Farm Safety Working Group

Agricultural Mobile Plant & Vehicle Safety Checklist

7:30pm Wednesday 26 July 2023

Online via Zoom

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https://www.commerce.wa.gov.au/sites/default/files/atoms/files/agricultural_health_safety_checklist_0.pdf

What is **reasonable** and **practicable** in every situation. Have you done your best to avoid an incident and where is your proof?

	A chemical register listing all the hazardous substances used on the property is kept together with the Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) for each of those held on the property.
	Chemicals are stored in a well-ventilated and lockable area that has a containment floor in case of spillage and is identified as a 'chemical store'.
	People using farm chemicals hold current certification or have a record of similar farm chemical training
Is a residential premises provided for employees (outside a townsite or metro area due to lack of other reasonably available accommodation); and which is owned by or under the control of the employer and not under a tenancy agreement with that employee?	Where the DrumMuster, ChemCollect or similar schemes are in existence, plans are implemented to dispose of empty chemical containers and unwanted chemicals
	A risk assessment has been conducted and recorded for each hazardous substance used.
If YES, have the safety and health hazards such as (maintenance, electrical, housekeeping, evacuation) been adequately addressed?	All containers of chemicals, including where chemicals have been decanted into another container, are clearly labelled with the contents.

1. ACCOMMODATION

- General rentals are covered by the Residential Tenancy Act – e.g. through real estate agent or you manage through the act e.g. with bond, etc.
- If providing accommodation for staff – it needs to be fit for purpose. This includes houses, dongas, caravans, shared accommodation etc. If it hasn't been lived in for a while, give it a good clean. Julii has seen houses where there are holes in the floor, showers are mouldy, no electricity.
- She also said – set your standards how you want it maintained especially if its co-habited. There are standards that we have to follow – she will send notes on this but includes:
  - Must be adequately separate from workplace, free from dust, mould, damp, no holes in roof, lockable rooms, follow electrical and fire safety standards, test your RCDs, have a fire blanket in the house as a minimum, safe water for drinking/showering(you need signs if any taps aren't potable), must have toilets (somewhere for sanitary items to be disposed of), washing and laundry facilities (not a dryer but at least a clothesline), crockery, fridge, utensils, etc.
- This goes for permanent staff in farm housing (they might want to bring their own furniture etc) and casuals.
- For casuals – you must supply the basics.

- Make sure you do regular inspections.
- Think about the hazards – proximity of electric fences, movement of traffic – everyone driving past. Set boundaries of visitors = where visitors can go, dogs, ponies, motorbikes. If they go anywhere – getting injured on weekend, no good for you.
- Good management system where things are written down e.g. In induction, signs on walls in accommodation
- Who is responsible when visitors are at staff house? establish this at the start of occupancy.
- You may set standards for behaviours = up to you on how you handle. With cleaning discuss standard consider a cleaner.
- If permanent staff, bring their own stuff, do you need to get it checked e.g. the electrical equipment? – Julii said its advisable, you can ask for them to bring it tested…. Or you could say equipment needs to be in good condition with no frayed cords. Have a checklist e.g. electrical items fit for purpose and good condition.
- There is an Australian list of standards of when to test – Julii said its very boring. But if an item is portable, it will need more checking more regularly, if it's not portable e.g. fridge, will need less checking.
- Have set rules for your accommodation-you can find example in the Women In Farming Resource Portal
- Stinky worker – is a workplace hazard. You can set the standard say you require staff to be freshly showered before work and in clean clothing every day. Its comfortable environment for everyone else.

Smoke alarms-must have them in sleeping areas. They are made to beep as you can't smell much when you are sleeping. Put in written up instructions they are not to be disabled with warning.

2. CHEMICAL REGISTER

Chemicals can be gases and liquids. The hazardous chemicals have pictures (there are 9).

MSDS is now referred to as SDS(Safety Data Sheet)

- You must have a chemical register; it is required by law – This is a list of all the hazardous chemicals in your workplace. Can be kept in a book or electronic register but must be immediately available if needed and transportable e.g. if someone has an accident with chemical burns and ambulance is called the ambos/hospital would ask for SDS to know how to treat injury.
- The register is basically an alphabetical list of all the Safety Data Sheets for all the chemicals – crop and livestock you use on farm.
- These sheets should be provided at no cost by your chemical supplier. They should give it to you in a reasonable time (1 to 2 days). If they fob you off and have trouble, ring Julii, she will explain their responsibilities as a supplier.
- The SDA lasts for 5 years. Manufacturers have to do review every 5 years as chemicals change, there are new practices etc. So you need a system to make sure your data sheets are in place and when new ones are due. Julii suggests using an online diary.
- Make sure you have the right SDS for each product and brand – products vary brand to brand.
- You need labels on all chemical containers.
- A SDS is not the label on the side of the container.

