

FRESH NOTES

A TECHNICAL UPDATE PUBLISHED BY HORTGRO SCIENCE

UPDATE: Restricted agricultural remedies and implementation of pest control operator (PCO) regulations

Hortgro acknowledges the concerns of fruit producers regarding the recent implementation of the *Regulations relating to Agricultural Remedies and Pest Control Operator (PCO) regulations*. These regulations, which govern the use and application of restricted agricultural remedies, pose significant operational challenges for growers. As the industry navigates these changes, Hortgro wants to assure producers that extensive work has been undertaken behind the scenes to advocate for their interests and seek practical solutions.

Recognising the complexities and immediate constraints of the new regulations, Hortgro, alongside other agricultural organisations, has formally requested a phase-in period from the Registrar of the Act 36/47 (18 March 2025). The request highlights the difficulties associated with immediate compliance, including access to certified PCOs, the availability of required training programmes, and the financial burden on growers.

Hortgro addressed the issue of new PCO regulations in the January 2025 **Hortgro News** newsletter (<https://www.hortgro.co.za/news/restricted-use-agricultural-remedies-what-does-it-mean-for-farm-owners-and-agricultural-workers/>) and **Fresh Notes 220** https://www.hortgro-science.co.za/wp-content/uploads/docs/dlm_uploads/2025/03/Fresh-Notes-220_12-March-2025.pdf.

Restricted agricultural remedies are defined in the *Regulations relating to Agricultural Remedies* published in August 2023, which, along with the *Pest Control Operator Regulations*, indicate specific requirements regarding labelling, purchase, handling and application of restricted agricultural remedies. For

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instance, the regulations stipulate that restricted agricultural remedies may only be supplied to and handled or applied by a registered PCO or a person performing these duties under the direct supervision of a registered PCO.

At this point, the grower associations are still awaiting a response from the Registrar of Act 36/47. Since we do not have any indication that the Registrar will favourably consider the dispensation request, Hortgro advises growers who are using, or in future may use, restricted agricultural remedies to immediately apply for one or more PCO licences to avoid further delays in operations.

For more information on the process and requirements, the following documents are available as guidance:

- [A diagram \('decision tree'\) to determine whether the applicant for a PCO licence has sufficient qualifications and experience handling agricultural remedies to apply or needs to do a PCO course and gain further experience before applying.](#)
- [A list of academies offering suitable PCO courses.](#)
- [Answers to frequently asked questions.](#)
- [PCO application form, indicating the documentation required to apply for a PCO licence; and](#)
- [Example of completed PCO application form, as further guidance.](#)

Please note that the **application fee for a PCO licence is now R3,141.00 (from 1 April 2025)**, as published in the Government Gazette no. 52388 of 28 March 2025.

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Considering the most updated available information, **focusing on agricultural remedies applied on a farm (by the producer/farm worker), restricted agricultural remedies on pome and stone fruit include:**

Tradename of product registered in SA	Registration number	Active ingredient/s of the product	Category agricultural remedy	Registered deciduous crops
*FarmAg Abamectin 18 EC	L10439	Abamectin	Insecticide	Pear, apple
Abamectin 18 EC	L10794	Abamectin	Insecticide	Apple
Agrimec Gold	L9234	Abamectin	Insecticide	Stone fruit (apricots, peach, nectarine, plum, cherry), pear, apple
Volliam Targo	L8545	Abamectin & Chlorantraniliprole	Insecticide	Apple, pear
Rugby 10G	L4110	Cadusafos	Nematicide	Apricot, peach, nectarine, plum, cherry, pear, apple
Soccer 100 EW	L 9122	Cadusafos	Insecticide	Apricot, peach, nectarine, plum, cherry, pear, apple
Sharda Captan 800 WG	L9345	Captan	Fungicide	Peach, pear, apple
Karba 850 WP	L 1195	Carbaryl	Insecticide	Apricot, pear, apple
Hunter 24 SC	L8307	Chlorfenapyr	Insecticide	Nectarine, plum, pear, apple
Devipan 100	L4669	Dichlorvos	Insecticide	Apricot, peach, nectarine, plum, cherry, pear, apple
Dichlorvos 1000 EC	L 4640	Dichlorvos	Insecticide	Cherry
Dichlorvos EC	L 8479	Dichlorvos	Insecticide	Cherry
Desta 100 EC	L6641	Dichlorvos	Insecticide	Cherry
Scuba 200 SL	L8242	Diquat	Herbicide	Apricot, peach, nectarine, plum, cherry, pear, apple
Skoffel Plus 200 SL	L 9062	Diquat & Paraquat	Herbicide	Apricot, peach, nectarine, plum, cherry, pear, apple

