Version No. 010
Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Fertilisers) Regulations 1995
S.R. No. 25/1995
Version incorporating amendments as at 1 September 1999

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PART 1—PRELIMINARY

1. Objectives

The objectives of these Regulations are to prescribe—

(a) the requirements for labels and advice notes for fertilisers; and

(b) the manner in which labels and advice notes must be supplied to buyers of fertilisers or accompany fertilisers; and

(c) standards for fertilisers; and

(d) various other matters authorised by the Act.

2. Authorising provision

These Regulations are made under section 76 of the Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Act 1992.

3. Commencement

These Regulations come into operation on the day on which section 79 of the Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Act 1992 comes into operation.
4. Definitions

In these Regulations—

"Act" means Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Act 1992; 

"analysis" means a chemical, physical or biological analysis or test; 

"foliar fertiliser" means a fertiliser specifically prepared for application to the foliage of a plant; 

"gypsum" means material containing the sulphate salt of calcium in either hydrated or anhydrous form where the amount of that salt in the material is not less than 50.0%; 

"ingredient" includes an element or substance that is used to formulate a fertiliser but does not include any impurity; 

"lime" means agricultural lime, dolomite or magnesite which—

(a) has an effective neutralising value greater or equal to 50.0%; and

(b) contains calcium or magnesium carbonates or oxides or hydroxides or a combination of calcium and magnesium carbonates or oxides or hydroxides—

when used for the purpose of decreasing the acidity of the soil or when used as a fertiliser to supply principally calcium or magnesium; 

"liming material" means an agricultural liming material that consists of or contains lime or dolomite that has an effective neutralising value of less than 50.0%;
"neutralising value" means the calcium carbonate equivalent as calculated from the calcium and magnesium carbonates, oxides and hydroxides;

"phosphatic fertiliser" means any fertiliser containing not less than 2.0% phosphorus.

5. Calculation of effective neutralising value

For the purposes of these Regulations the effective neutralising value is the amount calculated—

(a) in the case of an agricultural lime, by adding the following three quantities—
   (i) the percentage of material of particle size less than or equal to 300 micron multiplied by the percentage neutralising value of the lime;
   (ii) the percentage of material of particle size greater than 300 micron but less than or equal to 850 micron multiplied by six tenths of the percentage neutralising value of the lime;
   (iii) the percentage of material of particle size greater than 850 micron multiplied by one tenth of the percentage neutralising value of the lime;

(b) in the case of calcined and partially calcined lime, by adding the following two quantities—
   (i) the percentage of material with particle size less than or equal to 850 micron, multiplied by the percentage neutralising value of the lime;
(ii) the percentage of material with particle size greater than 850 micron, multiplied by nine tenths of the percentage neutralising value of the lime.
PART 2—LABELS AND ADVICE NOTES

6. Information on labels or advice notes

(1) The label or advice note accompanying a fertiliser which is sold or delivered must be—
   (a) printed or stencilled on the package containing the fertiliser; or
   (b) affixed in a secure and durable manner to each package containing the fertiliser; or
   (c) in the case of bulk fertiliser, supplied with each load of bulk fertiliser in accordance with regulation 7.

(2) The label or advice note must—
   (a) state the distinguishing name of the fertiliser; and
   (b) state a description of the nature of the fertiliser; and
   (c) contain a statement of the intended purpose of the fertiliser; and
   (d) state the quantity of fertiliser within the package or bulk delivery; and
   (e) state the name and full business address of the supplier of the fertiliser; and
   (f) contain an analysis of the ingredients of the fertiliser; and
   (g) contain the warning statements prescribed under regulation 21.

(3) All printing and stencilling must be—
   (a) legible; and
   (b) indelible; and
(c) on the outside face of the label or advice note; and
(d) in colours that contrast distinctly with the background colour; and
(e) in letters and figures of a face depth of not less than 1.5 millimetres.

(4) Information required by these Regulations to be on the label or advice note must be given in the English language, but may also be given in a language other than English.

7. Sale of bulk fertilisers

(1) If a label or advice note cannot be affixed to a fertiliser sold in bulk, the seller must ensure that—

(a) in the case where the fertiliser is delivered to the purchaser or purchaser's agent, the label or advice note is handed to the purchaser or purchaser's agent; and

(b) in the case where the fertiliser is delivered to premises where no person is in attendance to accept delivery of the label or advice note—

(i) the label or advice note is left in a safe and conspicuous place at the premises; and

(ii) within 7 days after the delivery, a copy of the label or advice note is sent to the purchaser.

