



PEST CONTROL OPERATOR GUIDELINES



DECONTAMINATION AND DISPOSAL OF EMPTY ALUMINIUM PESTICIDE CONTAINERS

May 2023





REGULATORY INFORMATION



- Only **properly decontaminated** empty aluminium pesticide containers may be recovered, transported and recycled. The triple rinsed containers 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.

- Aluminium pesticide containers that are contaminated with aluminium phosphide 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 aluminium pesticide containers are properly decontaminated, **re-using**, **selling** or **donating** them as containers for any other purposes is unlawful.
- Empty aluminium pesticide containers may not be **buried**; it is a **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 bury empty containers on the farm. Refer to SANS10206:2020 for verification of this.
- **THERE ARE CROPLIFE SA CERTIFIED RECYCLERS THAT CATER ONLY FOR PEST CONTROL OPERATORS; USE THEM TO DISPOSE OF EMPTY PESTICIDE PACKAGING TO COMPLY WITH THE NEM:WASTE ACT**



PROPER DECONTAMINATION AND DISPOSAL OF ALUMINIUM PESTICIDE CONTAINERS

ALUMINIUM CONTAINERS used for phosphides

- i. When the container has been emptied of all its contents, take the screw cap off and allow it to aerate for at least 24 hours
- ii. Submerge the container and screw cap in a bucket filled with cold water and let it stand for 1 hour
- iii. Decant the water and dry the container and screw cap in direct sunlight
- iv. Flatten the container to make it useless for other purposes
- v. Put the screw caps into a zip-lock plastic bag for recycling
- vi. Dispose of the container at a CropLife SA certified recycler:

https://croplife.co.za/Collectors_Recyclers marked **PCOs**

ONLY or **aluminium canisters only**

The recycler must complete the CoDi Intel Declaration and issue a copy to the PCO as proof of responsible disposal

