

# ACCREDITED SEED TREATMENT OPERATION STANDARDS

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## Standard Operating Procedure Sample

### Protocol E9

**Note:** SOP templates developed by AWSA are to be used for training purposes exclusively. Each Accredited Seed Treatment Operation is required to develop applicable SOP's that meet the circumstances that exist within their operation.

**SOP - (Protocol E9):** Operating procedures for the proper handling, storage and disposal of contaminated products, rinsate from cleaning containers, hazardous waste materials, spill clean-up and treated seed disposal.

**Purpose:** To ensure consistency within the operation when safely disposing of identified products and materials.

**Procedure:**

1. Identify all products and materials within the operation that either on a consistent basis or from time-to-time need to be safely disposed of.

- Unusable/obsolete concentrated seed treatment product(s)
- Seed treatment container rinsate
- Spill clean-up materials (including absorbent material)
- Unusable treated seed

2. Identify safe handling, storage and disposal practices for each material identified.

**Unusable/obsolete concentrated seed treatment product(s)**

*Handling:*

- Obsolete pesticides generated within the operation will be identified as "obsolete", have the product label affixed to the container. If container is leaking or in poor condition prevent any leaks from escaping and safely transfer or place the pesticide container into a larger container prior to storage.

*Storage:*

- Obsolete pesticides are stored in the designated seed treatment product storage area and are segregated within the pesticide storage area from non-obsolete pesticides.

There are no leaking or poor quality containers present.

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### *Disposal:*

- There are several disposal options depending on the level or urgency: If the pesticides can be safely stored in a designated storage area they can be disposed of via the CleanFARMS obsolete pesticide disposal program (see [www.cleanfarms.ca](http://www.cleanfarms.ca) for a list of collection sites/dates). If the obsolete pesticide needs to be disposed of in an urgent manner a licenced hazardous waste company can be contacted to dispose of the obsolete pesticide. Contact CleanFARMS or the provincial Ministry of Environment or equivalent for a list of licenced hazardous waste companies.

### **Seed treatment container rinsate**

#### *Handling:*

- Many seed treatment containers are designed not to be rinsed as part of a closed loop treatment system.
- When rinsing applicable seed treatment containers apply the 3 x rinsing method whereas the container is rinsed with clean water in three subsequent rinses lasting 30 seconds each.

#### *Storage:*

- Storage seed treatment container rinsate is not recommended. Best practice is to immediately dispose of rinsate.

#### *Disposal:*

- There are several disposal options for seed treatment container rinsate: Rinsate can be applied directly to seed as part of subsequent seed treatment application procedures (with the same product) as long as the application label rate is not exceeded or the slurry does not negatively impact seed treatment application quality. Rinsate may be applied as a spray application to non-cropped or fallow ground if label permits and application rate is not exceeded. Rinsate may also be disposed of by a licensed hazardous waste company if previous disposal options are not viable.

### **Spill clean-up materials**

#### *Handling:*

- All materials used in a spill clean-up should be placed in a leak proof container(s) immediately after the clean-up procedures are completed.

#### Storage:

- Ideally spill clean-up materials should be disposed of immediately after the clean-up procedures are completed. If materials are to be stored on site for a period of time ensure that all clean-up materials are safely contained in a leak proof salvage container and are labelled as spill clean-up waste.

#### Disposal:

- Depending on the clean-up materials that are to be disposed of there are several options including disposal in an approved landfill or by a licensed hazardous waste company. It is the obligation of the operation to ensure all clean-up materials are disposed of within applicable regulations.

### **Unusable treated seed**

#### *Handling:*

- All unusable treated seed and associated waste should be cleaned up on a frequent basis within the operation and kept in a designated area of the operation to ensure a safe work environment and to prevent contamination.

#### *Storage:*

- Unusable treated seed should be disposed of within a reasonable timeframe after the seed treatment process has concluded. Depending on the volume of unusable treated seed it can either be stored in bags, bins or in a covered bulk pile.

#### *Disposal:*

- There are several disposal options for unusable treated seed depending on the volume and options available to the operation. Options may include planting unwanted treated seed in an uncropped field or fallow land, disposal at an approved landfill or disposal by a licensed waste management facility.

As an aid to Accredited Seed Treatment Operations AWSA developed a supporting document “*Disposal of Treated Seed Guidelines*” that provides additional information on various treated seed disposal options. The document is available at [www.awsa.ca](http://www.awsa.ca)

## SOP – Disposal of Spill Clean-up and Contaminated Materials

*As part of the overall site Emergency Response preparedness spill containment kits are located within close proximity of the seed treatment application area. In the event of a spill the following procedures will be adhered to:*

- 1. All absorbent materials and contaminated products will be contained in a plastic salvage container immediately after the clean-up procedures have been completed.*
- 2. All clean up materials will be safely stored and secured in the plastic salvage container to prevent further contamination.*
- 3. Materials that were used as part of the clean-up activities will be immediately replaced in the spill containment kit located within close proximity of the seed treatment application area.*
- 4. Clean-up materials will be disposed of via a licenced hazardous waste company (ABC Environmental 800-555-5555).*

*Reviewed by: \_\_\_\_\_ Effective Date: \_\_\_\_\_*

## SOP – Disposal of Hazardous Waste Materials

*As part of the overall site waste management strategy the following procedures will be adhered to for any seed treatment products that are deemed no longer usable or are otherwise unwanted:*

- 1. All obsolete seed treatment products will be identified as “obsolete” and placed in their original container in a designated area of the storage area.*
- 2. Any “obsolete” pesticide containers that are in poor condition or are leaking are safely transferred into a secure pesticide container and labelled to accurately identify the product.*
- 3. Safely dispose of “obsolete” seed treatment products at a CleanFARMS obsolete pesticide disposal collection event (list of collection sites/dates available at [www.cleanfarms.ca](http://www.cleanfarms.ca))*
- 4. If urgent disposal is required: Safety dispose of “obsolete” seed treatment products via a licenced hazardous waste company (ABC Environmental 800-555-5555)*

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### **Examples:**

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## SOP – Disposal of Rinsate

*As part of the overall site waste management strategy the following procedures will be adhered to for any rinsate generated as part of container cleaning procedures:*

- 1. Identify all seed treatment containers that do not require rinsing. Return seed treatment containers to supplier upon conclusion of use.*
- 2. Rinse all seed treatment containers that require rinsing in a designated area wearing applicable personal protective equipment as per label guidelines. Apply a 3 x rinsing method whereas each container is rinsed three times with clean water with each rinse lasting 30 seconds. Capture all rinsate generated in a designated container.*
- 3. If applicable: Dispose of rinsate as part of a subsequent slurry seed treatment application of the same product keeping in mind maximum application rates and overall application quality*
- 4. If applicable: dispose of rinsate to non-cropped or fallow ground if product label permits and annual application rate is not exceeded.*
- 5. If applicable: dispose of rinsate via a licensed hazardous waste company (ABC Environmental 800-555-5555)*

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