



Tuesday, February 11, 2014

Training compulsory for Group I chemical use

CHANGES to Group I herbicide regulations mean that all grain growers wishing to use the chemical on their properties must have minimum qualifications as a 'prescribed chemical user'.

This means training in ChemCert or equivalent as a minimum. A full list of training providers in South Australia is detailed below.

Grain Producers SA chairman Garry Hansen says the changes to Group I regulations were introduced by Biosecurity SA last year.

The change requires growers to have the formal qualification of 'prepare and apply chemicals' – acknowledging their skills in safe and correct Group I chemical use.

"The need for the operator of the spray plant to be qualified is limited to commercial operations and not home gardeners, lifestyle property, hobby farms or industrial sites, as per regulations," he said.

"This acknowledges the fact that grain growers are the highest users of these types of chemicals. I encourage the small number of grain growers who do not have the necessary qualification, to undertake the training as soon as possible if they wish to use Group I herbicides.

"If we want to continue to have access to these chemical groups to maximise our weed management options then we must continue responsible and safe chemical use.

"Growers have a legal responsibility to ensure safe use of chemicals and that spray does not drift. We must be proactive in monitoring weather conditions to ensure drift does not occur."

Potential training providers include:

- **ARO SafeChem:** [ARO Educational Services Pty Ltd for further information](#). Phone 08 8339 1066.
- **AusChem Training Victoria**, provided the holder has completed the SA legislation assessment. [AusChem Training \(Victoria\) for further information](#). Phone 03 5622 2055.
- **ChemCert SA Accreditation:** [ChemCert SA for further information](#). Phone 1800 444 228.
- **TAFE SA Chemical Training Card:** [TAFE SA for further information](#). Phone 1800 882 661 or email tafeinfo@sa.gov.au
- **SMARTtrain accreditation in chemical use:** Phone 1800 138 351.
- **Smith and Georg Chemical Accreditation:** [Smith and Georg Pty Ltd for further information](#). Phone 08 8389 1856.
- **Spray Solutions Accreditation:** [Regional Skills Training Pty Ltd for further information](#). Phone 08 8835 1362.

More information ...

Rural Chemicals Operations group, 1300 799 684, or PIRSA, www.pir.sa.gov.au/biosecuritysa/ruralchem/using_chemicals_safely

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About Grain Producers SA:

Grain Producers SA is a not-for-profit organisation that represents all levy-paying grain producers in South Australia. GPSA's objective is to foster the development and implementation of policies that promote the economic and environmental sustainability of the South Australian grains industry for the benefit of its producers and the wider community. Growers are encouraged to have their say on policy and have input on the people who represent them.
