

## Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

### QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Supplementary Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016

**Agency - Safe Work Australia**

**Department of Employment Question No. EMSQ15-000291**

**Senator Leyonhjelm asked on 22 October 2015 on proof Hansard page 35**

#### **Question**

#### **SWA - Inadequately labelled veterinary chemical products**

Senator LEYONHJELM: Can you name a single agricultural veterinary chemical product that is considered to be inadequately labelled under the APVMA registration system?

Ms Collins: We have identified a number of those, yes.

Senator LEYONHJELM: Can you name any?

Ms Collins: I do not have those with me at the moment.

Senator LEYONHJELM: Can you take that on notice?

Ms Collins: I can, yes.

#### **Answer**

Some labels approved for Agricultural and Veterinary (AgVet) products by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) do not specify all of the hazards that the chemical possesses. This is generally the case for physico-chemical hazards like flammability and chronic health hazards like carcinogenicity.

Including information about the intrinsic hazards of chemicals through the hazard and precautionary statements from the Globally Harmonised System of Classification and Labelling (GHS) ensures duty holders and workers handling AgVet chemicals are provided with the same information about the hazards of the chemicals as workers in other sectors, allowing them to make decisions about controlling those risks.

We have selected eight AgVet chemicals which do not include label information for all intrinsic hazards. These chemicals are examples only and while there are many more, we have not attempted to produce an exhaustive list.

The examples were selected from the publically available database of registered Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals maintained by the APVMA. Safety Data Sheets (SDS) and approved product labels were sourced from the manufacturer or importer's website.

Below are summaries of the hazards for each of the example chemicals, with a comparison of the hazards communicated on the APVMA label and in the SDS. Excerpts of relevant parts of the APVMA labels and from the SDS are provided along with links to the full APVMA approved label and manufacturer's SDS.

Note that Examples 1 to 4 are classified according to the previous '*Approved Criteria for classifying hazardous substances*'. However the same classification would result under the GHS.

### **Example 1. Walabi SC Fungicide**

Link to SDS and label

([www.bayercropscience.com.au/cs/products/productDetails.asp?id=124&tab=Resources](http://www.bayercropscience.com.au/cs/products/productDetails.asp?id=124&tab=Resources))

The manufacturer has classified this chemical as potentially carcinogenic, an irritant to eyes, and a skin sensitiser on repeated exposure.

The APVMA label only communicates the irritant and sensitization hazards with the statement “may irritate the eyes and skin, and “repeated exposure may cause allergic disorders”. The carcinogenic hazard is not communicated.

*Excerpt from APVMA approved label for Walabi SC Fungicide.*

#### **SAFETY DIRECTIONS**

Will irritate eyes and skin. Repeated exposure may cause allergic disorders. Avoid contact with eyes and skin. When opening the container and preparing spray, wear cotton overalls buttoned to the neck and wrist, a washable hat, elbow-length PVC gloves and face shield or goggles. When using the prepared spray, wear cotton overalls buttoned to the neck and wrist, a washable hat and elbow-length PVC gloves. Personal protective equipment recommended for application of the prepared spray for ground application is not required for pilots during aerial application of the prepared spray. If product in eyes, wash it out immediately with water. Wash hands after use. After each day's use, wash gloves, face shield or goggles and contaminated clothing.

#### **FIRST AID**

If poisoning occurs, contact a doctor or Poisons Information Centre (telephone 13 11 26). If swallowed, do NOT induce vomiting. Give a glass of water.

*Excerpt from SDS for Walabi SC Fungicide.*

R-phrases)	R36 - Irritating to eyes. R40 - Limited evidence of a carcinogenic effect. R43 - May cause sensitisation by skin contact.
S-phrases)	See sections 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 12, 13.
ADG Classification	"Dangerous goods" for transport by road or rail according to the Australian Code for the Transport of Dangerous Goods by Road and Rail. - See Section 14.
SUSMP classification (Poison Schedule)	Schedule 6 (Standard for the Uniform Scheduling of Medicines and Poisons)

## **Example 2. Balance 750 WG Herbicide**

Link to SDS and label

([www.bayercropscience.com.au/cs/products/productdetails.asp?id=7&tab=Resources](http://www.bayercropscience.com.au/cs/products/productdetails.asp?id=7&tab=Resources))

The manufacturer has classified this chemical as reproductively toxic - that is it can cause harm to the unborn child. This intrinsic hazard is not communicated on the label. Hazard statements related to eye and skin irritation ("Will irritate the eyes and skin") are communicated on the label.

