

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 *Pesticides Act 1999* or if they have achieved certain units of competency which 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 NSW Environment Protection Authority (**EPA**).

Revocation of Previous Approval

The Notice of Approved Units of Competency under the Regulation, published in the NSW Government Gazette No 57 of 7 June 2019 at pages 1833 to 1835, is revoked.

Approved Competency and Competency Standards (Approval)

1. Approved competencies for ground applicator work

The EPA, by this notice, approves the following units of competency as the competency standards for ground applicator work under a ground applicator licence for the purposes of the Regulation, clause 19(8):

- (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*,

as specified in the AHC Agriculture, Horticulture and Conservation and Land Management Training Package.

- (b) If obtained within 5 years prior to the initial granting of a ground applicator licence on or after 1 September 2018, the units of competency known as:
- (i) either;
 - (A) unit code AHCCHM303 *Prepare and apply chemicals*; or
 - (B) unit code AHCCH303A *Prepare and apply chemicals*; and
 - (ii) unit code AHCCHM304A *Transport, handle and store chemicals*,

as specified in the AHC and AHC10 Agriculture, Horticulture and Conservation and Land Management Training Packages.

2. Approved competencies for recognised qualifications for the use of pesticides that are restricted pesticides

The EPA, by this notice, approves the following units of competency for the purposes of the definition of recognised qualification in the Regulation, clause 31(2), for the use of pesticides that are restricted pesticides:

- (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*,
- as specified in the AHC Agriculture, Horticulture and Conservation and Land Management Training Package.

3. Approved competencies for recognised qualifications for all pesticides that are not restricted pesticides

The following units of competency are approved by the EPA, for the purposes of the definition of recognised qualification in the Regulation, of clause 31(2) for all pesticides that are not restricted pesticides:

- (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*,
- as specified in the AHC Agriculture, Horticulture and Conservation and Land Management Training Package;
- (b) The unit of competency known as:
- (i) unit code AHCCHM201 *Apply chemicals under supervision*,
- as specified in the AHC Agriculture, Horticulture and Conservation and Land Management Training Package.

4. Qualifications obtained prior to 2019

For the purposes of the Regulation, of clause 31(2), if a person has achieved one of the units of competency in the table below the person does not need to be trained or assessed until 5 years after the date on which the person was issued a certificate or statement in recognition of their achievement of these units of competency.

Current at 2022	AHCCHM307	AHCCHM304	AHCCHM201
Superseded Units of Competency in the AHC and AHC10 Agriculture, Horticulture and Conservation and Land Management Training Packages	AHCCHM303	AHCCHM304A	Not applicable
	AHCCHM303A		

Commencement

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

Signed

KAREN MARLER

Director Environmental Solutions – Chemicals, Land 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 where possible, attain the following AQF3 units of competency:

- unit code AHCCHM307 *Prepare and Apply Chemicals to control pest, weeds and diseases;*
- unit code AHCCHM304 *Transport and Store Chemicals.*

The minimum units of competency accepted under the Regulation is AQF2 unit code AHCCHM201 *Apply Chemicals under Supervision*. It is recommended that pesticide user work be under the supervision of someone who has achieved the AQF3 units of competency specified above.

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 units of competency, so long as the users have successfully demonstrated competence at the AQF2 level. Major providers of chemical training have been advised to provide training on this basis.

2. Minimum units of competency for use of restricted pesticides

Pesticide Control Orders (**PCOs**) mandate that specific units of competency are required to be achieved so that restricted pesticides may be used. PCOs and restricted pesticides have the same meaning as in the Act. If a user intends to use restricted pesticides without supervision, the user must achieve a minimum units of competency at AQF3 or an alternate, accepted qualification specified in a PCO must be held. As prescribed by the Act, section 33, failure to do so may result in a maximum penalty of 200 penalty units.

3. Exceptions

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

4. Copies of Approval

Copies of this Approval for public inspection is available without charge and during ordinary business hours at the offices of the EPA. A copy is also posted on the EPA's website.

5. 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 info@environment.nsw.gov.au.