(2) If copies of labels or advice notes are sent to the purchaser by post, the seller must positively identify each label or advice note with the fertiliser to which it relates.
8. Names and numbers on labels and advice notes

(1) If the generic name for an ingredient is used to name the fertiliser in the label or advice note, the label or advice note must include a further identification so the fertiliser can be distinguished from the label or advice note of another fertiliser which has the same or a similar name.

(2) If numbers are used in the name on a label or advice note of a fertiliser which does not reflect the analysis of the fertiliser, a statement of the nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P) and potassium (K) analysis must be made directly below the name on the label or advice note.

(3) Numbers used in the label or advice note of a fertiliser to state the analytical composition which are not whole numbers—

   (a) in the case of numbers including and below the mid range, other than numbers which are 0.5 or less, must be rounded down to the nearest whole number or the first decimal place; and

   (b) in the case of numbers above the mid range must be rounded up to the nearest whole number or the first decimal place.

9. Order of presentation of ingredients

The elements nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P), potassium (K) and sulphur (S) must be shown on the label or advice note in the following order—

   (a) nitrogen (N);
   (b) phosphorus (P);
   (c) potassium (K);
   (d) sulphur (S)—

with all other ingredients listed in decreasing quantity.
10. Form of ingredient

The label or advice note on a fertiliser must state the form and concentration of the elements nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P), potassium (K) and sulphur (S), when present in the fertiliser, and the statement must be expressed as follows—

Nitrogen (N) as Urea %
Nitrogen (N) as Ammonium %
Nitrogen (N) as Nitrate %
Nitrogen (N) as Other (form to be stated) %
Nitrogen (N) Total %
Phosphorus (P) as Water Soluble %
Phosphorus (P) as Citrate Soluble %
Phosphorus (P) as Citrate Insoluble %
Phosphorus (P) as Other (form to be stated) %
Phosphorus (P) Total %
Potassium (K) as Sulphate %
Potassium (K) as Chloride %
Potassium (K) as Nitrate %
Potassium (K) as Other (form to be stated) %
Potassium (K) Total %
Sulphur (S) as Sulphate %
Sulphur (S) as Elemental Sulphur %
Sulphur (S) as Other (form to be stated) %
Sulphur (S) Total %

11. Minimum levels of ingredient

An ingredient listed in the Schedule must not be stated on the label or advice note for a fertiliser unless the ingredient is present in that fertiliser at or above the minimum level listed in the Schedule in relation to that ingredient.
12. **Levels of concentration for cadmium, mercury and lead**

The maximum concentration of cadmium (Cd), mercury (Hg) and lead (Pb) present in a fertiliser must be printed on the label or advice note.

13. **Placement of concentration**

(1) The concentration of each ingredient in a fertiliser must be expressed on the label or advice note as the percentage weight in weight (w/w) for all products sold by weight and as the percentage weight in volume (w/v) for all products sold by volume.

(2) The concentration of each ingredient on the label or advice note must be placed opposite to that ingredient on the label or advice note.

14. **Packages and loads of lime**

The label or advice note affixed to each package of lime or supplied with each load of lime must state—

(a) the neutralising value of the lime; and

(b) the effective neutralising value of the lime; and

(c) the calcium carbonate equivalent of the lime; and

(d) the magnesium carbonate equivalent of the lime; and

(e) the grade of lime as determined under regulation 33.

15. **Packages and loads of gypsum**

(1) The grade of gypsum as determined under regulation 32 must be stated on the label or advice note.
(2) The percentage of gypsum that is capable of passing through a 2.0 mm sieve must be stated on the label or advice note.

16. Liming materials containing calcium

A label or advice note for liming materials containing calcium must contain—

(a) a statement of the proportion of calcium carbonate (CaCO$_3$) or calcium hydroxide (Ca(OH)$_2$) present in the material; and

(b) if the proportion of calcium carbonate (CaCO$_3$) or of calcium hydroxide (Ca(OH)$_2$) is greater than 10.0% of the total product, a statement of the proportion of the calcium oxide (CaO) equivalent.

17. Fertilisers containing biuret

(1) Biuret concentration must be shown on the label or advice note if the fertiliser is intended for use in foliar application.

(2) Sub-regulation (1) only applies to urea or other fully soluble products containing urea.

18. Fertilisers containing elemental sulphur

The grade of sulphur in any fertiliser containing elemental sulphur must be stated on the label or advice note as determined in accordance with regulation 34.

