

ENDOSULFAN USE PROHIBITED, SAFE DISPOSAL REQUIRED

ERMA New Zealand has issued a reminder that from 16 January 2009 it is no longer legal to import, manufacture, or use the insecticide endosulfan and formulations containing endosulfan in New Zealand, and all stock of the chemical must be disposed of safely within 12 months.

Farmers, horticulturalists, growers, turf care specialists, landscapers and contractors who have stock of endosulfan, will need to make arrangements for it to be disposed of safely, said ERMA's Reassessments Manager Michael Morris.

The prohibition is the outcome of a formal reassessment of the chemical by The Environmental Risk Management Authority, under the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996.

All stock of endosulfan must be disposed of safely by 17 January 2010 (within 12 months of the Authority's reassessment decision taking effect on 16 January 2009).

Endosulfan is a chemical used as an insecticide on crops and turf, in formulations. The following products containing endosulfan have been sold in New Zealand for commercial use (it is not sold for domestic use): ENDO 350EC; Thiodan; Thionex Insecticide; Flavytan 350EC.

It is now illegal to use or dump the chemical, and there are a number of other provisions applying to disposal. People who have unused or part-used stock can ask their local Regional or District Council as to whether the product can be dropped off at transfer stations or surrendered up to any ongoing agrichemical collections.

Regional Councils currently operating a collection and disposal scheme for hazardous agricultural chemical waste are: Northland, Auckland, Waikato, Wellington, Canterbury and Otago. Otherwise, people are advised to contact a commercial hazardous waste operator able to handle and dispose of toxic waste.

There is more information disposal and on the reassessment of endosulfan at www.ermanz.govt.nz/endosulfan/

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