

# Overview of Agricultural Chemicals for the Malting and Brewing Industry

Issued by



**The Malting and Brewing Industry  
Barley Technical Committee**

in association with



and

**The National Working Party on  
Grain Protection (NWPGP)**



# 1. Purpose

This document describes the general requirements of the malting and brewing industry in relation to chemicals approved for use on malting barley.

For those wishing to seek approval of a particular chemical please refer to the separate document entitled “Malting and Brewing Industry – Guidelines for Application for Approval of Agricultural Chemicals” detailing actions required in order to undertake that process. This document is available on request from the Chair NWPGP, on the NWPGP website (<http://www.graintrade.org.au/nwpgp>) or Barley Australia website (<https://www.barleyaustralia.com.au/>).

Note that the regulatory approval processes conducted by various Australian Government agencies are not described in this document. For details refer to the Guidelines document listed above.

## 2. Background

The malting barley and brewing industry has specific requirements in terms of chemicals that are permitted to be used on malting barley, as the timing and use of certain chemicals on the growing barley crop may affect the malting, brewing or fermentation processes or cause undesirable off-flavours in the finished beer. Registration of a chemical by relevant Australian agencies such as the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) does not mean the malting and brewing industry will permit that chemical to be used.

Particular chemicals must undergo an approval process as described in this document.

## 3. Key Industry Stakeholders

### **Barley Australia – now merged with Grains Australia**

- The peak body for the barley industry in Australia.
- Approves barley varieties that meet the criteria as malt grade. Varieties that are not accredited remain as non-malting barley.
- Provides recommendations on the acceptability of agricultural chemicals for use on malting barley.
- <http://www.barleyaustralia.com.au/>

### **Malting and Brewing Industry Barley Technical Committee (MBIBTC)**

- Is a subcommittee of the Barley Council.
- A group of technical malting and brewing experts from Australia’s major malting and brewing companies.
- Administers the evaluation of new barley varieties and provides recommendations on the suitability of new barley varieties for malting and brewing.

- Provides advice to Barley Council on the acceptability of agricultural chemicals for use on malting barley.
- <http://www.barleyaustralia.com.au/>

#### **National Working Party on Grain Protection (NWPGP)**

- The industry body responsible for providing management and leadership to industry in the areas of post-harvest storage, chemical use, market requirements and chemical regulations.
- Hosts an annual Conference providing participants with the latest research and developments, in the area of post-harvest storage and hygiene, chemical usage and outturn tolerances, international and domestic market requirements, and regulations.
- Co-ordinates and provides government with industry views on chemical in use on grain and associated products.
- The Chair of NWPGP is funded by Grains Australia and supported by Grain Trade Australia.
- <http://www.graintrade.org.au/nwpgp>

## **4. Application and Approval Process Overview**

Applications for clearance and registration of new grain protection chemicals for malting barley are made to the NWPGP via the contact details on the NWPGP website listed above.

The NWPGP through its technical sub-group, the Strategic Working Group (SWG) will acknowledge receipt of the request and advise the MBIBTC of receipt of the application. There is no set timeline for the assessment of applications as this depends on a range of factors and each application will be evaluated accordingly.

The NWPGP SWG will consider the request and advise their initial review of the application to the applicant as follows:

#### *a) Pre-harvest crop treatment*

- Where the chemical is to be applied prior to ear emergence and no further information is required or needed to be considered:
  - The applicant will be advised of the decision.
  - A copy of the correspondence and any communication will be sent to the MBIBTC for reference.
- Where the chemical is to be applied after ear emergence or further information is required the procedure described below for post-harvest grain treatments will apply.

#### *b) Post-harvest grain treatment*

- The applicant will be referred to the MBIBTC for action.
- Where necessary, the MBIBTC will conduct trials on the proposed chemical as set out in the document “Malting and Brewing Industry – Guidelines for Application for Approval of Agricultural Chemicals”.
- Following consideration by the MBIBTC of all initial and subsequent information, a recommendation from Barley Council will be forwarded to the NWPGP SWG.

- The NWPGP SWG will review the recommendation of Barley Council:
  - The applicant will be advised accordingly.
  - If acceptable to the industry:
    - Pre-harvest crop treatments – the APVMA will be advised.
    - Post-harvest grain treatments – the chemical will be added to the list of Approved Grain Protection chemicals.
  - Where further information is required the NWPGP will liaise with the MBIBTC to achieve an agreed outcome.

## 5. Industry Communication

Upon APVMA having registered a post-harvest grain treatment, the Post-Harvest Chemical Usage and Outturn Tolerances Document for that season will be updated as required and communicated to industry via Grain Trade Australia (see <http://www.graintrade.org.au/nwpgp>). This document lists all chemicals approved for use on malting barley for post-harvest grain protection.

A register of all other chemicals (applied pre-harvest) is maintained by the APVMA on the PubCRIS portal (see <https://portal.apvma.gov.au/pubcris>).