

APPROVED UNITS OF COMPETENCY AND COMPETENCY STANDARDS

Pesticides Regulation 2017 clauses 19(8), 31(2)(b) and Schedule 2

Background

The *Pesticides Regulation 2017* (the Regulation) provides that certain users of pesticides must be qualified to use pesticides. A user will be qualified to use a pesticide if they have a licence issued under the *NSW Pesticides Act 1999* or if they have achieved certain units of competency that are:

- specified in a current training package endorsed by the Australian Industry and Skills Committee established by the Council of Australian Government's Industry and Skills Council, or by its predecessor bodies; and
- approved by the Environment Protection Authority (EPA).

Revocation of previous Approval

The Notice of Approved Units of Competency under the Pesticides Regulation 2009 published in the NSW Government Gazette No 39 of 6 April 2018 at pages 1889 to 1890 is revoked.

Approved units of competency and standards

1. Competency standard for ground applicator work

The following units of competency are approved by the EPA and are the competency standard for ground applicator work under a ground applicator licence for the purposes of clause 19(8) of the Regulation:

- (a) the unit of competency known as unit code AHCCHM307 *Prepare and apply chemicals to control pest, weeds and diseases* specified in the AHC Agriculture, Horticulture and Conservation and Land Management Training Package; and
- (b) the unit of competency known as unit code AHCCHM304 *Transport and store chemicals* specified in the AHC Agriculture, Horticulture and Conservation and Land Management Training Package.

2. Approved competencies for recognised qualification

The following units of competency are approved by the EPA for the purposes of the definition of recognised qualification in clause 31(2) of the Regulation and are required to be achieved for purposes of the issue of a prescribed qualification in that clause:

- (a) the units of competency known as:
 - (i) unit code AHCCHM307 *Prepare and apply chemicals to control pest, weeds and diseases*. and
 - (ii) unit code AHCCHM304 *Transport and store chemicals*, specified in the AHC Agriculture, Horticulture and Conservation and Land Management Training Package;or
- (b) the unit of competency known as unit code AHCCHM201 *Apply chemicals under supervision* specified in the AHC Agriculture, Horticulture and Conservation and Land Management Training Package (refer to the notes to this Approval).

The units of competency in this Approval and their assessment requirements are available on the register of nationally recognised training components at www.training.gov.au.

Commencement

This Approval takes effect on publication in the NSW Government Gazette.

Signed

ASELA ATAPATTU

Director Hazardous Materials Chemicals and Radiation
NSW Environment Protection Authority
(by delegation)

NOTES

1. Minimum standard

All pesticide users who are required to achieve specified units of competency under clause 31(2)(b) of the Regulation should, wherever possible, attain both unit AHCCHM307 (Prepare and Apply Chemicals to control pest, weeds and diseases) and unit AHCCHM304 (Transport and Store Chemicals), which are part of the AHC Training Package and at Australian Quality Framework Level 3 (AQF3). The unit AHCCHM201 (Apply Chemicals under Supervision), which is part of the AHC Training Package and at Australian Quality Framework Level 2 (AQF2), is the minimum level of competency acceptable under the Regulation. At this level it is recommended that the pesticide user work under the supervision of someone who has achieved the AQF3 units of competency.

Pesticide users should seek training that is appropriate for their level of work and responsibility from Registered Training Providers. If users are working as unsupervised operators/farmers they should seek chemical training at AQF3. Pesticide users who have language or literacy difficulties and are unable to fulfil the requirements of the AQF3 units of competency can be deemed competent at AQF2 if they have successfully demonstrated competence at that level. Major providers of chemical training have been advised to provide training on this basis.

2. Review of approved unit of competency

The approved units of competency will be subject to future review. The review will be undertaken in parallel with reviews of the Regulation (as determined by the Subordinate Legislation Act 1989) or where the need arises. The review will also be undertaken in consultation with relevant groups and will take into account:

- *any developments in the AHC Training Package and/or the Australian Qualifications Framework relating to pesticides;*
- *any developments at national level regarding pesticide user training requirements.*

3. Previous qualifications

If pesticide users have achieved one of the competency units superseded by the unit codes AHCCHM307, AHCCHM304 and AHCCHM201 they do not need to be trained or assessed until 5 years after the date on which they were issued their certificate or statement in recognition of their achievement of these competencies (see Table 1).

Table 1: Current Units of Competency and Units which have been superseded

Current at 2019	AHCCHM307	AHCCHM304	AHCCHM201
Superseded Units	AHCCHM303	AHCCHM304A	AHCCHM201A
	AHCCHM303A	RTC3705A	RTC2706A
	RTC3704A		

4. Exceptions

A person can use a pesticide without being qualified to use the pesticides in the circumstances detailed in clause 32(2).

5. Copies of approval

Copies of this approval are available for public inspection without charge and during ordinary business hours at offices of the Environment Protection Authority.

6. Further information

Further information is available at <http://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/your-environment/pesticides/compulsory-training-pesticides>, by contacting the Environment Line on 131555, or by emailing chemicals.reform@epa.nsw.gov.au