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| Revision #:  Written by: | Date: Month DD, YYYY  Approved by: |

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| Related Documents: | Safety Data Sheets and labels for pesticides. |
| When to use this SWP: | This safe work practice must be followed to ensure the health and safety of those handling and applying pesticides. Pesticides can pose serious risk to the health and safety of those handling them so precautions must be taken. |
| Hazards & Risks: | * Pesticide Poisoning; acute or chronic * Environmental Impacts |
| Personal Protective Equipment: | Anyone handling pesticides must wear long sleeved shirt, long pants and socks and chemical resistant boots. It is important to consult the label and/or SDS of the pesticide being handled. The type of personal protective equipment required will depend on the pesticide. The following is a list of PPE that may be required:   * Chemical resistant eye/face protection * Chemical resistant gloves * Chemical resistant apron * Respirator with proper chemical cartridge |
| Training Requirements: | * WHMIS * For applying any pesticide: Class VIII – Agriculture Certificate of Qualification * For mixing: on-site training and supervision under the direction of a person holding a Class VIII – Agriculture Certificate of Qualification. * A licensed pesticide applicator. |
| Communication Process: | An individual working with pesticides must always have a method of communication with their supervisor or another individual. While applying pesticides, the applicator must check in regularly with the licensed pesticide applicator. |
| Equipment & Supplies: | * Tools to open pesticide containers, such as a knife * Measuring equipment * Application equipment * Clean-up equipment |
| Practice:   1. Read and follow the product label/SDS. 2. Never wear contact lenses when handling pesticides, since some lenses are permeable to vapours/gases and can trap chemicals. 3. Wear required personal protective equipment. 4. Make sure your supervisor is aware you are working with pesticides. Setup your communication system for the time you spend handling pesticides. 5. If spraying with a tractor that has a cab and you choose not to wear a respirator in the cab, the cab must be equipped with charcoal filters and all seals around doors and windows must be intact. You must be sure not to contaminate the inside of the tractor. You must thoroughly clean the tractor after spraying pesticides. 6. Do not eat, drink or smoke while handling or spraying pesticides. 7. Ensure equipment is functioning properly:    1. No hose leaks or cracks    2. There is proper agitation    3. Filters, screens and nozzles are clean    4. Sprayer is properly calibrated for each specific application. 8. Ensure the following are on hand at mix site/station:    1. Emergency phone numbers    2. First aid kit    3. Eye wash kit    4. Spill response kit 9. The re-entry time and pre-harvest interval must be posted at the field entrance before you start applying pesticides.   Storing Pesticides   1. Store pesticides in a designated area. 2. Store pesticides off the floor. 3. Organize products in groups (e.g. herbicide, fungicide and insecticide).   Mixing Pesticides   1. Open all pesticide containers carefully and on a stable surface. 2. Use the proper tools to open containers. Use a proper cutting tool to open paper and plastic bags and to cut tops - DO NOT tear open containers. 3. Open, pour and mix in a specific area where no persons can be contaminated. 4. When outdoors, stand up-wind of all opening, pouring and mixing of pesticides, be sure to have quick absorbent material on hand in case of a spill. 5. When inside, open, pour, weigh and mix pesticides in a well-ventilated area; be sure to have quick absorbent material on hand in case of a spill. 6. Pour properly from a container by having the opening at the top and an air vent to prevent splashing. 7. Fill spray tank ½ full. 8. Add adjuvants before pesticides unless otherwise stated on label. 9. Accurately weigh or measure required pesticide and add to spray tank. 10. Mix the wettable powders with water and form a slurry before adding it to the spray tank. 11. Rinse measuring equipment and add rinsate to spray tank. 12. Complete filling of spray tank. 13. Never use your mouth to siphon liquid materials or to blow out clogged spray nozzles.   Spraying Pesticides   1. To spray pesticides, use only equipment that is reserved exclusively for that purpose. 2. Note on the label the time period required before re-entry into the field. Post at all entrances to the field signs that tell the re-entry time and pre-harvest interval. 3. Check with your supervisor before you spray pesticides if the wind speed in over 8 km/hour or the temperature is above 30°C. 4. If possible, start spraying at the downwind edge of the field and travel at right angles to the wind direction. 5. During pesticide application, abide by the separation distances from waterways, etc. 6. If you feel ill during pesticide application, stop work immediately and get medical attention. 7. Keep all unprotected persons and animals away from any equipment that may be contaminated, and from the site during spray application 8. After spray operation is completed, note on the label, the time period required before re-entry into the field and stay out of the field until that the re-entry time has passed. 9. The re-entry time and pre-harvest interval should be posted at field entrance. 10. Equipment used for pesticide applications should be reserved exclusively for that purpose.   Handling and Disposal of Containers and Sprayer   1. When cleaning equipment, personnel should be aware of all hazards involved. 2. Triple rinse sprayer, spraying the rinse solution back on the headlands. 3. Triple rinse empty containers and puncture them so they cannot be reused. Give the empty containers to your supervisor for return to the supplier. 4. Proper disposal – back to supplier. 5. After you are finished handling pesticides change your clothes and have a shower. Any clothes worn when handling pesticides should be washed separately. | |
| Emergency Procedures: | If at any time you feel nauseous or uneasy while working with pesticides, call your supervisor immediately. Seek medical attention ASAP. If a spill occurs:   * Assess personal safety issues before addressing spill. * Eliminate source of the spill. * Prevent the spill from spreading by diversion or providing a barrier. * Do not apply water to clean up a spill as this will cause it to spread. * Apply absorbent materials to soak up spilled liquid pesticide or dilute mixtures:   + Sweep or scoop up dry pesticides.   + Dig up and remove contaminated soil. * Always read the label for cleaning instructions, as some products have specific requirements. * Place spilled pesticide and all collection and cleaning materials in a sealable container or heavy plastic bag, label and dispose of properly. * Shower, washing thoroughly after cleaning up a pesticide spill. * If a spill greater than 5kg or 5L of pesticide in concentrated form, or 70L of diluted pesticide occurs contact: * Environmental Emergencies, Maritimes Regional Office, Canadian Coast Guard at 1-800-565-1633 * Occupational Health and Safety Division, NS Department of Labour and Advanced Education at 1-800-952-2687. |