

AGRICULTURAL CHEMICALS DISTRIBUTION CONTROL ACT 1966

Reprinted as in force on 30 March 2000 (includes amendments up to Act No. 5 of 2000)

Reprint No. 1C

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Information about this reprint

This Act is reprinted as at 30 March 2000. The reprint shows the law as amended by all amendments that commenced on or before that day (Reprints Act 1992 s 5(c)).

The reprint includes a reference to the law by which each amendment was made—see list of legislation and list of annotations in endnotes.

This page is specific to this reprint. See previous reprints for information about earlier changes made under the Reprints Act 1992. A table of earlier reprints is included in the endnotes.

Also see endnotes for information about—

- when provisions commenced
- editorial changes made in earlier reprints.

Queensland

AGRICULTURAL CHEMICALS DISTRIBUTION CONTROL ACT 1966

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AGRICULTURAL CHEMICALS DISTRIBUTION CONTROL ACT 1966

[as amended by all amendments that commenced on or before 30 March 2000]

An Act to control the distribution of agricultural chemicals from aircraft and from ground equipment, and for other purposes

PART 1—PRELIMINARY

Short title

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1. This Act may be cited as the *Agricultural Chemicals Distribution Control Act 1966*.

Commencement of pts 3–6

2.(1) Parts 3 and 4 shall come into operation on a date to be fixed by the Governor in Council by proclamation published in the Gazette.

(1A) The same date may be so fixed in respect of both of those parts or different dates may be so fixed in respect of them respectively.

(2) Parts 5 and 6 shall come into operation—

- (a) to the extent to which the provisions of those parts relate to aerial distribution—on the date on which part 3 comes into operation; and
- (b) to the extent to which the provisions of those parts relate to ground distribution—on the date on which part 4 comes into operation.

(3) No provision of this section or proclamation made under this section

shall limit or prejudice howsoever the power conferred upon the Governor in Council by section 3.

Application of Act

3. The Governor in Council, by regulation, may declare that this Act, or a specified provision of this Act, does not apply in a specified part of the State.

Act to bind Crown

4. Save as where otherwise expressly provided in this Act, the provisions of this Act bind the Crown.

Definitions

6.(1) In this Act—

- **"aerial distribution"** means the spraying, spreading or dispersing whether intended or not of any agricultural chemical or any preparation containing any agricultural chemical from an aircraft in flight.
- "aerial distribution contractor" means any person who carries on the business of aerial distribution or at whose direction or upon whose authority, an aircraft is used to carry out aerial distribution.
- "aerial equipment" means, where used in relation to an aircraft, the equipment installed or attached or partly installed or partly attached to that aircraft and which is the means or the intended means by which the spraying, spreading or dispersing of any agricultural chemical or any preparation containing any agricultural chemical is or shall be undertaken from that aircraft when in flight.

"agricultural chemical" means-

- (a) an agricultural chemical product; or
- (b) another material prescribed by regulation to be an agricultural chemical.
- "agricultural chemical product" has the meaning given by the Agvet Code.

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- "Agvet Code" means the provisions applying because of section 5 of the *Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Queensland) Act 1994.*
- **"aircraft"** means any machine that can derive support in the atmosphere from the reactions of the air.
- **"analysis"** means analysis or examination or analysis and examination, including any test or determination relative to composition or physical property of an agricultural chemical or to detection, identification and determination of the residue of agricultural chemicals.
- "analyst" means an analyst appointed under this Act.
- "approved form" means a form approved by the chief executive.
- "Board" means the Agricultural Chemicals Distribution Control Board.
- "chairperson" means chairperson of the Board.
- "Civil Aviation Orders" means orders in force under the *Civil Aviation Act* 1988 (Cwlth).
- "Civil Aviation Regulations" means the regulations in force under the *Civil Aviation Act 1988* (Cwlth).
- "crop" includes standing cultivated plants, trees or pastures, and also includes any vegetable growth prescribed to be a crop for the purposes of this Act.
- "decision maker" means-
 - (a) for a decision made by the Board—the Board; or
 - (b) for a decision made by the chief executive—the chief executive.
- "deputy chairperson" means deputy chairperson of the Board.
- "deputy standards officer" means a deputy standards officer appointed under the *Chemical Usage (Agricultural and Veterinary) Control Act* 1988.
- "executive officer" of a corporation means a person who is-
 - (a) a member of the governing body of the corporation; or
 - (b) concerned with, or takes part in, the corporation's management;

whatever the person's position is called and whether or not the person

is a director of the corporation.

