A risk based approach to agrichemical management

Northland Regional Council
24 October 2014

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Auckland review

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Current rules weren't working

- e.g notification, Onus of responsibility

Wanted approach that better reflected variables in application

Established desired attributes

Approach developed from the attributes

No two applications same

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There are a range of variables for any agrichemical application:

- no two operations are the same
- occur in biological system where parameters are variable:
  - Wind speed
  - Wind direction
  - Target plant
  - Temperature
  - Surrounding location – sensitive areas

How can a planner write rules for such variable situations?

Approaches to rules

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Prescriptive rules:

- sets out specific performance requirements – e.g distances.
- based on assumption that keeping to what is prescribed will achieve the required outcome

Outcome based:

- require performance standards or outcomes to be achieved - eg "no fertiliser directly into water.."
- require operator to take into account the risks associated with achieving the outcome

Risk based rules

A risk based approach includes outcome focused rules and conditions that:

- requires the operator to undertake a risk assessment
- takes into account actual (real time) situation
- choose actions to reflect the risk factors
- requires the operator to follow good practice AND be able to verify that.

A risk-based approach for a Permitted Activity Rule – Part 1

No adverse effects from off-target drift

Follow the label requirements

Don't spray directly into water

Know and follow NZS 8409:2004

Have a spray plan*

Have the right qualification

(E.g. GROWSAFE Certificate)

Secure storage

No spills when mixing

Keep good records

A risk-based approach for a Permitted Activity Rule – Part 2

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* If spray plan shows sensitive areas then:
  - A risk assessment must be done
  - Wind direction away from sensitive area
  - Coarse spray quality
  - Document drift management strategies
  - Ensure any people who might be affected by the spray application are notified

Task verification

- Where did the applicator go?
- What discharges occurred?
- What were the (weather) conditions at the place and time?
- The verification evidence must “reflect the risk”

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