

GUIDANCE ON THE USE OF OFF LABEL CROP PROTECTION PRODUCTS

OFF LABEL USE OF CROP PROTECTION PRODUCTS IS NECESSARY AT TIMES TO MANAGE PESTS, DISEASES AND WEEDS

Why use this poster?

- This poster is designed for growers when using a product off label on a crop and/or pest that is not listed on the product label.
- While off label use is legal for most products, growers are responsible for ensuring that off label use is necessary, safe and compliant with all regulatory controls.
- This poster summarises the important steps to follow to ensure off-label use is compliant.

Off label use is severely restricted – especially for newer active ingredients and some older ones that have been reassessed by EPA. This poster serves as a guide only. Growers must check ACVM (who manage food residues for MRL compliance) and EPA (for environmental compliance) websites first in each instance.

Definitions:

MRL - Maximum residue levels
WHP - Withholding period
PHI - Preharvest interval

Step 1:

Check Compliances



The residue must first comply with any set or default NZ MRL as well as the export MRL if it is lower.

Consider what:

- MRL applies. If your crop is destined for the domestic market this may be the default of 0.1 mg/kg
- WHP / PHI is required to achieve the MRL before you apply the product

Step 2:

Record Considerations



Record considerations in NZGAPs template for off label use (available on NZGAPs website).

Step 3:

Check Controls



If there any controls that prohibit off label use DO NOT USE.

Step 4:

Read full label content

Read the full label content very carefully – some may have the words: By law, this product must only be used as specific in the label content.

DO NOT USE these products off label.

Active ingredients with off label restrictions include: Organophosphate and carbamate insecticides such as acephate, diazinon, fenamiphos and methamidophos. Antibiotics (eg streptomycin).



Step 5:

Be Aware



Be aware there may be further restrictions on a product such as restrictions on being able to apply aerially.

Step 6:

Check WorkSafe



Check WorkSafe website for any Restricted Entry Intervals set as all users must comply. If you cannot, do not apply the product.

Disclaimer: This poster is intended as a guide only and should be read in conjunction with the NZGAP off label guidance document (www.nzgap.co.nz). Growers are strongly encouraged to design a spray programme ahead of the season and to account for any off label uses that maybe needed as a result of unexpected pest / disease outbreaks.