- "ground distribution" means the spraying, spreading or dispersing of any herbicides or any preparation containing any herbicide from ground equipment.
- "ground equipment" means any machine or apparatus of any kind whatsoever other than an aircraft in flight used or intended to be used or capable of being used for the distribution of any herbicide, and includes any machine or apparatus prescribed to be ground equipment for the purposes of this Act, but does not include any machine or apparatus prescribed not to be ground equipment for the purposes of this Act.
- "hazardous area" means an area declared under the regulations to be a hazardous area.

"herbicide" means-

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- (a) a material used, or intended for use, for destroying, or preventing the spread of, plants; or
- (b) another material prescribed by regulation to be a herbicide;

but does not include a material used, or intended for use, for destroying, or preventing the spread of, plants if the material is declared by regulation to be a material to which this Act does not apply.

- "inspector" means an inspector appointed under this Act, and includes the standards officer and a deputy standards officer.
- "licence" means any licence issued under this Act and in force at any material time.
- "licensed commercial operator" means a person who holds a commercial operator's licence issued under this Act and in force at any material time.
- "licensee" means any person holding a licence issued under this Act.
- **"material"** means any article, material, or substance, natural or prepared, including any mixture or compound or derivative of a material, and includes any agricultural chemical or portion thereof and any material used or intended as an agricultural chemical or which enters into or is

used in the composition or preparation of any agricultural chemical or any such material.

"member" means a member of the Board.

"obstruct" includes hinder, resist and attempt to obstruct.

"occupier" means the person in actual occupation of any land or if there is no person in actual occupation the person entitled to possession of the land.

"officer" means-

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- (a) the standards officer or a deputy standards officer; or
- (b) an inspector; or
- (c) an analyst; or
- (d) another officer appointed under this Act; or
- (e) a member of the Board.

"owner" means—

- (a) for aircraft or ground equipment subject to a bill of sale—the grantor of the bill of sale within the meaning of the *Bills of Sale and Other Instruments Act 1955*; or
- (b) for aircraft or equipment subject to a lease-the lessee; or
- (c) for land—the person (other than the State) who—
 - (i) is entitled to receive rent for the land; or
 - (ii) would be entitled to receive rent for the land if it were leased at a rack-rent;¹

and, for land, includes a lessee or sublessee of land held from the State and the holder of a licence or permission to occupy from the State.

"pilot chemical rating licence" means a pilot chemical rating licence issued under this Act.

"pilot in command" means the pilot responsible for the operation and

¹ Rack-rent of land is a rent for the land that is the highest possible rent for the land. It implies that the land is leased commercially.

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safety of an aircraft from the moment at which the aircraft moves under its own power for the purpose of taking off until the moment at which it comes to rest after being airborne.

"relative" means any of the following-

- (a) husband or wife;
- (b) son or daughter;
- (c) father;
- (d) mother;
- (e) brother or sister;
- (f) grandparent;
- (g) grandchild.

"representative", of a person, means-

- (a) if the person is a corporation—an executive officer, employee or agent of the corporation; or
- (b) if the person is an individual—an employee or agent of the individual.
- "standards officer" means the standards officer appointed under the *Chemical Usage (Agricultural and Veterinary) Control Act 1988.*
- **"stock"** means any horse, mule, ass, cattle, camel, buffalo, deer, sheep, goat, pig, dog, cat, domestic fowl, turkey, duck, goose, rabbit, pigeon, bee and any other animal or bird in captivity.

Words and expressions used in Agvet Code and this Act

6A. Words and expressions used in the Agvet Code and this Act have the same meanings in this Act as they have in the Agvet Code.

Reference to loss or damage

6B. A reference in this Act to loss or damage caused by aerial or ground distribution, or by the distribution of agricultural chemicals by aerial or

ground distribution, includes loss or damage caused by the drift of any agricultural chemical used in the distribution.

PART 2—ADMINISTRATION

Appointment of inspectors and analysts

7.(1) The chief executive may appoint a person to be an inspector or analyst.

(2) The chief executive may appoint a person as an inspector or analyst only if the chief executive is satisfied the person has the necessary expertise or experience.

(3) In this section—

"inspector" does not include the standards officer or a deputy standards officer.

Limitation of inspector's powers

7A. The powers of an inspector may be limited—

- (a) under a regulation; or
- (b) under a condition of appointment; or
- (c) by written notice of the chief executive given to the inspector.

