



**TRIPLE RINSING AND DISPOSAL OF
EMPTY POLYPROPYLENE AND LDPE
SOLID PESTICIDE (GRANULES AND
POWDERS) BAGS**

MARCH 2023



REGULATORY INFORMATION

- Only **triple rinsed and punctured** empty pesticide PP and LDPE bags used for solid (granular and powder) pesticides may be recovered, transported and recycled. Such triple rinsed pesticide PP and LDPE bags are not classified as dangerous goods by the SA National Standard 10406:2014 **Clause 3.1.6**, but are classified as nominally empty packaging:
- **nominally empty packaging:**
 - Previously certified packaging from which contents have been removed as far as possible, by means of the practices commonly employed to remove materials from that type of container, for example pouring, scraping, pumping, or aspirating
 - NOTE: Packaging containing residual material of division 6.1 (main or subsidiary hazard, in accordance with SANS 10228) is not deemed empty unless it has been triple-rinsed with an effective solvent, or has been cleaned by a method proved to achieve equivalent removal.**
- Pesticide PP and LDPE bags that are contaminated with pesticides are categorised as **hazardous** waste and **dangerous goods**, and must be treated as such, meaning transported **ONLY** according to **SANS10231** with vehicles **licensed** as dangerous goods vehicles, fitted with the required **dangerous goods placards** and driven by drivers that are **qualified and licensed** to drive such vehicles.
- Even if pesticide PP and LDPE bags are triple rinsed, **re-using**, **selling** or **donating** them as packaging for any other purposes is unlawful.
- Empty pesticide PP and LDPE bags may not be **buried** or **burned** on the farm; it is **criminal** offense in terms of the National Environmental Management: Waste Act, 2008 (Act No. 59 of 2008) and a **terrible waste** of a valuable resource to burn or bury empty packaging or bags on the farm. Refer to SANS10206:2020 for verification of this.
- Farmers must insist on being issued with a **CropLife SA CoDi Intel Declaration** by the recycler every time they hand nominally empty packaging over to a CropLife SA Certified Recycler.

TRIPLE RINSING PROTOCOL FOR POLYPROPYLENE (PP) AND LOW-DENSITY POLYETHYLENE (LDPE) SOLID PESTICIDE PP BAGS

PESTICIDE PP AND LDPE BAGS

- i. Turn the bag inside out
- ii. Shake it over the spray tank for 30 seconds
- iii. Rinse the bag with a jet of water for 30 seconds over the spray tank (or over fallow soil in the application area if it is a granular soil applied herbicide)
- iv. Shake all rinse water off into the spray tank or over fallow soil in the application area
- v. Repeat the spraying and shaking off 3 times
- vi. **Remove all cotton stitching from the bag and discard; recyclers will not accept PP bags with cotton stitching**
- vii. Puncture the bag with a sharp object
- viii. Tie the rinsed bags into bundles
- ix. Dispose of the bags *via* a CropLife SA certified recycler:
https://croplife.co.za/Collectors_Recyclers



PP



LDPE



Remove cotton stitching and discard



DISPOSING OF TRIPLE RINSED EMPTY PESTICIDE PP AND LDPE BAGS

Contact a CropLife South Africa certified recycler for disposal of triple rinsed empty pesticide PP and LDPE bags. Find a recycler in the latest edition of the list of CropLife SA Certified Recyclers on the website:

https://croplife.co.za/Collectors_Recyclers

Arrange with the service provider to deliver the triple rinsed empty pesticide PP and LDPE bags to their premises or to have it collected from the farm if they offer such services (for which they may charge a service fee).

Insist on being issued with a CropLife South Africa CoDi Intel Declaration for the bags. It is a compliance requirement for farmers that are audited by certification agencies such as GlobalGAP and certain retailers.

Keep a record of all the CoDi Intel declarations as mentioned above for audit purposes.

Do not dispose of triple rinsed empty packaging and bags through recyclers that have not been certified by CropLife South Africa.

Triple rinsed empty bags **MUST BE** disposed of at least once every quarter. They may not be accumulated on the farm.