*Excerpt from APVMA approved label for Balance 750 WG Herbicide.*

### **SAFETY DIRECTIONS**

Will irritate the eyes and skin. Avoid contact with eyes and skin. If product in eyes, wash it out immediately with water. When opening the container and preparing spray, wear cotton overalls buttoned to the neck and wrist (or equivalent clothing), a washable hat, elbow length chemical resistant gloves and face shield or goggles. When using the prepared spray wear cotton overalls buttoned to the neck and wrist (or equivalent clothing) and a washable hat and elbow length chemical resistant gloves. Wash hands after use. After each day's use wash gloves, face shield or goggles and contaminated clothing.

### **FIRST AID**

If poisoning occurs, contact a doctor or Poisons Information Centre (telephone 13 11 26).

*Excerpt from SDS for Balance 750 WG Herbicide.*

R-pharse(s)	R63 - Possible risk of harm to the unborn child.
S-pharse(s)	See sections 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 12, 13.
ADG Classification	"Dangerous goods" for transport by road or rail according to the Australian Code for the Transport of Dangerous Goods by Road and Rail. - See Section 14.
SUSMP classification (Poison Schedule)	Schedule 5 (Standard for the Uniform Scheduling of Medicines and Poisons)

## **Example 3. Eclipse 100SC Herbicide**

Link to SDS and label

([www.bayercropscience.com.au/cs/products/productdetails.asp?id=537&tab=Resources](http://www.bayercropscience.com.au/cs/products/productdetails.asp?id=537&tab=Resources))

The manufacturer has classified this chemical as acutely toxic by inhalation, carcinogenic, and as having specific target organ toxicity (liver and kidney) through repeated exposure if swallowed. Of these intrinsic hazards only the acute toxicity is communicated on the label.

*Excerpt from APVMA approved label for Eclipse 100SC Herbicide.*

### **SAFETY DIRECTIONS**

Poisonous if inhaled. Avoid contact with skin. Do not inhale vapour or spray mist. When opening the container and preparing the product for use, wear elbow-length PVC gloves and a half facepiece respirator. When using the product wear a half facepiece respirator. After use and before eating, drinking or smoking, wash hands, arms and face thoroughly with soap and water. After each day's use, wash gloves.

### **FIRST AID**

If poisoning occurs, contact a doctor or Poisons Information Centre (telephone 131126).

*Excerpt from SDS for Eclipse 100SC Herbicide.*

R-phrases(s)	R23 - Toxic by inhalation. R40 - Limited evidence of a carcinogenic effect. R48/22 - Harmful: danger of serious damage to health by prolonged exposure if swallowed.
S-phrases(s)	See sections 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 12, 13.
ADG Classification	"Dangerous goods" for transport by road or rail according to the Australian Code for the Transport of Dangerous Goods by Road and Rail. - See Section 14.
SUSMP classification (Poison Schedule)	Schedule 6 (Standard for the Uniform Scheduling of Medicines and Poisons)

**Example 4. Sakura 850 WG Herbicide**

Link to SDS and label

[www.bayercropscience.com.au/cs/products/productdetails.asp?id=604&tab=Resources](http://www.bayercropscience.com.au/cs/products/productdetails.asp?id=604&tab=Resources)

The manufacturer has classified this chemical as potentially carcinogenic, as causing damage to organs (kidneys, urinary bladder, heart) through prolonged or repeated exposure if swallowed, and causing skin sensitization. Of these, only the skin sensitization is communicated – 'repeated exposure may cause allergic disorders' on the label. It should be noted that the carcinogenic hazard was identified as part of the human health risk assessment and was communicated on the label published in the APVMA public release summary ([www.apvma.gov.au/sites/default/files/publication/13976-prs-pyroxasulfone.pdf](http://www.apvma.gov.au/sites/default/files/publication/13976-prs-pyroxasulfone.pdf)) for this chemical, but is not present on the registered product label.

*Excerpt from APVMA approved label for Sakura 850 WG Herbicide.*

**SAFETY DIRECTIONS**

Repeated exposure may cause allergic disorders. When opening the container, preparing spray and using the prepared spray wear cotton overalls buttoned to the neck and wrist (or equivalent clothing) and elbow length chemical-resistant gloves. Wash hands after use.