Inspector's identity card

7B.(1) The chief executive must give each inspector an identity card.

(2) The identity card must—

- (a) contain a recent photograph of the inspector; and
- (b) be signed by the inspector; and
- (c) identify the person as an inspector under this Act.

(3) A person who ceases to be an inspector must return the person's identity card to the chief executive as soon as practicable (but within 21 days) after the person ceases to be an inspector, unless the person has a reasonable excuse for not returning it.

Maximum penalty—10 penalty units.

(4) This section does not prevent the giving of a single identity card to a person under this Act and for other Acts or purposes.

Production or display of inspector's identity card

7C.(1) An inspector may exercise a power under this Act in relation to someone else only if the inspector—

- (a) first produces his or her identity card for the person's inspection; or
- (b) has the identity card displayed so it is clearly visible to the person.

(2) However, if for any reason it is not practicable to comply with subsection (1), the inspector must produce the identity card for the person's inspection at the first reasonable opportunity.

Agricultural Chemicals Distribution Control Board

8.(1) The Agricultural Chemicals Distribution Control Board is continued in existence.

(2) The Board consists of the following members appointed by the Governor in Council—

- (a) an officer of the department;
- (b) the standards officer;
- (c) 2 persons nominated by the Minister chiefly responsible for issues about land;
- (d) 5 other persons (at least 1 of whom has extensive knowledge of, or experience in, aerial distribution).

(3) The Board may ask officers of any department to act in an advisory capacity on agricultural chemicals distribution issues.

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(4) The member of the Board mentioned in subsection (2)(a) is the chairperson.

(5) The Governor in Council may appoint a member of the Board to be the deputy chairperson.

(6) A member of the Board mentioned in subsection (2)(c) or (d) is appointed for the term (not longer than 3 years) stated in the member's instrument of appointment.

(7) The Minister may appoint a deputy of a member of the Board to act for the member during any period or all periods when the member is unable, for any reason, to attend Board meetings.

Time and place of meetings

9.(1) Meetings of the Board are to be held at the times and places it decides.

(2) The chairperson—

- (a) may at any time call a meeting of the Board; and
- (b) must call a meeting if asked by at least 4 members.

Procedures for conduct of proceedings

9A.(1) The chairperson must preside at all meetings at which the chairperson is present.

(2) If the chairperson is absent, the deputy chairperson must preside.

(3) If both the chairperson and deputy chairperson are absent, the member chosen by the members present must preside.

(4) At a meeting of the Board—

- (a) the number that is at least half of the number of persons appointed as members form a quorum; and
- (b) a question is decided by a majority of the votes of the members present and voting; and
- (c) each member present has a vote on each question to be decided

and, if the votes are equal, the member presiding has a casting vote.

(5) The Board may conduct its proceedings (including its meetings) as it considers appropriate.

(6) The Board may hold meetings, or allow members to take part in meetings, by telephone, closed circuit television or another form of communication.

(7) A member who takes part in a meeting of the Board under permission under subsection (6) is taken to be present at the meeting.

(8) A resolution is a valid resolution of the Board, even though it was not passed at a meeting of the Board, if—

- (a) all members give written agreement to the proposed resolution; and
- (b) notice of the proposed resolution was given under procedures approved by the Board.

Disclosure of interests

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9B.(1) This section applies to a member if—

- (a) the member has a direct or indirect financial interest in an issue being considered, or about to be considered, by the Board; and
- (b) the interest could conflict with the proper performance of the member's duties about the consideration of the issue.

(2) As soon as practicable after the relevant facts come to the member's knowledge, the member must disclose the nature of the interest to a meeting of the Board.

(3) The disclosure must be recorded in the Board's minutes and, unless the Board otherwise decides, the member must not—

- (a) be present when the Board considers the issue; or
- (b) take part in a decision of the Board on the issue.

(4) The member must not be present when the Board is considering its decision under subsection (3).

(5) Another member who also has a direct or indirect financial interest in the issue must not—

- (a) be present when the Board is considering its decision under subsection (3); or
- (b) take part in making the decision.

Minutes

9C. The Board must keep minutes of its proceedings.

Advisory committees

10.(1) The Board may appoint such advisory committees as it thinks fit to advise it on such matters within the scope of its functions as are referred to those committees by the Board.

(2) A person may be appointed a member of any such committee whether or not the person is a member of the Board.

