



# **GUIDELINES FOR THE CLEANING AND DISPOSAL OF EMPTY POLYPROPYLENE FOIL PESTICIDE PACKAGING**

**JULY 2021**



# REGULATORY INFORMATION

- Only **triple rinsed and punctured** empty foil pesticide bags may be recovered, transported and recycled. The triple rinsed foil 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.**
- Foil 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 foil bags are triple rinsed, **re-using**, **selling** or **donating** them as bags for any other purposes is unlawful.
- Empty bags may not be **burned** or **buried** on the farm; it is **criminal** offense in terms of the National Environmental Management: Waste Act, 2008 (Act No. 59 of 2008). Refer to SANS10206:2020 for verification of this.



# CLEANING PROTOCOL FOR EMPTY FOIL PESTICIDE PACKAGING

## FOIL BAGS USED AS MAIN PACKAGING FOR GRANULAR AND POWDER PESTICIDES

- i. When empty, shake the foil bag vigorously over the spray tank area to get rid of all particles
- ii. Turn the foil bag inside out and shake out again over the spray tank
- iii. Rinse the foil bag thoroughly with water for thirty seconds over the spray tank
- iv. Shake the rinse water off into the spray tank
- v. Allow it to drip off over the spray tank for thirty seconds
- vi. Repeat steps iii to v twice
- vii. Puncture the bag to render it useless for any other purposes
- viii. Tie bags into bundles and dispose of via a CropLife SA certified recycler