**FIRST AID**

If poisoning occurs contact a doctor or Poisons Information Centre (telephone 13 11 26).

*Excerpt from SDS for Sakura 850 WG Herbicide.*

R-phrases(s)	R40 - Limited evidence of a carcinogenic effect. R43 - May cause sensitisation by skin contact. R48/22 - Harmful: danger of serious damage to health by prolonged exposure if swallowed.
S-phrases(s)	See sections 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 12, 13.
ADG Classification	"Dangerous goods" for transport by road or rail according to the Australian Code for the Transport of Dangerous Goods by Road and Rail. - See Section 14.
SUSMP classification (Poison Schedule)	Schedule 6 (Standard for the Uniform Scheduling of Medicines and Poisons)

**Example 5. AxiChem Brag 200 Herbicide**

Link to SDS and label

[www.axichem.com.au/products/index.php?Herbicide/AC+Brag+200](http://www.axichem.com.au/products/index.php?Herbicide/AC+Brag+200)

The manufacturer has classified this chemical as a combustible liquid, a reproductive toxin, and having acute toxicity via inhalation and ingestion, specific target organ toxicity, and allergic reactions and aspiration hazard.

The intrinsic hazards related to acute inhalation and oral toxicity (poisonous if inhaled or swallowed) irritant/allergic reactions (may irritate eyes and skin), and aspiration hazard (do

not inhale spray mist) are communicated on the label. There is no communication of the combustibility, or the reproductive toxicity on the label.

*Excerpt from APVMA approved label for AxiChem Brag 200 Herbicide.*

**SAFETY DIRECTIONS**

Product is poisonous if inhaled or swallowed. May irritate the eyes and skin. Avoid contact with eyes and skin. Do not inhale spray mist. When preparing spray wear elbow-length PVC gloves and face-shield. After use and before eating, drinking or smoking, wash hands, arms and face thoroughly with soap and water. After each day's use, wash gloves and face shield.

**FIRST AID**

If poisoning occurs, contact a doctor or Poisons Information Centre (Phone Australia 13 11 26). If swallowed, do NOT induce vomiting. Give a glass of water.

*Excerpt from SDS for AxiChem Brag 200 Herbicide.*

Hazard statement(s)	
H227	Combustible liquid
H302	Harmful if swallowed
H330	Fatal if inhaled
H317	May cause an allergic skin reaction
H361	Suspected of damaging fertility or the unborn child
H336	May cause drowsiness or dizziness
H304	May be fatal if swallowed and enters airways
H400	Very toxic to aquatic life
H410	Very toxic to aquatic life with long lasting effects
AUH066	Repeated exposure may cause skin dryness and cracking

**Precautionary statement(s) Prevention**

P201	Obtain special instructions before use.
P210	Keep away from heat, hot surfaces, sparks, open flames and other ignition sources. No smoking.
P260	Do not breathe dust/fume/gas/mist/vapours/spray.
P271	Use only outdoors or in a well-ventilated area.
P280	Wear protective gloves/protective clothing/eye protection/face protection.
P281	Use personal protective equipment as required.
P270	Do not eat, drink or smoke when using this product.
P273	Avoid release to the environment.
P284	[In case of inadequate ventilation] wear respiratory protection.
P272	Contaminated work clothing should not be allowed out of the workplace.

**Precautionary statement(s) Response**

P301+P310	IF SWALLOWED: Immediately call a POISON CENTER/doctor/physician/first aider
P304+P340	IF INHALED: Remove person to fresh air and keep comfortable for breathing.
P308+P313	IF exposed or concerned: Get medical advice/attention.
P331	Do NOT induce vomiting.
P363	Wash contaminated clothing before reuse.
P370+P378	In case of fire: Use alcohol resistant foam or normal protein foam for extinction.
P302+P352	IF ON SKIN: Wash with plenty of water and soap
P333+P313	If skin irritation or rash occurs: Get medical advice/attention.
P391	Collect spillage.
P301+P312	IF SWALLOWED: Call a POISON CENTER/doctor/physician/first aider/if you feel unwell.
P330	Rinse mouth.

**Precautionary statement(s) Storage**

P403+P233	Store in a well-ventilated place. Keep container tightly closed.
P403+P235	Store in a well-ventilated place. Keep cool.
P405	Store locked up.