Executive committees

10A.(1) The Board may appoint such executive committees as it thinks fit to carry out such functions or duties of the Board or to exercise such powers or authorities of the Board as are delegated to the committees under section 10B.

(2) A committee appointed under subsection (1) shall consist of such members of the Board as the Board decides and the chairperson of the committee shall be appointed by the Board.

(3) A committee appointed under subsection (1) may coopt such officers in an advisory capacity as it thinks fit.

Delegations by Board

10B. The Board may delegate its powers under this Act to the standards officer or an executive committee.

PART 3—AERIAL DISTRIBUTION

Pilot chemical rating licence

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12.(1) Subject to this Act the Board shall have power to grant pilot chemical rating licences.

(2) A person may apply for, and hold, a pilot chemical rating licence only if the person has—

- (a) a commercial pilot's licence or senior commercial pilot's licence, endorsed with an agricultural rating, issued under the Civil Aviation Regulations or Orders (Cwlth); and
- (b) the qualifications prescribed by regulation.

(3) A person who desires to obtain a pilot chemical rating licence and who is entitled to apply for such licence shall lodge an application with the Board.

Effect of termination or suspension of pilot's licence

13.(1) If by reason of expiration, cancellation or suspension the licence referred to in section 12(2)(a) of a person who holds a pilot chemical rating licence ceases to be in force then, on and from the date of such cesser and by virtue thereof, that chemical rating licence shall also cease to be in force.

(2) However, in the case of such cesser by suspension if the suspended licence is revived upon or by termination of the suspension the pilot chemical rating licence shall also be revived unless it has been sooner cancelled or further suspended.

Certificate issued in another State

14.(1) For the purposes of the provisions of this Act relating to aerial distribution a certificate or licence issued under a law of any other State or Territory—

(a) which corresponds to a pilot chemical rating licence issued under this Act; and

(b) which is in force at any material time in the State or Territory in which it was issued;

shall be equivalent in Queensland to a pilot chemical rating licence issued under this Act and shall have force and effect accordingly.

(3) The provisions of sections 20 to 23 apply with respect to the operation in Queensland of a certificate or licence referred to in subsection (1) as if it were a pilot chemical rating licence issued under this Act and its operation in Queensland may be cancelled or suspended accordingly.

Aerial distribution contractor licence

15.(1) Subject to this Act the Board shall have power to grant aerial distribution contractor licences.

(2) A person may apply for, and hold, an aerial distribution contractor licence only if the person has an aerial work licence, endorsed to conduct agricultural operations, issued under the Civil Aviation Regulations or Orders (Cwlth).

(3) A person who desires to obtain an aerial distribution contractor licence and who is entitled to apply for such a licence shall lodge an application with the Board.

PART 4—GROUND DISTRIBUTION

Commercial operators' licence

16.(1) Subject to this Act the Board shall have power to grant commercial operators' licences of all or any of the classes thereof prescribed.

(2) A person who does not possess the qualifications prescribed for a particular class of commercial operator's licence shall not be entitled to apply for and shall not be granted a commercial operator's licence of that class.

(3) A person who desires to obtain a commercial operator's licence and who is entitled to apply for such licence shall lodge an application with the Board.

PART 5—REGULATION OF LICENSING

Application for licences

17.(1) An application for a licence must—

- (a) be made to the standards officer in the approved form; and
- (b) be accompanied by the fee (if any) prescribed by regulation.

(2) If asked by the Board, the applicant must give the further relevant information or evidence the Board reasonably requires to decide the application.

(3) The Board must consider an application for a licence and may grant, or refuse to grant, the licence.

(4) If the application is refused, the fee mentioned in subsection (1)(b) must be refunded.

Tenure of licence

18.(1) Every licence granted pursuant to this Act shall take effect from its date of issue.

(2) Every licence granted in the first instance pursuant to this Act and every licence renewed in accordance with this Act shall (unless sooner cancelled) expire on 30 June next following the date of issue or, as the case may be, date of renewal.

Renewal of licence

19.(1) Every licensee who desires to obtain a renewal of his or her licence shall, not later than 31 May in each year, lodge with the Board an

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application in the approved form accompanied by the prescribed fee (if any) (which shall be refunded if renewal is refused).

(2) Upon consideration of an application under this section the Board may—

- (a) grant the application; or
- (b) refuse the application.