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Tradename of product registered in SA	Registration number	Active ingredient/s of the product	Category agricultural remedy	Registered deciduous crops
Skoffel Duo 200 SL	L 9063	Diquat dibromide & Paraquat dichloride	Herbicide	Apricot, peach, nectarine, plum, pear, apple
Alaris WG	L 9102	Dithianon	Fungicide	Pear, apple
Atador	L7167	Fenamiphos	Insecticide	Peach, nectarine
Fenamiphos	L9470	Fenamiphos	Insecticide	Peach, nectarine
FarmAg Fenamiphos 400 EC	L10720	Fenamiphos	Insecticide/ Nematicide	Peach, nectarine
Nemacur 400 EC	L 0367	Fenamiphos	Insecticide	Peach, nectarine, pear, apple
Mitador	L6953	Fenbutatin oxide	Insecticide	Peach, nectarine
Fenbutatin 550 SC	L10863	Fenbutatin oxide	Insecticide	Peach, nectarine, pear, apple
Roper 550 SC	L 9049	Fenbutatin oxide	Insecticide	Peach, nectarine
Crystal 550 SC	L 9050	Fenbutatin oxide	Insecticide	Peach, nectarine
Dicarzol 500	L8082	Formetanate (carbamate)	Insecticide	Nectarine, apple
Cylam 50 EC	L8261	Lambda-cyhalothrin	Insecticide	Apricot, peach, nectarine, plum
Methamidofos 585 SL	L4405	Methamidophos	Insecticide	Peach
Bitrad Methamidophos	L7015	Methamidophos	Insecticide	Peach
Metamidofos 585 SL	L 4286	Methamidophos	Insecticide	Peach
Metamidofos	L4531	Methamidophos	Insecticide	Peach
Tamron 585 SL	L 8251	Methamidophos	Insecticide	Peach
Arythion 420 EC	L9388	Methidathion	Insecticide	Apricot, peach, nectarine, plum, cherry, pear, apple
Methidathion 420 EC	L 7584	Methidathion	Insecticide	Apricot, peach, nectarine, plum, cherry, pear, apple
Methomex 900 SP	L5254	Methomyl	Insecticide	Peach, nectarine
Methomex 200 SL	L5253	Methomyl	Insecticide	Peach, nectarine
Mylomex 200 SL	L4367	Methomyl	Insecticide	Peach, nectarine
Mylomex 900 SP	L4783	Methomyl	Insecticide	Peach, nectarine
Spitfire 900 SP	L8197	Methomyl	Insecticide	Peach, nectarine
FarmAg Methomyl 90 SP	L3436	Methomyl	Insecticide	Peach, nectarine

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Tradename of product registered in SA	Registration number	Active ingredient/s of the product	Category agricultural remedy	Registered deciduous crops
Methomyl 900 SP	L11388	Methomyl	Insecticide	Peach, nectarine
Methomyl 200 SL	L 7100	Methomyl	Insecticide	Peach, nectarine
Masta 900 SP	L9449	Methomyl	Insecticide	Peach, nectarine
Methomyl 90 SP	L 7189	Methomyl	Insecticide	Peach, nectarine
Methomate 200 SL	L 8123	Methomyl	Insecticide	Peach, nectarine
Agriquat 200 SL	L6297	Paraquat	Herbicide	Apricot, peach, nectarine, plum, cherry, pear, apple
Agroquat 200 SL	L4871	Paraquat	Herbicide	Apricot, peach, nectarine, plum, cherry, pear, apple
Chesa 200 SL	L11048	Paraquat	Herbicide	Apricot, peach, nectarine, plum, cherry, pear, apple
Paragone 200 SL	L4588	Paraquat	Herbicide	Apricot, peach, nectarine, plum, cherry, pear, apple
Sharda Paraquat 200 SL	L9432	Paraquat	Herbicide	Apricot, peach, nectarine, plum, cherry, pear, apple
Paraquat 200 SL	L2215	Paraquat	Herbicide	Apricot, peach, nectarine, plum, cherry, pear, apple
Parody 200 SL	L8398	Paraquat & Diquat dichloride	Herbicide	Apricot, peach, nectarine, plum, cherry, pear, apple
FarmAg Paraquat 200	L9059	Paraquat dichloride	Herbicide	Apricot, peach, nectarine, plum, cherry, pear, apple
Skoffel 200 Super	L 6328	Paraquat dichloride	Herbicide	Apricot, peach, nectarine, plum, cherry, pear, apple
Adama Quat	L11052	Paraquat ion	Herbicide	Apricot, peach, nectarine, plum, cherry, pear, apple
Avi-Parakwat	L4461	Paraquat ion	Herbicide	Apricot, peach, nectarine, plum, cherry, pear, apple
Scorcher 200 SL	L 9085	Paraquat ion	Herbicide	Apricot, peach, nectarine, plum, cherry, pear, apple
Tokuthion 960 EC	L0924	Prothiofos	Insecticide	Apricot, peach, nectarine, plum, pear, apple

* Confirmed – Reclassified. Not restricted.

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Hortgro remains committed to ensuring that the transition to these new regulations is as smooth as possible. The organisation continues to engage with stakeholders and regulatory bodies to secure workable solutions while keeping fruit producers informed.

Notes:

- Deciduous fruit growers who cannot yet comply with the PCO regulations should seek advice from crop protection specialists on alternative pest control options.
- The list of affected products may change.

Disclaimer: Information provided regarding restricted agricultural remedies has been compiled from information presently available and is provided as guidance to industry. Hortgro cannot accept any liability for its accuracy or content, and users who rely on this information do so at their own risk.