**Precautionary statement(s) Disposal**

P501	Dispose of contents/container to authorised chemical landfill or if organic to high temperature incineration
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## Example 6. AxiChem Petulant 250 EC Fungicide

Link to SDS and label

([www.axichem.com.au/products/index.php?Fungicide/AC+Petulant+250+EC](http://www.axichem.com.au/products/index.php?Fungicide/AC+Petulant+250+EC))

The manufacturer has classified this chemical as being a combustible liquid, having specific target organ toxicity to the central nervous system, causing allergic reactions to the skin, and posing an aspiration hazard. The label instructions communicate the irritation (will irritate nose, throat and skin), acute toxicity by oral and inhalation (harmful if swallowed) hazards. The hazard related to combustion is not communicated.

*Excerpt from APVMA approved label for AxiChem Petulant 250 EC Fungicide.*

### SAFETY DIRECTIONS

Harmful if swallowed. Will damage the eyes. Will irritate the nose, throat and skin. Avoid contact with the eyes and skin. Do not inhale vapour.

When opening the container, preparing the spray wear cotton overalls buttoned to the neck and wrist and a washable hat and elbow length PVC, nitrile or neoprene gloves, goggles and disposable fume mask. When using the prepared spray wear cotton overalls buttoned to the neck and wrist and a washable hat, elbow length PVC, nitrile or neoprene gloves and goggles.

If product in eyes wash out immediately with water. If product on skin, immediately wash area with soap. Wash hands after use.

After each days use wash gloves, goggles and contaminated clothing.

### FIRST AID

If poisoning occurs, contact a Doctor or Poisons Information Centre (Phone Australia: 131 126). If swallowed, DO NOT induce vomiting, give a glass of water.

*Excerpt from SDS for AxiChem Petulant 250 EC Fungicide*

#### Hazard statement(s)

H227	Combustible liquid
H302	Harmful if swallowed
H317	May cause an allergic skin reaction
H338	May cause drowsiness or dizziness
H304	May be fatal if swallowed and enters airways
H400	Very toxic to aquatic life
H410	Very toxic to aquatic life with long lasting effects

#### Precautionary statement(s) Prevention

P210	Keep away from heat, hot surfaces, sparks, open flames and other ignition sources. No smoking.
P271	Use only outdoors or in a well-ventilated area.
P280	Wear protective gloves/protective clothing/eye protection/face protection.
P281	Avoid breathing dust/fume/gas/mist/vapours/spray.
P270	Do not eat, drink or smoke when using this product.
P273	Avoid release to the environment.
P272	Contaminated work clothing should not be allowed out of the workplace.

#### Precautionary statement(s) Response

P901+P910	IF SWALLOWED: Immediately call a POISON CENTER/doctor/physician/first aider
P931	Do NOT induce vomiting.
P983	Wash contaminated clothing before reuse.
P970+P978	In case of fire: Use water spray/fog for extinction.
P962+P962	IF ON SKIN: Wash with plenty of water and soap
P933+P913	If skin irritation or rash occurs: Get medical advice/attention.
P981	Collect spillage.
P901+P912	IF SWALLOWED: Call a POISON CENTER/doctor/physician/first aider if you feel unwell.
P904+P940	IF INHALED: Remove person to fresh air and keep comfortable for breathing.
P930	Rinse mouth.

### Example 7. Independents Own JET AWAY Blowfly and Lice Jetting Fluid for Sheep

Link to SDS and label

([www.apparentag.com.au/products.asp?productcategory=Animal%20Health&producttype=all](http://www.apparentag.com.au/products.asp?productcategory=Animal%20Health&producttype=all))

The manufacturer has classified this product as being reproductively toxic and acutely toxic by ingestion. The intrinsic hazards related to acute toxicity by ingestion (poisonous if swallowed) and sensitisation (may cause allergic disorders) are communicated on the APVMA label but the reproductive toxicity hazard is not.

*Excerpt from APVMA approved label for Independents Own JET AWAY Blowfly and Lice Jetting Fluid for Sheep.*

#### **SAFETY DIRECTIONS**

Poisonous if swallowed. Repeated exposure may cause allergic disorders. Sensitive workers should use protective clothing. When preparing product for use, wear cotton overalls buttoned to the neck and wrist (or equivalent clothing) and elbow length gloves. Wash hands after use.

#### **FIRST AID**

If poisoning occurs, contact a doctor or Poisons Information Centre. Phone Australia 13 11 26.

