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Developing Pesticide Application Management Plan (PAMP)

The following information can be used for aerial or ground applications, and will help growers in New South Wales and Queensland meet their legal obligations in relation to pesticide use. For further information on developing a PAMP refer to the *Australian Cotton Industry Best Management Practices Manual*, Application of Pesticides.

Safe pesticide use includes the following:

- Neighbours – by communicating effectively with neighbours to ensure that everyone is aware of what is happening with pesticide use and has the opportunity to discuss any concerns.
- Responsible owners and managers – by communicating effectively and constantly with applicators (groundrig and aerial) and consultants to ensure the most appropriate pesticide is applied effectively and safely to the target
- Users of 'Best Management Practice' – will help growers identify and minimise the risks to people, property and the environment.

Before the start of each season, organise a meeting with representatives from all groups involved in spray application decisions. Draw up a plan that addresses each party's roles and responsibilities.

KEY POINTS:

- **Contact your neighbours before spraying.**
- **Document your Pesticide Application Management Plan. Contact Cotton Australia.**
- **Ensure grower, applicator and consultant know their responsibilities.**

The following issues need to be documented when developing a PAMP:

- Develop of a farm map
- Pre-season communication with neighbours
- Discuss application requirements with consultant, applicator, workers pre-season
- Make sure arrangements for in-season communication with neighbours, consultants and applicators are followed
- Worker awareness of applications
- Monitoring and recording of weather conditions
- Application of pesticides in appropriate conditions.
- Use of buffer zones near sensitive areas
- Training of people involved in pesticide supervising, using and handling
- Choice, calibration and maintenance of equipment
- Record keeping requirements for ALL pesticide applications
- Compliant handling procedure for application.

The following responsibilities need to be agreed upon by the grower, applicator and consultant before the start of the season.

GROWER RESPONSIBILITY

- **Identify hazards and risks on and off farm; people, property and the environment, for example: on the farm map.**
- **Arrange pre-season meetings with neighbours, consultants and applicators.**
- **Adhere to agreed responsibilities and communication arrangements with all parties (i.e. applicators, consultants, staff, chippers, field workers and neighbours).**
- **Application orders are to be in writing to the applicator.**
- **Determine and record appropriate weather conditions for each field and ensure these are clear to the applicator (inc. wind direction, wind speed, temperature and humidity).**
- **Monitoring of weather conditions during the application.**
- **All people handling or using pesticides should be appropriately trained.**

APPLICATOR RESPONSIBILITY

- **Applicator should be trained and licensed for the application of pesticides.**
- **Ensure pesticides are applied according to label directions.**
- **Ensure equipment is well set-up, maintained and calibrated appropriately**
- **Knowledge of identified sensitive areas and hazards on farm.**
- **Adhere to agreed responsibilities and communication arrangements made with grower and consultant.**
- **Giving written confirmation on completion of the job (and any notification of delays).**
- **Ultimate responsibility to decide to complete the job if weather conditions change. Unless asked to pull-out by the grower.**
- **Aerial applications should not be carried out within 100 metres (QLD) or 150metres (NSW) of dwellings without the written consent of the occupants.**

CONSULTANT RESPONSIBILITY

- **Sound knowledge of techniques and technology available to reduce pesticide use**
- **Clear working knowledge of the grower's P.A.M.P.**
- **Recommendations in writing; within label directions; include alternatives if changing conditions are likely.**
- **Adhere to agreed responsibilities and communication arrangements made with grower and applicator.**
- **Ensure that the grower is aware of all application recommendations.**
- **Reconsider or recheck the crop when delays occur.**
- **Highlight constraints when discussing recommendations with growers.**

COMPLAINT HANDLING:

This may be useful information when handling application complaints:

DURING APPLICATION

- Suspend application and discuss reasons for concern,
 - Resume application if agreed between growers, consultant and applicator. All parties must be confident that application is occurring within agreed parameters.
 - Cancel application if no agreement is reached;
- or
- Where agreement cannot be reached, an independent party should be contacted to assist with resolving the conflict.

AFTER APPLICATION

Complaints received by the Environmental Protection Authority (QLD or NSW) will be referred to the grower or operator for resolution.

- Grower to discuss matter with complainant and operator.
- Complaints received by applicators should be referred back to grower.
- Appropriate authorities to be notified immediately of unresolved complaints are:
 - Environment
 - Environment Protection Authority Qld & NSW
 - Cotton Industry
 - Cotton Australia,
Cotton Grower Associations
 - Crops and stock
 - Department of Primary Industries/
NSW Agriculture
 - People and buildings
 - Division of Workplace Health & Safety (QLD), WorkCover Authority (NSW)