

Truck Washing

Truck Washing after the carriage of treated fertiliser

Introduction

Washing of vehicles after the carriage of treated fertiliser (with fungicide/inhibitor/biostimulant) is a requirement under the Grain Trade Australia (GTA) Grain Transport Code of Practice.

Maximum Residue Limit (MRL) violations have arisen when marketing grain carried in trucks that previously carried fertiliser treated with the fungicide flutriafol. Risks arise with other similarly treated fertilisers. Industry preference is to use separate vehicles for carriage of treated fertiliser and grain.

Results of the Trials

- Residue of the fungicide flutriafol will remain within a vehicle post the carriage of fertiliser that is treated with this fungicide.
- Sweeping to remove all visible contaminants does not adequately reduce the level of fungicide residue and will risk the contamination of grain when carried as the next cargo.
- **A thorough washing of the vehicle** will more effectively reduce the levels of residue of fungicide and, therefore minimise the risk of cross contamination of grain.

Truck Washing

The following procedure is recommended for the cleaning of treated fertiliser residues from trucks.

➤ Safety

- Consider all likely risks and safety regulations (such as Working at Height, confined space entry) prior to commencing the cleaning process. Ensure operator wears Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) as recommended by Safety Data Sheet (SDS).

➤ Location

- The vehicle must be parked in an appropriate wash down bay that is equipped with a sump to collect any rinsate.

➤ Equipment

- Pressure washer hose and spray wand with a standard nozzle is the industry norm and preferred equipment. However, standard high-volume hoses will also adequately flush dust particles and reduce chemical residues.
- Water and/or appropriate food grade cleaning solutions are to be used.
- Appropriate documentation for keeping records of Cleaning Events.

➤ Areas to be Washed

- **Contaminants removal**
 - Use a broom or air compressor to remove large visible contaminants.
- **High areas first**
 - High sections are to be cleaned first by washing any dust particles and/or loose caked material where possible into the confines of the trailer.

➤ Wall area

- Walls are to be washed down from top to bottom ensuring enough volume of water to wash all material to the floor

➤ Floor area

- The floor of the truck is to be washed from the forward end to the back end of the truck using the spray wand.

➤ Exterior of the vehicle

- External areas of the vehicle are to be inspected to ensure there is no hang-up of material from prior loads. Areas to be inspected include wheel wells, rear door and rear under carriage of the trailer.

➤ Final Inspection

- After cleaning thoroughly inspect the interior and exterior areas of the trailer to ensure no visible residue and or odours remain.
- Following final inspection, the record of Cleaning Events shall be completed.