

INFORMATION SHEET FOR BUSINESSES USING, HANDLING OR STORING AGRICULTURAL AND VETERINARY (AGVET) CHEMICALS

1

From 1 January 2017 most Australian states and territories will require workplace hazardous chemicals to be labelled in accordance with the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling (GHS).



Under the [model Work Health and Safety \(WHS\) Regulations](#) labels for hazardous chemicals used in workplaces must contain the following GHS labelling elements: signal words, pictograms, hazard statements and precautionary statements. They must also include the contact details and address of the Australian manufacturer or importer.

Some elements on AgVet chemical labels, such as first aid and safety directions, are approved by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) based on a health and safety risk assessment carried out by the APVMA. From 1 January 2017 the model WHS Regulations require additional GHS information on the labels of AgVet chemicals used in the workplace.



What do the WHS Regulations require on AgVet chemical labels?

A partial exemption from workplace chemical labelling has been provided for AgVet chemicals to recognise information already required on the labels of AgVet chemical products. The only elements required under the model WHS Regulations for registered AgVet chemicals are GHS hazard and precautionary statements. Signal words and pictograms are not required on labels for AgVet chemicals.

Hazard statements communicate the intrinsic hazards of a chemical including their severity. Hazards can include the ability of the chemical to:

- catch fire (flammability)
- cause burns (corrosivity)
- cause poisoning (acute toxicity)
- effect the nervous system, liver, kidney or other organs (specific target organ toxicity)
- cause cancer (carcinogenicity), or
- cause allergic reactions.

Precautionary statements provide advice on the recommended measures to prevent or minimise adverse effects resulting from exposure to the hazardous chemical.



Further information about the hazards and control measures can be found in the Safety Data Sheet provided by the supplier of the hazardous chemical.



Do I have to include hazard and precautionary statements on AgVet labels which are consumer products?

If an AgVet product is packaged in the same quantity as a consumer product and is likely to be used in the same manner and frequency as in a home or domestic setting then workplace labelling requirements do not apply. If the packaged quantity and concentration is not consistent with consumer use then workplace labelling requirements apply.

Example 1

A one litre container of glyphosate weedkiller at 100 g/litre active ingredient is sold through retail outlets for home and garden use and is advertised as "Home and Garden Weedkiller". This product would not have to comply with the WHS labelling requirements.

Example 2

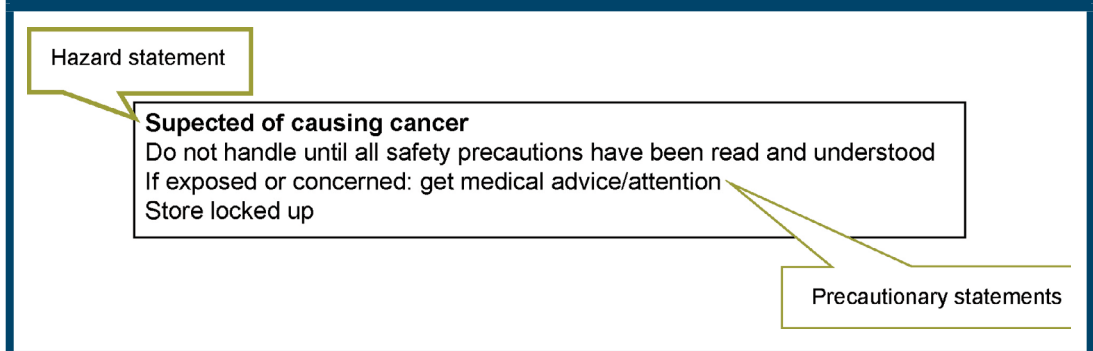
A 20 litre drum of glyphosate weedkiller at 450 g/litre active ingredient requiring dilution of one litre in 100 litres sold through specialist horticultural or rural supply stores would be considered as intended for workplace use. Hazard and precautionary statements are required on the label, and safety data sheets must be available upon request.



Where can I find the hazard and precautionary statements on the label?

Hazard and precautionary statements should be separated from the other AgVet label elements, for example by appearing in a clear text box or on a separate label on the container. An example of how hazard and precautionary statements might look on an AgVet label (See Figure 1).

Figure 1 Example of hazard and precautionary statements



i More information

- [Information sheet for manufacturers and importers of agricultural and veterinary \(AgVet\) chemicals](#)
- [Policy statement: Changes to labelling for agricultural and veterinary \(AgVet\) chemicals](#)

For more information see the Safe Work Australia website (www.swa.gov.au).