Suspension of licence by standards officer

20. Where the standards officer is of the opinion that it is in the public interest that a licence should be suspended during any investigation into any act or omission alleged to have been committed by the licensee, the standards officer may suspend that licence for such period, not being in excess of 1 month, as the standards officer thinks fit; and such suspension shall remain in force for such period unless sooner removed by the Board.

Cancellation or suspension of licence

21.(1) Where the Board is satisfied that—

- (a) a licensee has committed an offence against this Act or section O10.01 of the *Poisons Regulation 1973* made under the *Health Act 1937*; or
- (b) a licensee has done an act or made an omission that would not entitle the licensee to apply for a licence of the type held by him or her; or
- (c) a licence has been issued erroneously or in consequence of any false document, statement or representation or fraudulent document, statement or misrepresentation; or
- (d) a licensee is in any other respect or respects not a fit and proper person to continue to hold his or her licence; or
- (da) a licensee who is an aerial distribution contractor has failed to comply with a request made by the standards officer under section 26(2);

the Board may by notice call upon the licensee in question to show cause

within the time specified in the notice why the Board should not recommend to the chief executive that the chief executive—

- (e) cancel the licence concerned; or
- (f) suspend the licence concerned for such time as is specified in the notice;

and where the licensee fails to show cause within the time specified in the notice or within any extension of the time which the Board may allow, the Board may make a recommendation in accordance with the notice.

(1A) Where the holder of a licence shows cause why the Board should not recommend that his or her licence be cancelled, the Board may, if it thinks fit, recommend that his or her licence should be suspended for the period stated in the recommendation.

(2) If a recommendation is made by the Board, the chief executive may—

- (a) if cancellation of the licence is recommended—
 - (i) cancel the licence; or
 - (ii) suspend the licence for a period; or
- (b) if suspension of the licence is recommended—suspend the licence for a period not longer than the period recommended.

(3) If the chief executive cancels the licence, the chief executive may later—

- (a) terminate the cancellation; or
- (b) replace the cancellation with a period of suspension.

(4) If the chief executive suspends the licence, the chief executive may later—

- (a) terminate the suspension; or
- (b) reduce the period of suspension.

(5) The standards officer must notify the licensee, or former licensee, of any action taken by the chief executive under subsection (2), (3) or (4).

(6) In this section—

"licensee" includes a person whose licence is suspended under section 20.

Right of appeal to Magistrates Court

22.(1) This section applies to the following decisions—

- (a) a decision of the Board to refuse an application for a licence or the renewal of a licence;
- (b) a decision of the chief executive to cancel or suspend a licence.
- (2) The applicant or licensee may appeal against the decision.

(3) The appeal may be made to the Magistrates Court nearest the place where the applicant or licensee resides, is employed or carries on business.

How to start appeal

22A.(1) An appeal is started by filing a written notice of appeal with the clerk of the court of the Magistrates Court.

(2) A copy of the notice must be served on the decision maker.

(3) The notice of appeal must be filed within 28 days after the appellant receives notice of the decision appealed against.

(4) However, the court may extend the period for filing the notice of appeal at any time.

(5) The notice of appeal must state the grounds of the appeal.

Stay of operation of decisions

22B.(1) The court may grant a stay of a decision appealed against to secure the effectiveness of the appeal.

(2) A stay—

- (a) may be granted on conditions the court considers appropriate; and
- (b) operates for the period stated by the court; and
- (c) may be revoked or amended by the court.

(3) The period of a stay stated by the court must not extend past the time when the court decides the appeal.

(4) An appeal against a decision affects the decision, or carrying out the decision, only if the decision is stayed.

Hearing procedures

22C.(1) An appeal is to be by way of rehearing, unaffected by the decision maker's decision.

(2) In deciding an appeal, the court—

- (a) has the same powers as the decision maker; and
- (b) is not bound by the rules of evidence; and
- (c) must observe natural justice; and
- (d) may hear the appeal in court or chambers.

Powers of court on appeal

22D.(1) In deciding an appeal, the court may—

- (a) confirm the decision appealed against; or
- (b) set aside the decision and substitute another decision; or
- (c) set aside the decision and return the issue to the decision maker with directions the court considers appropriate.

(2) If the court substitutes another decision, the substituted decision is, for the purposes of this Act, taken to be the decision maker's decision.

Appeal to District Court

22E. A party dissatisfied by the decision of the court may appeal to the District Court, but only on a question of law.

