

INFORMATION SHEET

Code of Practice HSNO COP 9-1
NUMBER 37
September 2006

Code of Practice on Product Labelling and Documentation Guide for Agricultural Compounds and Veterinary Medicines

This industry developed Code of Practice is called:

Product Labelling and Documentation Guide for Agricultural Compounds and Veterinary Medicines

Codes of Practice: What are they and what is their significance?

Codes of Practice are documents 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, following the requirements in a code of practice is **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 HSNO COP 9-1 was developed by the New Zealand Association for Animal Health and Crop Protection (AGCARM) and is available from the AGCARM website: www.agcarm.co.nz

In addition, a hard copy of the Code will be held at reception in ERMA New Zealand’s Wellington Office for inspection.

What is the Code about?

The purpose of the Code of Practice is to provide practical advice on the preparation of labels for animal health and crop protection products that meet the requirements of both the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996 (“HSNO” Act) and the Agricultural Compounds and Veterinary Medicines Act 1997 (“ACVM” Act), and associated legislation.

The Code covers products that are used in a “place of work”, and is not intended to cover, for example, those situations where access by children is possible. In particular, it is not intended to cover home garden products, where differing controls and requirements may apply (including access by children). However, much of the advice and recommendations set out in this Code is of a general nature and can be applied to home garden products.

The Code is not an exhaustive compilation of how to comply with the regulatory requirements, but rather provides practical means of producing product labels which will enable persons to use the products concerned safely and effectively. Labels prepared following the guidance and examples given in this Code should meet these requirements.

It is also expected that use of the Code will assist in promoting a degree of conformity of labels within the industry.

The Code been approved by ERMA as a code of practice under the HSNO Act only in respect of those matters applicable to the requirements of the Hazardous Substances Regulations 2001; in particular:

- The requirements of Regulations 6 to 36 of the Hazardous Substances (Identification) Regulations 2001
- The requirements of Regulations 6 to 11 of the Hazardous Substances (Emergency Management) Regulations 2001
- The requirements of Regulations 11 and 12 of the Hazardous Substances (Disposal) Regulations 2001

What is in the Code?

It is not possible to give a full summary of the Code in this Information Sheet, but the following information will give you a good indication of what is covered in the Code.

The code includes the following:

- An introduction and description of the legislative and regulatory environment governing the preparation of product labels
- A description of labelling requirements
- Advice on identification requirements for labels
- Advice on disposal requirements for labels
- Advice on emergency management requirements for labels
- Label format and presentation of information

The code also includes a series of appendices, including standard hazard and precautionary label elements linked to hazard classifications, a checklist for label content, example product labels, safety data sheets and product safety cards (Haznotes™) which are documents intended to provide a hazardous substance declaration and emergency management information for transport purposes.

Conclusion

This information sheet has been prepared by ERMA New Zealand to help you decide whether this Code would be of relevance to you. It is **not** in itself a Code of Practice.

The code is primarily intended for those who need to prepare labels but will also be of use to users of products in determining whether the labels provided are compliant with the HSNO requirements.

Further information or feedback

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/resources/index.asp 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