19. Packages of liquid fertilisers

(1) If a fertiliser is in a liquid form, a statement of the proportion of solid matter (dissolved and suspended) must be made on the label or advice note.
(2) If a liquid fertiliser is packaged with a propellant, a statement of the proportion weight in weight (w/w) of the propellant must be made on the label or advice note.

20. **Organic or organically based fertilisers**

(1) The label or advice note for a fertiliser described as organic or organically based must state the percentage of organic material in the fertiliser.

(2) If non-organically based nutrients are added to an organic fertiliser, these amounts must be stated separately on the label or advice note.

21. **Warning statements on labels or advice notes for fertilisers**

(1) The following warning statements must be shown on labels or advice notes for—

(a) fertilisers containing biuret—

(i) if a product contains more than 10·0 gram but not more than 20·0 gram biuret per kilogram total nitrogen (N), the label or advice note must contain the statement—

"WARNING—repeated foliar applications of this fertiliser may cause damage to citrus."

(ii) if a product contains more than 20·0 gram but not more than 30·0 gram biuret per kilogram of total nitrogen (N), the label or advice note must contain the statement—

"WARNING—this product is not recommended for repeated foliar application on annual or perennial horticultural crops."
(iii) if a product contains more than 30.0 gram biuret per kilogram of total nitrogen (N), the label or advice note must contain the statement—

"WARNING—this product is not recommended for foliar application.");

(b) fertilisers containing gypsum—

if gypsum in a fertiliser contains more than 0.8% sodium, the label or advice note must contain the statement—

"WARNING—this product is not suitable for reclamation of saline sodic soils.");

(c) fertilisers containing molybdenum (Mo), other than fertilisers containing molybdenum which also contain copper in an equivalent or greater amount than molybdenum, for pasture application—

if a fertiliser for use in pasture application contains 0.001% or more w/w molybdenum (Mo) the label or advice note must contain the statement—

"WARNING—excessive use of molybdenum can be harmful to stock. Plant levels of molybdenum can be high for up to four weeks after application. It is advisable to keep stock off treated areas for this period. Check rate and frequency of molybdenum use with appropriate authorities.");

(d) fertilisers containing selenium (Se)—

if a fertiliser contains 0.001% or more w/w selenium (Se) the label or advice note must contain the statement—

"WARNING—this product must not be applied at a rate greater than that shown on

Reg. 21(1)(c) amended by S.R. No. 111/1998 reg. 8(1).

the label or advice note and should not be used if selenium deficiency does not exist in stock grazing on the area where the product is to be applied. Do not allow stock access to spills of unused fertiliser. Excessive use of this product can be toxic to livestock."

(e) fertilisers containing cadmium (Cd)—
If cadmium (Cd) in a fertiliser is in excess of 1.0 mg/kg the label or advice note must contain the statement—
"WARNING—use of this product may result in cadmium residues in excess of the Maximum Permissible Concentration (MPC) in plant and animal products and may also result in accumulation of these residues in soils."

(f) fertilisers containing mercury (Hg)—
If mercury (Hg) in a fertiliser is in excess of 0.2 mg/kg the label or advice note must contain the statement—
"WARNING—continued use of this product may result in mercury residues in excess of the Maximum Permissible Concentration (MPC) in plant and animal products and may also result in accumulation of these residues in soils."

(g) fertilisers containing lead (Pb)—
If lead (Pb) in a fertiliser is in excess of 20.0 mg/kg the label or advice note must contain the statement—
"WARNING—continued use of this product may result in lead residues in excess of the Maximum Permissible Concentration (MPC) in plant and animal products and may also
(2) If fertilisers are sold in bulk or in packages containing more than 25.0 kg the label or advice note must contain the statement—

"WARNING—the dust from this product may irritate the eyes and skin. Avoid contact with eyes and skin. Avoid inhaling dust.".

(3) If lime contains calcium oxide (CaO) the label or advice note must contain the statement—

"WARNING—do not swallow product. Product may irritate the eyes and skin. Avoid contact with eyes and skin.".
PART 3—STANDARDS

22. Phosphatic Fertilisers

(1) Fertilisers described as—

(a) single superphosphate must—

(i) be rock phosphate treated with sulphuric acid; and

(ii) contain not less than 7.0% water-soluble phosphorus (P); and

(iii) contain not less than 8.0% (water plus citrate) soluble phosphorus (P); and

(iv) contain not less than 10.0% sulphur (S); and

(v) contain not more than 3.5% of the sum of the percentages of iron (Fe) and aluminium (Al) expressed as mixed oxides (R₂O₃); and

(vi) contain not more than 2.0% of iron (Fe) expressed as the oxide (Fe₂O₃);

