Pesticide derogation: Use of Hexazinone in Australia

FSC reference code: FSC-DER-30-V1-0 EN Hexazinone Australia 01022011

Date: 01 February 2011

FSC Board Committee decision:

Approved a derogation to use Hexazinone to control grass, broad-leaved, and woody weeds in certified forest plantations in Australia, provided that the certificate holders:

1. reduce application rates of hexazinone to the minimum needed for achieving management goals by using mixed formulations that contain hexazinone as a (minor) component and supplementing or replacing it with alternatives such as cultural and preventive measures, or less hazardous herbicides (if registered), e.g. aminopyralid, asulam, clopyralid, cycloxydim, fluroxypyr, imazapyr, metosulam, metsulfuron-methyl, picloram, primisulfuron, sulfometuron-methyl, and natural products (e.g. fatty acids, pelargonic acid) or analogues (mesotrione);

2. limit use of hexazinone to burnt areas (after a wildfire or controlled burning) and areas under establishment (during years 1-2), limit aerial application to the minimum, implement required measures for mitigating risks of aerial application,\(^1\) only use aircraft equipped with precision technology (GPS guidance, calibrated outlet or GPS-controlled spray nozzles), and maintain or exceed the minimum buffer zone required next to rivers, lakes, and sensitive wildlife habitats;

3. keep records on hexazinone use (treated area, application rate/method), include information in forest management reports, and set quantitative targets for use reduction (e.g. 40% reduced total use (kg active ingredient per year) within two years, and 80% less within four years);\(^2\)

4. conduct field trials to identify less hazardous alternative herbicides, and improve non-chemical (cultural, mechanical, and/or biological) methods within integrated weed management strategies.

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\(^1\) Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA). Operating Principles in Relation to Spray Drift Risk. Kingston 2008.  

\(^2\) A higher reduction target is suggested for hexazinone than for terbuthylazine in view of the higher acute oral toxicity of hexazinone, based on animal tests (LD\(_{50}\)) and WHO’s hazard classification (WHO 2010).
management;
5. strictly follow all specified protocols to reduce the risks to workers and non-target species;

List of FSC certified forestry units covered under this Hexazinone derogation:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Certificate holder / Geographic scope (State)</th>
<th>Certificate number</th>
<th>Active ingredient</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hancock Victorian Plantations Pty. Limited SW Victoria, NE Central, Gippsland</td>
<td>SW-FM/COC-1128</td>
<td>Hexazinone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forestry Plantations Queensland Pty Ltd</td>
<td>SCS-FM/COC-00148P</td>
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</tbody>
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Note: Failure to demonstrate compliance with the conditions included in this document may result in the termination of the derogation.