

Product Stewardship

Factsheet

What is Product Stewardship?

Product stewardship is about minimising the impact of a manufactured product on the environment at all stages of its life cycle. Those who design, produce, sell or use a product are all encouraged to take responsibility, from its inception, through to the end-of-life stage. By adopting safe practices in the manufacture, use and disposal of a product, the impact on people, property and the environment can be curtailed. The greatest responsibility often lies with the manufacturer of the product, although all within the chain of commerce have an obligation to manage its use.

What is Agsafe?

Agsafe is an Australian non-profit organisation offering programs that support product stewardship of agricultural and veterinary chemicals at all levels of the supply chain.

The manufacture, supply, use and disposal of agvet chemicals is managed by state and territory government regulators.

Agsafe seeks to encourage compliance with safety regulations by offering accreditation and training for suppliers of agvet chemicals (Accreditation and Training); container management (drumMUSTER) and product disposal (ChemClear).

What is Accreditation & Training?

Our training programs are designed for people working in the agvet chemical supply chain who are responsible for handling, sale and providing advice on correct chemical use.

Courses are recommended for all employees involved in the storage and handling of agvet chemical products including agronomists and sales personnel. Course topics include:

- safe storage and handling of agvet chemical products
- dangerous goods transportation
- legal requirements for manufacturers and suppliers.

Agsafe premises accreditation ensures stores are compliant with state and territory regulations for the transport, storage and handling of agvet products. Accreditation assures farmers and customers they can trust advice from suppliers and they are minimising potential risk to human health, the community and the environment from accidental spills and releases.

What is drumMUSTER?

Containers with the drumMUSTER logo have a 4-cent/L levy included in the cost of the chemical at purchase, which covers the free collection of Group 1 empty chemical drums and containers.

The plastic drums are inspected by collection agencies, transported, processed then recycled into wheelie bins, signs, pipes, containers and fence posts.

What is ChemClear?

Property owners often have old, unwanted or unknown chemicals cluttering up storage sheds and these surplus chemicals are frequently forgotten.

It poses the dilemma of how to dispose of broken, leaking or unlabeled containers. Safe disposal is imperative to the safety of family, workers, livestock, pets and the environment.

Funded by the same levy as **drumMUSTER**, ChemClear offers a disposal path for unwanted chemicals where users register their obsolete products online, then relinquish their containers at a collection point for safe removal.

ChemClear has two categories of agvet chemicals.

Group 1 chemicals are collected free of charge. These chemicals are identified by a drumMUSTER logo on the chemical label or embedded in the container.

Group 2 chemicals, which attract a disposal fee unless covered by a government subsidy, are:

- no longer registered
- unknown
- unlabeled
- out of date
- mixed agvet chemicals
- chemicals from non-participating manufacturers.

drumMUSTER
eligible logo



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