(b) double superphosphate must—

(i) contain not less than 13.0% water-soluble phosphorus (P); and

(ii) contain not less than 15.0% (water plus citrate) soluble phosphorus (P); and

(c) triple superphosphate must—

(i) contain not less than 15.0% water-soluble phosphorus (P); and

(ii) contain not less than 17.0% (water plus citrate) soluble phosphorus (P).
(2) Fertilisers described as—

(a) rock phosphate—

(i) must be derived from naturally occurring deposits and contain no additives; and

(ii) must contain not less than 12·0% of phosphorus (P); and

(iii) 70·0% of the material must be capable of passing through a 0·5 mm sieve;

(b) reactive rock phosphate—

(i) must be derived from naturally occurring deposits and contain no additives; and

(ii) must contain not less than 12·0% of phosphorus (P); and

(iii) 70·0% of the material must be capable of passing through a 0·5 mm sieve; and

(iv) not less than 30% of the total phosphorus must be soluble in citric acid.

(3) The minimum standards applicable to superphosphates in sub-regulation (1) do not apply to mixtures of superphosphates with other materials.

(4) If phosphorus (P) is a specified ingredient of a fertiliser—

(a) an excess of water-soluble phosphorus (P) may compensate for a deficiency of citrate-soluble phosphorus (P); and

(b) an excess of citrate-soluble phosphorus (P) may compensate for a deficiency of water-soluble phosphorus (P) if the percentage of citrate-soluble phosphorus (P) is less than
25.0% of the combined water plus citrate-soluble phosphorus (P).

23. Ammonium sulphate
   If a fertiliser is described as ammonium sulphate, the ammonium sulphate must contain not less than 20.0% nitrogen (N) present as ammonium.

24. Potassium sulphate
   If a fertiliser is described as potassium sulphate, the potassium sulphate must contain not less than 41.0% potassium (K) and not less than 16.0% sulphur (S).

25. Potassium chloride (muriate of potash)
   If a fertiliser is described as potassium chloride, the potassium chloride must contain not less than 49.0% potassium (K).

26. Urea
   If a fertiliser is described as urea, the urea must contain not less than 45.0% nitrogen (N).

27. Monoammonium Phosphate
   If a fertiliser is described as monoammonium phosphate, the monoammonium phosphate must contain not less than 9.5% nitrogen (N) and not less than 21.0% phosphorus (P).

28. Diammonium Phosphate
   If a fertiliser is described as diammonium phosphate, the diammonium phosphate must contain not less than 17.0% nitrogen (N) and 19.0% phosphorus (P).
29. Blood and bone fertilisers

Fertilisers described as blood and bone, or of other animal origin, must contain—

(a) not less than 90.0% of the fertiliser derived from materials of animal origin, which includes blood, bone, fish, flesh and feather meal; and

(b) not less than 4.5% total nitrogen (N) and 5.0% total phosphorus (P); and

(c) not greater than 0.2% water soluble nitrogen (N); and

(d) not greater than 0.5% water soluble phosphorus (P).

30. Organically based fertilisers

(1) Fertilisers described as organic not being blood, bone, fish, flesh or feather meal, must contain not less than 95.0% of each of nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P) and potassium (K) derived from unmineralised animal or vegetable materials.

(2) Fertilisers described as organically based not being blood, bone, fish, flesh or feather meal, must contain not less than 65% of each of nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P) and potassium (K) derived from unmineralised animal or vegetable materials.

(3) Fertilisers described as containing organic material must contain not less than 30.0% by weight of unmineralised animal or vegetable materials on a total product basis.

31. Particle size for unpelleted fertilisers

Unpelleted fertilisers of animal or vegetable origin must be capable of passing through a 2.36 mm sieve and not less than 50.0% must be capable of passing through a 0.5 mm sieve.
32. Gypsum

Fertilisers containing gypsum must comply with the following standards—

(a) gypsum described as Grade 1 gypsum must contain a minimum of 15.0% sulphur (S) and a minimum of 19.0% calcium (Ca);

(b) gypsum described as Grade 2 gypsum must contain a minimum of 12.5% sulphur and a minimum of 15.5% calcium (Ca);

(c) gypsum described as Grade 3 gypsum must contain a minimum of 10.0% sulphur (S) and a minimum of 12.5% calcium (Ca);

(d) gypsum described as phospho-gypsum must contain a minimum of 17.0% sulphur (S) and a minimum of 21.0% calcium (Ca).