Effect of suspension

23. Suspension of a licence (whether by the court, chief executive or

standards officer)-

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- (a) shall, whilst such licence is so suspended, have the same effect as the cancellation of the licence;
- (b) shall, whilst such licence is so suspended, prohibit the issuing to the person who held that licence of any licence under this Act;
- (c) shall not, upon the termination of that suspension extend the period during which that licence would have remained in force if it had not been so suspended.

Register

24.(1) The standards officer shall in the prescribed manner keep a register in which the names and the prescribed particulars of all licensees shall be entered.

(2) The register shall be open for public inspection at all reasonable times.

PART 6—REGULATION OF DISTRIBUTION

Security against loss occasioned by aerial distribution and certain ground distribution

25.(1) Before starting aerial distribution, the owner of the aircraft from which the distribution is to be carried out must—

- (a) lodge with the standards officer the security for the aircraft prescribed by regulation; or
- (b) satisfy the standards officer that the security prescribed for the aircraft by regulation is lodged in another State or a Territory with a person acceptable to the standards officer (an "acceptable person").

(2) Before the commencement of any ground distribution to which this subsection applies the owner of the ground equipment from which the distribution is to be carried out shall lodge with the standards officer security

as prescribed.

(3) The security required by subsection (1) or (2) shall be by way of a contract of insurance—

- (a) for an amount of \$30 000 at the least in the case of aerial distribution; or
- (b) for an amount to be prescribed at the least in the case of ground distribution;

that indemnifies the owner to the extent approved by the standards officer or, as the case may be, an acceptable person against liability up to the insured amount in the aggregate of the owner in respect of loss of or damage to the property (including livestock) of any other person caused by any agricultural chemical—

- (c) released from the aircraft in respect of which the contract exists; or
- (d) released from the ground equipment in the conduct of the business in respect of which the contract exists;

whether in the course of the distribution or by spray-drift.

(4) The contract of insurance—

- (a) in the case of aerial distribution—shall cover such distribution carried out in all parts of the Commonwealth;
- (b) shall be issued by an approved company;
- (c) may contain such conditions, warranties and exclusions as are approved by the standards officer or, as the case may be, by an acceptable person.

(5) Subsection (2) applies to all ground distribution other than that to be carried out by the operator of the ground equipment on land owned or occupied by—

- (a) himself or herself; or
- (b) a relative of his or hers; or
- (c) his or her employer who is primarily engaged in pastoral or agricultural pursuits and to whom he or she is bound by a contract of service which is primarily for work other than the carrying out

of the ground distribution in question.

(6) In this section—

"approved company" means a company approved by the standards officer or an acceptable person (even if the company is acting for a group of companies that have not, or some of which have not, been approved).

"owner" does not include the State.

Records to be kept

26.(1) Every licensed aerial distribution contractor and the owner of ground equipment from which ground distribution is carried out by or under the supervision of a licensed commercial operator shall make or cause to be made a record of the following particulars, namely—

- (a) in the case of aerial distribution—the name of the pilot in command and the registration mark of the aircraft concerned;
- (b) in the case of ground distribution—the name of the licensed commercial operator carrying out or supervising the carrying out of such distribution;
- (c) the name and address of the person or persons for whom such distribution is being carried out;
- (d) for each agricultural chemical used in the distribution—
 - (i) if the chemical has a distinguishing number—the number; or
 - (ii) if the chemical does not have a distinguishing number—particulars to identify the chemical;
- (e) a description of any diluent, wetter, spreader, emulsifier or other material added to an agricultural chemical used in the distribution;
- (f) the description or the exact location of the land so treated including distances and directions from the nearest townsite so that the land may be readily identified;
- (g) the date and the time of such distribution;
- (h) the estimated velocity and the direction of the wind at the time of such distribution;

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- (i) the quantity and concentration and the total volume of the agricultural chemical applied during such distribution;
- (j) the total area covered by such distribution;
- (k) the type of crop treated;

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- (1) the purpose or purposes for which such distribution was carried out;
- (m) such other particulars and matters as may be prescribed;

and shall keep such record or cause it to be kept for a period of 2 years after such distribution.

(2) At the request in writing of the standards officer a copy of the record kept pursuant to subsection (1) shall within the period and in the manner specified in the request be furnished to the standards officer by the licensed aerial distribution contractor or, as the case may be, the owner of ground equipment.

(2A) A person who fails—

- (a) to make or cause to be made a record required by subsection (1) to be made;
- (b) to keep or cause to be kept a record required by subsection (1) to be kept;
- (c) to comply with a request made pursuant to subsection (2);

shall be guilty of an offence against this Act.

