



## Health and Safety in Farming

### HSNO brief for farmers – Signage for agrichemical stores



#### Signage for agrichemicals

It is most likely that the agrichemical store on your farm needs to have signage.

Signs ensure people are informed of the hazards of products that are stored, they can minimise risks and be aware of what to do if anything goes wrong.

#### When do I need signage?

Whether you require signage will depend on the type of products stored, their hazards, and the quantities that are held.

For example, you will need signs if you store more than:

- 50 litres or 50 kg of certain *toxic* pesticides, such as Paraquat and Counter 20G; or
- 100 litres or 100 kg of certain *ecotoxic* pesticides, such as Tordon Brushkiller.

If the substance is also flammable, you will need to show this on the sign. The information required can be on the one sign (see the example overleaf).

Farmers *should* provide signs for all agrichemical stores.

#### What are the requirements?

Signs need to be visible to people entering the area where your agrichemicals are stored.

These signs tell people that the area contains hazardous substances, outlines the hazards of the products stored and explains what must be done to manage the hazards.

The signs must also inform people what to do in an emergency and who to contact. They will alert emergency services that agrichemicals are present if they have to respond to or deal with an emergency.

The information required on a sign can be in the form of pictures or words, and must be able to be read from 10 metres away and be easy to understand. A sign that is at least 29 cm by 42 cm (A3) in size should be sufficient in most cases.

Signs should be placed on each entry point to the store. Where practicable, each sign should be fixed at eye level. Typically this would be 1.6 metres to 1.8 metres from the ground. Place signs on an outside wall which an open door will not obscure.

Signs need to be reasonably robust to withstand the weather and other environmental conditions. That does not mean to say they need to be expensive. Your agrichemical supplier should be able to sell you the signage you need. Alternatively, check out Safety Equipment and Products in the Yellow Pages®.

## Further information

Signage for agrichemical stores is covered in the New Zealand Standard NZS8409:2004; *Management of Agrichemicals*.

See also the New Zealand Chemical Industry Council *Signage for Premises Storing Hazardous Substances and Dangerous Goods*.

Further information is available from the ERMA New Zealand Hazardous Substance Compliance Line 0800 376 234.

## Example sign for the storage of agrichemicals

# HAZCHEM 2WE

## AGRICHEMICALS



**TOXIC IF SWALLOWED, ENTERS AIRWAYS OR COMES INTO CONTACT WITH SKIN**

WEAR PROTECTIVE CLOTHING  
DO NOT EAT, DRINK OR SMOKE WHEN USING PRODUCTS  
DO NOT HANDLE UNTIL ALL SAFETY PRECAUTIONS HAVE BEEN READ AND UNDERSTOOD  
IN CASE OF POISONING CALL 111 (ASK FOR AN AMBULANCE)  
Call a doctor if you feel unwell

**TOXIC TO AQUATIC LIFE – CONTAIN SPILLS, PROTECT WATERWAYS**

IN CASE OF SPILL CALL REGIONAL COUNCIL POLLUTION HOTLINE [0800       ] OR CALL 111 (ASK FOR THE FIRE SERVICE)

**FLAMMABLE LIQUID**

KEEP AWAY FROM HEAT, SPARKS OR OPEN FLAMES  
NO SMOKING  
IN CASE OF FIRE RAISE THE ALARM, EVACUATE THE AREA AND CALL 111 (ASK FOR THE FIRE SERVICE)