33. Lime

Fertilisers containing lime must comply with the following standards—

(a) lime described as Grade 1 lime must have a minimum of 80.0% effective neutralising value;

(b) lime described as Grade 2 lime must have a minimum of 65.0% effective neutralising value;

(c) lime described as Grade 3 lime must have a minimum of 50.0% effective neutralising value.

34. Elemental Sulphur

(1) The grade of sulphur in any fertiliser containing elemental sulphur must comply with the following standard for particle size—

(a) Fine Grade—less than 0.25 mm;
Part 3—Standards

35. Impurities

(1) The level of cadmium (Cd) in—
   (a) phosphatic fertilisers must not exceed 350·0 mg/kg of phosphorus (P); and
   (b) non-phosphatic fertilisers must not exceed 10·0 mg/kg of total product; and
   (c) fertilisers that are wholly constituted by trace elements must not exceed 50 mg of cadmium per kg of total product.

(2) The level of mercury (Hg) for any fertiliser must not exceed 5·0 mg/kg of total product.

(3) The level of lead (Pb)—
   (a) for fertilisers that are wholly constituted by trace elements must not exceed 2000·0 mg/kg of total product; and
Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Fertilisers) Regulations
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(b) for fertilisers that are partially constituted by
trace elements, must not exceed 500·0 mg/kg
of total product; and

c) for fertilisers that do not contain trace
elements must not exceed 100·0 mg/kg of
total product.

(4) The level of chloride for any fertiliser for use on
tobacco crops must not exceed 2·0%.

(5) The level of fluorine in—

(a) phosphatic fertilisers must not exceed 2·5%;
and

(b) rock phosphate and reactive rock phosphate
must not exceed 4·0%.

36. Tolerances

A fertiliser complies with this Part if the
ingredients, neutralising value, effective
neutralising factor or the percentage of a size,
grade or amount of impurity falls within the
tolerances which are set out in the following
Table—

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Standard</th>
<th>Maximum Percentage deficiency (in one sample)</th>
<th>Maximum Percentage excess (in one sample)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Any ingredient where the:
  (a) content of the ingredient is 25·0% or more of the fertiliser by weight | 2 | — |
| (b) content of the ingredient is 10·0% or more but less than 25·0% of the fertiliser by weight | 4 | — |

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**S.R. No. 25/1995**

Part 3—Standards

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Standard</th>
<th>Maximum Percentage deficiency (in one sample)</th>
<th>Maximum Percentage excess (in one sample)</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(c) content of the ingredient is less than 10.0% of the fertiliser by weight</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neutralising value, Effective Neutralising value</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Size grade</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Impurity</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>10</td>
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### SCHEDULE

**MINIMUM LEVEL OF INGREDIENTS FOR FERTILISERS REQUIRED FOR LABELS OR ADVICE NOTES.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ingredient to be listed</th>
<th>Solid Fertilisers</th>
<th>Liquid Fertilisers</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Minimum level (%) to be present for statement w/w</td>
<td>Minimum level (%) to be present for statement w/w</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nitrogen (N)</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>0.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>—as nitrate, ammonia, urea or other</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>0.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>—as total nitrogen</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phosphorus (P)</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>0.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>—as water or citrate soluble</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>—as citrate insoluble or other</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>—as total phosphorus</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potassium (K)</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>0.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>—as sulphate, chloride, nitrate or other</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>0.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>—as total potassium</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calcium (Ca)</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Magnesium (Mg)</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>0.01</td>
</tr>
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<td>Sulphur (S)</td>
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<td>Iron (Fe)</td>
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<td>Manganese (Mn)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Copper (Cu)</td>
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<td>0.005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zinc (Zn)</td>
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<td>0.005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boron (B)</td>
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<td>0.005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Molybdenum (Mo)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cobalt (Co)</td>
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<td>0.001</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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S.R. No. 25/1995

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ENDNOTES

1. General Information


The Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Fertilisers) Regulations 1995 will sunset 10 years after the day of making on 7 March 2005 (see section 5 of the Subordinate Legislation Act 1994).
2. Table of Amendments

This Version incorporates amendments made to the Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Fertilisers) Regulations 1995 by Statutory Rules, subordinate instruments and Acts.


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<th>Date of Making:</th>
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<td>Date of Commencement:</td>
<td>Regs 1–8(1), 9, 10 on 1.9.98: reg. 3(1); reg. 8(2) on 1.9.99: reg. 3(2)</td>
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3. Explanatory Details

1 Reg. 2: Section 38 of the Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Victoria) Act 1994, No. 73/1994 changed the name of the Act to the Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Control of Use) Act 1992.

2 Reg. 3: See note 1.


4 Reg. 4 def. of “Act”: See note 1.