

# CHEMICAL RESIDUES/MRL'S

IMPACT, UNDERSTANDING AND POTENTIAL TRADE ISSUES

1 APRIL 2020



**GRDC**

GRAINS RESEARCH  
& DEVELOPMENT  
CORPORATION

# MARKET ACCESS – NOT JUST ABOUT CHEMICAL MRL'S

## Chemical use also impacts on:

- Weed seeds
- Foreign material / contaminants
- Pests
- Diseases
- Ergot



# WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR A GROWER

Different MRL's apply in each market, thus



Even though you may apply a chemical correctly and in accordance

Label Directions....



The resulting grain residues may not meet market requirements

# BUT

Do you know the market requirement before you use a chemical?



Probably not!

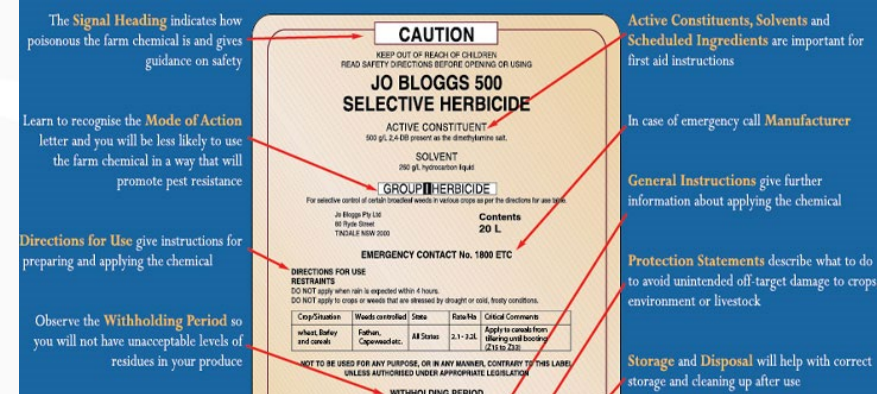
So, you need to understand the market access risks of using chemicals



# LEGAL OBLIGATIONS OF GROWERS

1. Use only chemicals registered for that crop
2. Comply with all Label Directions, including

- Rates of application
- Withholding period
- Timing for application
  - crop development stage
- A range of other statements such as “DO NOT .....



The diagram illustrates the components of a chemical label for **JO BLOGGS 500 SELECTIVE HERBICIDE**. Red arrows point from descriptive text boxes to specific parts of the label:

- Signal Heading:** Points to the **CAUTION** box at the top.
- Mode of Action:** Points to the **GROUP II HERBICIDE** classification.
- Directions for Use:** Points to the **DIRECTIONS FOR USE** section, which includes a table of crop situations and a **WITHHOLDING PERIOD** section.
- Active Constituents, Solvents and Scheduled Ingredients:** Points to the **ACTIVE CONSTITUENT** and **SOLVENT** details.
- General Instructions:** Points to the **Contents** and **EMERGENCY CONTACT** information.
- Protection Statements:** Points to the **DO NOT** and **NOT TO BE USED** statements.
- Storage and Disposal:** Points to the **WITHHOLDING PERIOD** section.

**Label Text Details:**

**CAUTION**  
KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN  
READ SAFETY DIRECTIONS BEFORE OPENING OR USING

**JO BLOGGS 500 SELECTIVE HERBICIDE**

**ACTIVE CONSTITUENT**  
500 g/L 2,4-DB present as the dimethylamine salt.

**SOLVENT**  
250 g/L hydrotreated liquid

**GROUP II HERBICIDE**

For selective control of certain broadleaf weeds in various crops as per the directions for use table.

**Contents**  
20 L

**EMERGENCY CONTACT No. 1800 ETC**

**DIRECTIONS FOR USE**  
**RESTRAINTS**  
DO NOT apply when rain is expected within 4 hours.  
DO NOT apply to crops or weeds that are stressed by drought or cold, frosty conditions.

Crop/Situation	Weeds controlled	Stems	Row/No	Critical Comments
wheat, barley and cereals	Galium, Capeweed etc.	All stems	2.1-2.2L	Apply to cereals from flowering until booting

**WITHHOLDING PERIOD**

DO NOT BE USED FOR ANY PURPOSE, OR IN ANY MANNER, CONTRARY TO THIS LABEL UNLESS AUTHORISED UNDER APPROPRIATE LEGISLATION.

# RESIDUES LEAD TO AN MRL

An MRL is established when a chemical is registered on a crop

An MRL is the maximum concentration of a residue resulting from the registered use of an agricultural chemical which is legally permitted or recognised as acceptable to be present in or on a food, agricultural commodity or animal feed.



**Australian Government**  
**Australian Pesticides and  
Veterinary Medicines Authority**



**FOOD STANDARDS**  
Australia New Zealand  
Te Mana Kounga Kai - Ahitereiria me Aotearoa

# REGULATORY & MARKET REQUIREMENTS

All stakeholders along the supply chain have obligations

- Chemicals arguably No.1 non-tariff measure issue at the moment
- Food Safety always a given whether stated or not in contracts
- Increase in MRL regulation nationally and internationally
- Chemical availability / use under threat



# CAN WE TRADE GRAIN

Increases in trade flows cause market access issues where

- Market has no MRL (missing MRL)
- Market doesn't apply Codex (divergent MRL)
- There is no Codex MRL
- Market does not have a default policy (zero)
- Market applies a low Level Of Detection (LOD)





# WHAT'S A GROWER TO DO

## On-farm stewardship guide

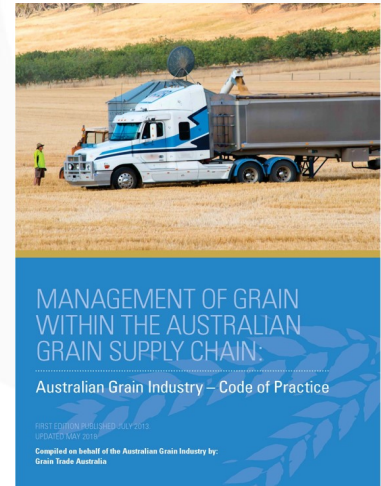
- Signed off by all major State & National grower groups
- Responsible chemical use
- Recognises importance of chemical use v trade
- Need better link with on-farm chemical use and market “risk”



# WHAT'S A GROWER TO DO

## Provide required information to post farmgate sector

- To enable compliance with GTA Code of Practice
- Comply with grain Trading Standards
- Correctly complete Commodity Vendor Declaration form
- Supply representative samples as needed
- Greater communication and interaction



# OTHER GROWER SOLUTIONS

## Talk to

- Advisor / agronomist
- Storage agent
- Marketer
- Other expert advice
  - Workshops NRS, APVMA, NWPGP
  - Contact Chair NWPGP
- Review industry notices



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