*Excerpt from SDS for Independents Own JET AWAY Blowfly and Lice Jetting Fluid for Sheep.*

#### **Hazard statements:**

- H301 Toxic if swallowed.
- H360 May damage fertility or the unborn child.
- H362 May cause harm to breast-fed children.

#### **Precautionary Statements:**

##### *Prevention:*

- P201 Obtain special instructions before use.
- P202 Do not handle until all safety precautions have been read and understood.
- P260 Do not breathe dust/fume/gas/mist/vapours/spray
- P263 Avoid contact during pregnancy/while nursing.
- P264 Wash ... thoroughly after handling
- P270 Do not eat, drink or smoke when using this product.
- P281 Use personal protective equipment as required.

##### *Response:*

- P330 Rinse mouth.
- P301 + P310 IF SWALLOWED: Immediately call a POISON CENTER or doctor/physician.
- P308 + P313 IF exposed or concerned: Get medical advice/ attention:

##### *Storage*

- P405 Store locked up.

##### *Disposal*

- P501 Dispose of contents/container in accordance with national regulations.

## Example 8. 4Farmers Chlorothalonil 720 Fungicide

Link to SDS and label

[\(www.4farmers.com.au/products/fungicides/chlorothalonil-720/\)](http://www.4farmers.com.au/products/fungicides/chlorothalonil-720/)

The manufacturer has classified this chemical as being acutely toxic by inhalation, potentially carcinogenic, corrosive to the eyes, an irritant to the respiratory system, and a skin sensitizer. All the hazards except the carcinogenic hazard are communicated on the label.

*Excerpt from APVMA approved label for 4Farmers Chlorothalonil 720 Fungicide*

### **SAFETY DIRECTIONS**

Attacks the eyes and skin. Avoid contact with eyes and skin. DO NOT inhale spray mist. Repeated exposure may cause allergic disorders. Sensitive workers should use protective clothing. When preparing spray and using the prepared spray wear cotton overalls buttoned to the neck and wrist and a washable hat and elbow-length PVC gloves and goggles and disposable mist mask. If clothing becomes contaminated with product or wet with spray remove clothing immediately. If product in eyes, wash it out immediately with water. If product on skin, immediately wash area with soap and water. After use and before eating, drinking or smoking, wash hands, arms and face thoroughly with soap and water. After each day's use, wash gloves and goggles and contaminated clothing.

### **FIRST AID**

If poisoning occurs a doctor, or Poisons Information Centre (Phone 13 11 26).

If swallowed, DO NOT induce vomiting. Give a glass of water.

*Excerpt from SDS for 4Farmers Chlorothalonil 720 Fungicide*

#### **Hazard Statements**

H330 Fatal if inhaled.

H318 Causes serious eye damage.

H317 May cause an allergic skin reaction.

H351 Suspected of causing cancer.

H335 May cause respiratory irritation.

H410 Very toxic to aquatic life with long lasting effects.

#### **Precautionary Statements**

P280 Do not breathe dust/fume/gas/mist/vapours/spray.

P284 Wear respiratory protection.

P261 Avoid breathing dust/fume/gas/mist/vapours/spray.

P280 Wear protective gloves/protective clothing/eye protection/face protection.

P273 Avoid release to the environment.

P271 Use only outdoors or in a well-ventilated area.

P272 Contaminated work clothing should not be allowed out of the workplace.

P201 Obtain special instructions before use.

P202 Do not handle until all safety precautions have been read and understood.

P305+P351+P338 IF IN EYES: Rinse cautiously with water for several minutes. Remove contact lenses, if present and easy to do. Continue rinsing.

P320 Specific treatment is urgent (see on this label).

P321 Specific treatment (see on this label).

P304+P340 IF INHALED: Remove victim to fresh air and keep at rest in a position comfortable for breathing.

P308+P313 IF exposed or concerned: Get medical advice/attention.

P333+P313 If skin irritation or rash occurs: Get medical advice/attention.

P391 Collect spillage.

P302+P352 IF ON SKIN: Wash with plenty of water.

P310 Immediately call a POISON CENTER/doctor.

P312 Call a POISON CENTER/doctor if you feel unwell.

P362+P364 Take off contaminated clothing and wash it before reuse.

P405 Store locked up.

P403+P233 Store in a well-ventilated place. Keep container tightly closed.

P501 Dispose of contents/container in accordance with local/regional/national regulations.