



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FERTILIZER AND PESTICIDE AUTHORITY

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MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. 01
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TO : ALL CONCERNED

SUBJECT : REVISED GUIDELINES ON THE REGULATED USE AND SALE OF PARAQUAT

In line with the government's thrust to make Philippine agriculture globally competitive by making all available technologies or tools accessible to farmers while safeguarding their health and the environment, the Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority (FPA) shall allow the regulated use of paraquat products by *Professional Agriculturists/Farmers* and its sale by *Authorized Paraquat Distributors/Dealers* only.

I. DEFINITIONS

1. *Paraquat Products* – pesticide formulation registered with the FPA containing less than or equal to 20% (w/v) paraquat dichloride with dye emetic and stench substances, and produced under the low temperature sodium process or ammonium cyanide process which does not produce terpyridine impurities at levels considered to be hazardous.
2. *Registrant Company (RC)* – registrant and importer of paraquat product.
3. *Authorized Paraquat Distributors/Dealers* – person or entity duly licensed by FPA as such, has attended a training on safe handling of paraquat and has been issued by FPA with a certificate authorizing them to sell paraquat products.
4. *Professional Agriculturists/Farmers* – a farmer/agriculturist who attended training on the safe use of paraquat and has been included in the list of authorized handlers of paraquat products.



5. *Paraquat Audit Team* – a group formed by FPA which shall monitor the implementation of this guideline.

II. COVERAGE

These guidelines shall cover all FPA registered paraquat products and authorized handlers.

III. GENERAL GUIDELINES

1. The RC shall implement a product stewardship program which includes, but is not limited to: training of handlers on the safe and effective use of paraquat; training of doctors/rural health practitioners on the treatment of paraquat poisoning; distribution of first-aid kit in identified clinics/hospitals; establishment of a tracking and control system of paraquat products; distribution of safety campaign materials such as posters, videos, etc.; monitoring of Good Housekeeping Program in all paraquat dealer establishments and distributors; and reporting to FPA of their compliance with the stewardship program.
2. The RC shall assume responsibility in the conduct of training of farmers, dealers and distributors on the safe handling of paraquat and of doctors/rural health practitioners on the treatment of paraquat poisoning.
3. Training shall be held in coordination with FPA. The FPA Project Development Officer or his authorized representative shall be present in all the trainings.
4. The RC shall ensure that sales of paraquat are limited to Professional Agriculturists/Farmers through an Authorized Distributor/Dealer by the implementation of an effective control system of their product.
5. The RC shall identify clinics/hospitals in areas where the use of paraquat is expected to be heavy. Representatives from these clinics/hospitals will be invited to attend training on the management of acute paraquat poisoning and the use of Fuller's Earth Kit.
6. Fuller's Earth Kits and the booklet on "Paraquat Poisoning: A Practical Guide to Diagnosis, First Aid and Hospital Treatment" shall be distributed in identified clinics/hospitals.
7. Professional agriculturists/farmers shall be informed of the locations of nearest clinics/hospitals where they can go to seek treatment in case of paraquat poisoning.
8. Paraquat Audit Team shall monitor and report to the FPA Administrator the compliance of RC's with this guideline and with their Product Stewardship Program on a regular basis. All the submitted reports shall be used in the evaluation of RC's compliance

with these guidelines and with other requirements found necessary by the FPA Administrator.

IV. TRAINING

1. Training of Distributors, Dealers and Farmers on the Safe and Effective Use of Paraquat

The RC shall conduct training programs focusing on the toxicity of paraquat, hazardous effects of mishandling concentrated paraquat and on safe handling, storage and effective use of paraquat products including proper maintenance of spray equipment. Those who have completed the training will be included in the list for the approval of FPA Administrator upon the recommendation of the FPA representative.

2. Training of Doctors/Rural Health Practitioners on the Treatment of Paraquat Poisoning

The RC in coordination with FPA shall conduct training programs for doctors and other rural health practitioners in areas where paraquat is sold. This training shall guide the participants on the diagnosis and first aid treatment of paraquat and other pesticide poisoning.

V. PENAL PROVISION

An administrative sanction shall be imposed against violators of this Circular. Penalties shall include, but will not be limited to, cancellation of registration, revocation of license and such other sanctions FPA is empowered under its charter. The imposition of an administrative sanction shall be without prejudice to the filing of a criminal case against the violators pursuant to the penal clause as provided for under Presidential Decree No. 1144.

VI. REPEALING CLAUSE

All pertinent issuances and other existing rules inconsistent with this Circular are hereby amended, modified or repealed accordingly.

This Memorandum Circular shall take effect immediately.


JOSE MA. R. PEREZ
Executive Director III