



## Health and Safety in Farming

### HSNO brief for farmers – Tracking of agrichemicals



#### What is tracking?

In simple terms, tracking is keeping a record of where products are and what happens to them as they move through their lifecycle.

Only the most toxic agrichemicals require tracking. Generally these are products that are poisonous to people. Examples of tracked products are Dursban and Gaucho.

Tracked products can only be used by a person:

- who is an approved handler; or
- to whom an approved handler has provided guidance on their safe use and handling and an approved handler is present while the substance is being handled.

Tracked products must be under lock and key when they are left unattended so that children and unauthorised persons cannot get to them.

#### What records must I keep if I use tracked agrichemicals?

When you take possession of a tracked agrichemical, you must record information on:

- the approved handler in charge of the product;
- product identification (such as its name), quantities held and where they are held;
- use of the product, including where it was used, and how much was used, or whether the product was transferred to another place (e.g. a neighbour's farm).

If you dispose of a tracked product, you need to record how much, how, when and where it was disposed of.

A “spray diary” is one means of recording agrichemical use. Whilst you may need to keep a spray diary for other reasons (e.g. to obtain access to overseas trade markets), if correctly maintained, it will also fulfil the tracking requirements. There is no reason for you to duplicate recording of the same information; your spray diary can be your tracking record.



## Transporting tracked agrichemicals from the store to the farm

Tracked products may be transported by a person who is not an approved handler if the supplier of the product, e.g. your rural retail store:

- has checked that an approved handler is available at the delivery end and that the approved handler will take responsibility for the product, or
- can associate the person picking up the product with an approved handler.

This means that a farmer's wife, partner, family or staff, who may not be approved handlers themselves, may collect and transport the product from the supplier to the farm and either deliver it directly to the approved handler or secure it under lock and key.

## What if I transfer a tracked agrichemical?

If you send tracked agrichemicals to another farm or place, you need to ensure there is an approved handler at that farm or place and that they will take responsibility for the product.

You will need to record when, what and how much product was transferred, and details of the approved handler it is going to.

## What do I do with the records?

Keep your tracking records in a safe place where they can be easily accessed if needed.

Records on the use (or disposal) of a tracked agrichemical need to be kept for 3 years.

If you transfer a tracked product to another farm or place, you need to keep those records for at least 12 months after the transfer.

## Further information

Information on tracking of agrichemicals can be found in the New Zealand Standard NZS8409:2004; *Management of Agrichemicals*.

Lists of agrichemicals requiring tracking can be found at <http://www.ermanz.govt.nz/resources/publications/pdfs/pahtr.pdf> and <http://www.ermanz.govt.nz/resources/publications/pdfs/vetmedAH.pdf>

Information is also available from the ERMA New Zealand Hazardous Substance Compliance Line 0800 376 234.

