



New Queensland Department of Health regulations for use of Schedule 7 pesticides

Fumigators and users of regulated Schedule 7 pesticides, including producers, commercial baiting operators, trappers and pest management operators need to be aware of new public health regulatory requirements in the Queensland *Medicines and Poisons Act 2019* and associated regulations, which commenced on 27 September 2021. Further information and factsheets can be obtained from the Queensland Health website at [Fact sheets and supporting documents | Queensland Health](#) under the 'Poisons, prohibited substances and pest management' heading.

What are 'regulated Schedule 7' pesticides?

Schedule 7 (S7) pesticides are labelled 'Dangerous Poison', which indicates the level of regulatory control required to protect public health and safety. There are over 230 regulated S7 registered products for use in Queensland, which are subject to this *Act* and regulations. These products are insecticides, fumigants, parasitocides and vertebrate poisons, which are derived from 42 active constituents. All S7 herbicides and fungicides are exempt, as the *Act* only applies to pest animal control and not pest plant or plant disease control. Pest animal includes vertebrate pests, rodents, ticks and insects.

Schedule 7 vertebrate poisons

Landholders participating in local government coordinated baiting programs using less than 0.5 grams of 1080 poison per kilogram of meat, grain or manufactured bait do not require a 'general approval' nor training competencies, but must abide by the Departmental Standard for dealing with restricted S7 poisons < https://www.health.qld.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0031/1108957/ds-dealing-with-restricted-s7-poisons-invasive-animal-control.pdf >.

Users of restricted Schedule 7 vertebrate poisons such as 1080 baits, strychnine, PAPP and canine ejector capsules require a 'general approval' and two national competencies (AHCCHM304 and 307) < https://www.health.qld.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0027/1108953/ds-competency-requirements-authority-holders-dealing-with-poisons.pdf > for use and transport of agvet chemicals. A third competency AHCPMG312 for applying vertebrate baits in rural and environmental landscapes is required to access 1080 concentrate by landholders, commercial bait operators, local government and other authorised biosecurity officers.

Primary producer exemptions when using Schedule 7 'dangerous poisons' on their own land

Apart from use of S7 vertebrate poisons, the new regulations do not apply to producers and their employees, hired labour, agents and volunteers using S7 pesticides on their own property. 'Agent' includes providing an in-kind service to a neighbour's property such as laying out baits.

However if a producer undertakes fee-for-service pest management activities for another producer, a pest management licence or 'approved person' classification is required.

Fee-for-service pest management technicians and spray operators using Schedule 7 ‘dangerous poisons’

Regulatory changes mainly affect fee-for-service pest management technicians and commercial operators. Unless classed as an ‘approved person’ under the Act, a licence and training competencies <https://www.health.qld.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0030/1108956/ds-competency-requirements-licensed-techs-pest-mgt-activities-pesticides.pdf> are required to use Schedule 7 regulated pesticides for pest animal and insect control on rural properties. This includes laying rodent baits, pest animal baits and fumigation activities. Licences may require additional endorsements for treating timber pests and working in high-risk places such as intensive livestock facilities. Commercial, on-ground, crop spraying operators require an ACDC Commercial Operator’s licence. Persons providing animal ectoparasite treatment services for a fee (eg buffalo fly and cattle tick treatment) require two training competencies, if using S7 parasiticides.

Commercial pilots and unmanned aircraft pilots require CASA and Spraysafe accreditation, in addition to an ‘approved person’ classification.

Poisons and pest management factsheets are available from Queensland Department of Health <https://www.health.qld.gov.au/system-governance/licences/medicines-poisons/medicines-poisons-act/supporting-documents>. There is a 12-month transition period from 27 September 2021 onwards to apply for general approvals, licences or acquire prescribed competencies.

AgForce role in policy development

AgForce has worked proactively with the Queensland Department of Health over the last four years during the creation of the new *Medicines and Poisons Act 2019* and associated poisons regulations. The outcome is practical regulations with minimal impact on producers, while managing potential risks to human health. AgForce will continue to assist members with understanding these regulatory changes.

For further information, contact

- Queensland Department of Health, ph 13 74 68.
- Visit the website for the Queensland Health ‘New Medicines, poisons and pest management regulatory framework’ <https://www.health.qld.gov.au/system-governance/licences/medicines-poisons/medicines-poisons-act/legislation-standards>
- Queensland Health fact sheets and supporting documents <https://www.health.qld.gov.au/system-governance/licences/medicines-poisons/medicines-poisons-act/supporting-documents>
- ‘General approval’ application forms for using S7 poisons <https://www.health.qld.gov.au/system-governance/licences/medicines-poisons/poisons/forms-fees>
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