3. CHEMICAL STORAGE

- Good idea to see signage for chemical store especially for emergency services if they need to come to a fire.
- Signage on side of shed/area /building.
- Family maps are helpful.
- Julii doesn't see much bunding, lighting, workbenches, PPE,
    - She sees corner of shed, with sand/gravel floor, things on floor, on old shelving, practicality expectation is work towards having a better unit. Good ventilation – air not trapped, if enclosed room , e.g. garden shed, when shut door vapours are trapped
    - Put ventilation or whirly bird on roof.
    - Or cross ventilation – window one end and door at other so air can dissipate.
    - If you have a dirt floor – have a shovel and if you can drive a front in loader in, it's a great start for a spill kit.
- Use bottom part of white crates with well, … on forklifts, cheap way of getting bunding,
- Concrete well systems, drained and cleaned, sealed….. rarely see this except for corporate farms.
- Have a spill kit and doing spill management.
- Access prohibited - authorised persons only – seeing lots of cases of workers going to shed to do spot spray at home or being a volunteer for sports club.
- Need sufficient lighting – portable light, solar power, so can read labels.
- Little garden sheds can be dark – change the sheds roof – clear Perspex.
- Adequate shelving – not to high, use small drums high up- don't want people pouring on self.
- Decanting- use a tap, big drums – get a pump, or have a tipping device.
- Adequate communication needs to be available eg phones/radio – there needs to be reception if someone's got burnt or there's a spill.
- Building a new chemical shed – code of practice – Julii will send. What is affordable and reasonable for your place? Some cost in excess of $150,000
- Julies says do something rather than nothing.

4. USING FARM CHEMICALS

- If you hold current certification, and are competent, you can train your worker to do mixing/spraying if supervised e.g., for shearing.
- If it's a weekly task for your staff, then get them to do the certification.
- Suppliers who run the courses include Auschem, TAFE , ag colleges, some shires
- Julii recommends doing the training and it can range from $300 to $800.
- If you have a new staff who says they are competent – the suggestion is to do it together first and watch how they do things – make sure doing it right, using right PPE, ask how they deal with spills, putting labels on, lids back on etc. Have a checklist of what you want to see. Are they capable unassisted? If they are smoking, not wearing gloves etc, get them to do some training and supervise closely as they may have more poor habits.
- Record all training and supervising.

5. DISPOSING OF UNWANTED CHEMICALS AND CONTAINERS

This is getting rid of chemical containers.

- Have a system developed at your place for rinsing out containers (double/triple rinse & where is that waste water going?). Make sure labels can be read.
- Store your containers safety when been used – not accessible to kids, livestock or waterways. Need to be easy to take away.
- Work out what PPE to use – likely there is no residual but you need to wear PPE.
- **Do an audit for your chemicals – grandads might still be there….** Old things are very toxic. Check with your shire/surrounding shire as they may have a system in place to help with aged chemicals. Also check with your farm ag supplier.
- If you spill it on the ground, the SDS will tell you what to do e.g. seal with sand and then shovel into container.
- Deal with spills immediately as they happen.

6. RISK ASSESSMENT FOR HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES

- There are different levels of risk assessment.
- Look at SDS – hazardous and classifications, how swallowed, breathed in, PPE to wear.
- Risk assessment covers other ways before PPE – eg neat line systems, dosing, flushing so people are not physically touching, except for touching lid.
- Risk assessment looks at how dangerous a chemical is to workers and people in the vicinity, how to manage these risks including mixing and transport.
- We want to make sure people using chemicals/exposed to chemicals, know the risks.
- Julii often sees worker accommodation surrounded by paddocks, so when spraying notify them, so they can go to town, tell your neighbours etc. They are seeing more cases of overspray. This is a risk, and you need to manage it.
- **Know your high-risk chemicals** – carcinogens, mutagens, reproductive toxicants, major health hazards - airway restrictive, assessments, understand how they affect people and how they manage – its in the SDS.
- Make sure it's written down or someone knows the mix being sprayed in case there is a medical emergency. Different chemicals require different treatments.
- Always have enough PPE on hand.
- Respirators need a good system, good training and ensure you have spare filters – has to be fit for purpose – not old, has to fit persons face (shave those beards off, this can be mentioned in induction).
- Good idea to have a system in place to remind to change chemical filters on tractor cabs and on respirators if out of date may not be giving any protection.

7. DECANTERING CHEMICALS

- If chemical is put in sprayer and added water, you don't need to label but if you are decanting eg putting into a backpack sprayer or motorbike sprayer, it needs to have a warning label so that people don't top up with a different chemcial.
- If there is no label on decanted chemical treat as dangerous and dispose accordingly
- When transporting older chemicals, containers may have degraded and have broken down. Be careful, how you are going to move, using the bunding, pallacons, and fork onto ute and take off site. Use your full PPE (gloves/respirator), when you take off the gloves to drive, put them in a plastic bag and put them bag on when you get to the drop off zone.

8. YEARLY CHECKS (ONGOING)

Vehicle hoist checking, RCD's, Cab filters