

Coaching Guide 6

Basic Agri-chemical Handling

Aim: To ensure that your new employee understands how and why chemicals are safely stored and used on farm

At the end of this coaching session, employees will be able to list the chemicals they will be working with on-farm in their role, describe the safe work practices the farm follows in handling chemicals (including use of standard operating procedures, signage, chemical labels, safety data sheets, separation of acids and alkalis, implications of weather when spraying and use of PPE) and recall the location and storage of the chemicals they will use on-farm.

Before coaching starts

Does the employee have prior knowledge or experience with using chemicals safely?

List the chemicals that your new employee will be required to use to complete their daily work tasks.

Choose one chemical that the new employee will use in their work (for example iodine spray) to use as an example to look at in detail during the coaching session.

Prepare yourself to outline the importance of safety (for self and others) and PPE when handling chemicals:

- Signage around chemicals and what it means
- All chemicals must be labelled
- All chemicals used must have a Safety Data Sheet.
- Acids and Alkalis must be kept separately
- The implications of weather when spraying a chemical
- Which PPE must be used

Prepare yourself to show the employee:

- Where the chemicals are located and what they are used for
- Where the Safety Data Sheets are located
- Where PPE is located and how to use it correctly

Safe chemical use on a dairy farm

- Take the employee to the dairy shed – discuss the use of chemicals in the dairy shed and the PPE provided – where it is located and what is worn when
- Find the chemical you will use as an example in coaching
- Show the employee chemical labelling and Safety Data Sheets of your example chemical. Read through the label and SDS together.
- As time allows, have the same discussion with other chemicals in the dairy shed.
- Check the employee can read the labels and SDSs and has no questions
- Show your employee the first aid required for contact with chemicals
- As time allows, and at other coaching sessions, discuss other chemicals used

Chemical Handling SOP	Have you read the chemical handling SOP?
Cleaning dairy plant SOP	Why is PPE important when using chemicals?
Iodine – teat spray	What chemicals are used in the dairy?
Labels, Safety Data Sheets and recording	Why is labelling of chemicals important?
	What information is provided on a Safety Data Sheet?
	What must be recorded?
Outline what chemicals are used for cleaning dairy plant and PPE required	Where are the cleaning chemicals located?
	Where will you find the PPE?
Outline what chemicals are used for weeds and pests and PPE required	What types of chemicals are used for weeds and pests?
	Why is weather a factor if spraying chemicals?
General safety	Why is it important that no eating, drinking or smoking takes place around chemicals?
First aid station – Eye wash, shower	What would you do if you wiped iodine on your face?

Storage of chemicals on-farm

- Discuss the reasons for safe storage of chemicals
- Outline how chemicals are safely stored on your farm using examples explored already

Chemical storage	Where are the main chemicals used on farm stored?
	Why is it important to store chemicals in different locations?
	What signs relating to chemicals are used?
	Where are the cleaning chemicals located?