



## Health and Safety in Farming

### HSNO brief for farmers – Secondary containment on farms



#### What is secondary containment?

Secondary containment is a means to retain or manage liquids should they spill or leak from their containers. Its purpose is to stop spills from spreading that might otherwise harm people, property or the environment.

Secondary containment includes double walled tanks, drip trays, bunds and sumps.

#### When do I need secondary containment?

You should have secondary containment for your agrichemical and fuel stores, and for buildings where products are mixed or handled.

The need for containment depends on the type, quantity and hazardous nature of the products.

For petrol or diesel, you will need secondary containment if you store more than 2,000 litres. If the quantity is less than 2,000 litres, as an alternative to compounding you can locate your fuel store in a place where any spill will not endanger buildings or flow into a natural water body.

For agrichemicals, typically you will require secondary containment where you have more than 100 litres of product.

Solids (e.g. granules or powders) do **not** need secondary containment.

#### Where do I start?

You need to identify and record the quantities of agrichemicals and fuels stored and the hazards of these products. You must take into account the location of the storage (e.g. its proximity to a waterway), whether the storage is above ground or below ground and where any spill may go.

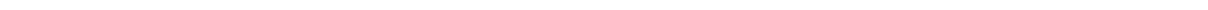
If you have more than the quantities previously mentioned, you will need secondary containment.

#### What sort of containment do I need?

Look at the areas where products are handled, stored and mixed to determine what might happen if a spill were to occur. You should consider the types of events that might reasonably be expected to result in a spill.

If you are storing small containers of product (typically sizes of 5 litres or less) then drip trays or individual spill trays are probably suitable, particularly if you only have a small number of containers.

For large numbers of containers, or if you have drums of material, and for above ground fuel tanks, a compound is usually a more practical form of containment.



## What is a compound (bund)?

A compound for bulk fuel tanks or for drums of fuel or agrichemicals may be a pit, hollow or structure.

It must be constructed of impervious and chemical resistant material, such as clay, concrete, certain plastics or similar, and be effective at retaining spills. The compound must have a means to drain off any rainwater, such as a valve. These valves should be kept closed at all times and should only be opened when draining off water.

Compounds for flammables should be built from materials that will ensure their structural integrity in the event of a fire.

Compounds for agrichemical storage sheds usually consist of a chemical resistant (e.g. concrete) floor with either a sump or a raised "lip" around the edges. Lips can easily be fitted to an existing storage shed by using angle iron, blocks or battens.

## What compound capacities must I plan for?

The capacity of your compound will depend on whether or not the substances are flammable.

If you have an above ground petrol or diesel tank of 2,000 litres or more, your compound must have a capacity of 110% of this capacity (e.g. 2,200 litres).

With flammable agrichemicals or drums of fuel, then:

- For containers up to 60 litres, you need to be able to retain 50% of the total volume stored;
- For containers between 60 and 450 litres, you need to be able to retain the total volume stored.

For example, if you have ten 5 litre containers of a flammable pour-on (e.g. Ivomec Pour-On for Cattle), then your containment must be able to retain a 25 litre spill.

For non-flammable agrichemicals, then

- For containers up to 60 litres, you need to be able to retain 25% of the total volume stored;
- For containers between 60 and 450 litres, you need to be able to retain 25% of the total volume stored or 110% of the largest container, whichever is the greater.

For example, if you have a 200 litre drum of a dairy sanitiser, your containment must be able to retain a 220 litre spill.

In determining your containment capacity, you need to consider the total quantities of all products held in the store.

## Further information

Best practice for secondary containment for fuel can be found in the *Approved Practice Guide for Safe Above-Ground Fuel Storage on Farms*, available from: <http://www.ermanz.govt.nz/resources/publications/pdfs/ER-APG-03-1.pdf>

Best practice for secondary containment for pesticide stores can be found in the New Zealand Standard NZS8409:2004; *Management of Agrichemicals*.

The hazardous properties of fuels and agrichemicals will be given on product safety data sheets. You can get a safety data sheet for each of the products you use from your fuel and agrichemical suppliers.

You should also check with your councils to see if they have any requirements in their District or Regional Plans.

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

