport accidents.

Appendix L – General Storage Requirements – covers emergency management, as well as quantities of hazardous substances that activate hazardous substance location requirements under HSNO (table L1), and responsibility and competency requirements under the Hazardous Substances (Classes 1-5 Control) Regulations and the Hazardous Substances (Classes 6, 8 and 9 Controls) Regulations.

Appendix M – Notification and Signage for Application of Agrichemicals – covers both ground and aerial application. It specifies that, along with compliance with the appendix, users shall check with the appropriate local authority for any specific notification requirements for agrichemical use.

Appendix P – Personal Protective Equipment – addresses a specific regulatory requirement in Regulation 8 of the Hazard Substances (Classes 6, 8 and 9 Controls) Regulations. It covers minimum PPE requirements for agrichemicals and respiratory protection and filter replacement.

Appendix Q – Application Equipment – addresses a specific regulatory requirement in Regulation 7 of the Hazardous Substances (Classes 6, 8 and 9 Controls) Regulations. It covers application equipment for plant protection products, calibration of application equipment for registered agrichemicals, application equipment for registered veterinary medicines (animal remedies), and application equipment for fumigants.

Appendix S – Disposal of Agrichemicals and Containers – covers the disposal of unwanted agrichemicals, disposal of surplus spray mix, post-harvest treatment and stock dip effluent disposal methods, and disposal of agrichemical containers.

## Conclusion

This Information Sheet has been prepared by ERMA New Zealand to help you decide whether the Code of Practice HSNO COP 3-1 would be of relevance to you. It is **not** in itself a Code of Practice.

## ERMA New Zealand Information Sheets

ERMA New Zealand publishes information sheets on a range of topics to provide background information on current issue or proposals being dealt with by the Authority.

All publications may be viewed and downloaded from our website at [www.ermanz.govt.nz](http://www.ermanz.govt.nz) or may be requested by contacting ERMA New Zealand, P O Box 131, Wellington. Ph +64 4 916 2426 Fax +64 4 914 0433 Email [info@ermanz.govt.nz](mailto:info@ermanz.govt.nz)