

11 August 2025

Dear Industry stakeholder

Registrations and status of Highly Hazardous Pesticides (HHPs) in South Africa

Highly hazardous pesticides (HHPs) are pesticides that are acknowledged to present particularly high levels of acute or chronic hazards to health or environment according to internationally accepted classification systems such as the [World Health Organization \(WHO\)](#) or the [Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals \(GHS\)](#) or their listing in relevant binding international agreements or conventions. In addition, pesticides that appear to cause severe or irreversible harm to health or the environment under conditions of use in a country may be considered to be and treated as highly hazardous.

The [Joint Meeting on Pesticides Management](#), which is an international expert group that advises FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations) and WHO, provides the following criteria for an HHP:

- **Criterion 1:** Pesticide formulations that meet the criteria of classes Ia or Ib of the WHO Recommended Classification of Pesticides by Hazard; or
- **Criterion 2:** Pesticide active ingredients and their formulations that meet the criteria of carcinogenicity Categories 1A and 1B of the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS); or
- **Criterion 3:** Pesticide active ingredients and their formulations that meet the criteria of mutagenicity Categories 1A and 1B of the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS); or
- **Criterion 4:** Pesticide active ingredients and their formulations that meet the criteria of reproductive toxicity Categories 1A and 1B of the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS); or
- **Criterion 5:** Pesticide active ingredients listed by the [Stockholm Convention](#) in its Annexes A and B, and those meeting all the criteria in paragraph 1 of Annex D of the Convention; or
- **Criterion 6:** Pesticide active ingredients and formulations listed by the [Rotterdam Convention](#) in its Annex III; or
- **Criterion 7:** Pesticides listed under the [Montreal Protocol](#); or
- **Criterion 8:** Pesticide active ingredients and formulations that have shown a high incidence of severe or irreversible adverse effects on human health or the environment.

For more information on highly hazardous pesticides, please consult the FAO and WHO International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management [Guidelines on Highly Hazardous Pesticides](#).

Regulation of HHPs in South Africa under the Fertilizers, Farm Feeds, Agricultural Remedies and Stock Remedies Act (Act no. 36 of 1947)

The “Regulations relating to agricultural remedies” of 25 August 2023, promulgated under the Fertilizers, Farm Feeds, Agricultural Remedies and Stock Remedies Act (Act no. 36 of 1947) introduced “[substances of concern](#)” and “[restricted agricultural remedies](#)”, which collectively include all criteria listed under the definition of an HHP.

Agricultural remedies classified as “[substances of concern](#)” (criteria 2, 3, 4, 5 and 7 under the definition of an HHP) are currently being phased out. Only in exceptional circumstances, where proposed uses meet the derogation criteria provided in the regulations (for example, where there are no viable alternatives and/or risks can be sufficiently mitigated), may the Registrar grant a registration of an implicated remedy for a specified period, following the publication of a risk assessment report.

Agricultural remedies classified as “[restricted agricultural remedies](#)” (criteria 1, 6 and 8 under the definition of an HHP) may only be sold to, and used by, suitably registered pest control operators (PCOs) for the intended purpose.

Regulation of HHPs in South Africa under the Hazardous Substances Act (Act no. 15 of 1973)

The Hazardous Substances Act (Act no. 15 of 1973) provide for the control of substances which may cause injury, ill-health or death due to their hazardous nature. On 04 April 2025, a declaration was published by the National Department of Health (NDoH) to align the definition of a Group I B hazardous substance, as described in Act no. 15 of 1973, with the definition of a “[substance of concern](#)” and “[restricted agricultural remedy](#)” as defined under Act no. 36 of 1947. This means that all HHPs are now also considered Group I B hazardous substances and must be imported, stored, supplied, traded/sold and used/handled in accordance with all applicable legislation. This declaration comes into effect on 04 October 2025.

Future of HHPs globally and in South Africa

South Africa is a signatory to various international agreements and conventions. As part of the [Global Framework on Chemicals](#), mandated by the UN Environment programme, several objectives and targets have been set, amongst others, to reduce exposure to hazardous chemicals, manage risks, introduce safer alternatives, promote transparency and provide conducive legal frameworks to meet these targets. One of these targets include that stakeholders take effective measures to phase out HHPs in agriculture where risks have not been managed and where safer and affordable alternatives are

available, and to promote transition to and make available those alternatives by 2035. Although South Africa has made significant progress towards meeting these targets, it is imperative that all stakeholders commit to finding suitable alternatives to replace HHPs, where possible, and implement strategies to reduce risks, to ensure a sustainable, safe and thriving agricultural sector.

Please consult the [Global Framework on Chemicals brochure](#) for more information on the targets and objectives of the programme.

List of HHPs registered in South Africa

[Please click here to access a list of all HHPs registered in South Africa.](#) Derogation applications to keep substances of concern on the market for specific uses have not been finalised at the time of writing. Therefore, all agricultural remedies for which registration holders have applied for derogation will be included on this list until a final decision is taken on whether the remedy will remain on the market, or whether the registration has been terminated. This list will be updated on a regular basis to reflect the outcome of such applications. **Please take note of the reference number/date on future lists to ensure that you are working with the most updated information.**

For any updates to the list, please contact the CropLife SA regulatory team at regulatory@croplife.co.za.

HHPs on Agri-Intel

All HHPs will also be indicated on [Agri-Intel](#) under a field called “Restrictions”. This new field will display a pictogram for the products listed on Agri-Intel that registration holders have notified as being a restricted agricultural remedy or are undergoing the derogation process. This field can be found in the Label information (Database section) of the website in all the “Download labels” and “Search registration information” reports. The restricted agricultural remedies and substances of concern will be indicated by a pictogram as follows for affected products:

Restricted agricultural remedies	
Substances of concern undergoing the derogation process	

In the reports:

			Filter
			Restrictions ▼
Download GHS ?	Download SDS	UN number ↕	Restrictions ? ↕
-		3017	
		3016	

This 'Restrictions' field can also be filtered on:

				Filter	Filter	Filter
				Restrictions ▼	Active ingredient ▼	Trade name
Download label ?	Download GHS ?	Download SDS	UN number ↕	Restrictions	Active ingredient	Trade name
			---	No restrictions		
				Restricted for PCO use.		
				Substances of concern.		

This should provide users with an additional tool to search for the remedies which have been restricted for PCO use or indicating products currently under derogation.

Please provide any updates to the Agri-Intel team (labels@agri-intel.co.za) so that the website can be updated as soon as possible.

Kind regards,

The CropLife SA Team