Maximum penalty-20 penalty units.

(3) Any person who with intent to defraud or deceive any other person—

- (a) alters or falsifies any record made pursuant to this section; or
- (b) makes or concurs in the making of any false or fraudulent entry in any such record; or
- (c) omits or concurs in omitting any material particular from any such record;

shall be guilty of an offence against this Act.

Maximum penalty-

- (a) on indictment—50 penalty units or imprisonment for 5 years; or
- (b) on a summary proceeding—50 penalty units or imprisonment for 1 year.

Production of distribution records

27.(1) This section applies to a record of a distribution that a person is required under section 26 to keep for 2 years after the distribution.

(2) An inspector may, within the 2 years, ask the person to produce the record for inspection.

(3) The person must immediately produce the record for inspection by the inspector, unless the person has a reasonable excuse.

Maximum penalty—20 penalty units.

(4) The inspector may keep the record to make a copy of it.

(5) However, the inspector must return the record to the person as soon as practicable after making a copy of it.

Hazardous areas

28.(1) A regulation may declare an area to be a hazardous area and prescribe conditions for carrying out aerial or ground distribution in the area.

(2) The chief executive must publish a notice of the declaration and conditions in a newspaper circulating generally in the hazardous area.

Carrying out of distributions in hazardous areas

29. A person must not carry out aerial or ground distribution in a hazardous area unless the distribution is carried out under the conditions prescribed by regulation for the area.

Maximum penalty—100 penalty units or imprisonment for 6 months.

Notice of damage by agricultural chemicals

30.(1) Where a person alleges that loss of or damage to crops or stock on

land owned or occupied by the person is caused by or arises out of or in connection with the distribution of agricultural chemicals by aerial or ground distribution the person may, in writing, give notice to the standards officer of such loss or damage giving such particulars and information as may be prescribed—

- (a) in the case of loss of or damage to crops—within 14 days; or
- (b) in the case of loss of or damage to stock—within 2 days;

of having suspected such loss or damage.

(2) A person who has given notice to the standards officer shall give 14 days notice of the person's intention to harvest or, as the case may be, destroy the crops or stock which are alleged by the person to have been damaged or lost.

(3) Any person who in a notice given pursuant to this section makes a statement which the person knows to be false with the intent that the standards officer, another officer or any person authorised in writing by the standards officer shall do any act or thing as a result of such statement, commits an offence against this Act.

Effect of failure to give notice

31.(1) This section applies to an action in which damages are being claimed for the loss of, or damage to, crops or stock claimed to be caused by aerial or ground distribution.

(2) If the claimant in the action contravenes section 30, the claimant may not, without the court's leave—

- (a) call an officer, or an officer of the department, as a witness; or
- (b) put in evidence—
 - (i) a report or statement mentioned in section 32 or 33; or
 - (ii) a document of the department or Board or a member of the Board.

(3) The court may grant leave for the purposes of subsection (2) only if—

(a) the defendant agrees; or

(b) the court is satisfied—

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- (i) the contravention was caused by mistake or another reasonable reason; or
- (ii) the defendant will not be materially prejudiced by the contravention.

Powers of inspection in case of damage to crops etc.

32.(1) The standards officer or another inspector—

- (a) may enter on any land on which any crops or stock have been notified to him or her to have been lost or damaged by aerial or ground distribution and carry out such inspections on the land and take and remove such samples of matter on or in that land as the standards officer or another inspector thinks fit for the purpose of making the report referred to in paragraph (c) or, as the case may be, paragraph (d); and
- (b) may enter and inspect any land, wheresoever situated for the purpose of ascertaining possible sources of drift of agricultural chemicals and may take and remove such samples of matter on or in that land as the standards officer or another inspector thinks fit for the purpose of making the report referred to in paragraph (c) or, as the case may be, paragraph (d); and
- (c) in the case of an entry by the standards officer—shall make a report of all his or her findings in connection with the crops or stock reported to be so lost or damaged; and
- (d) in the case of an entry by another inspector—shall, after entering land in pursuance of this subsection, make a written report to the standards officer of all his or her findings in connection with the crops or stock reported to be so lost or damaged; and
- (e) in the case of an entry by another inspector—shall deliver to the standards officer all samples taken and removed in accordance with paragraphs (a) and (b).

(2) A person must not obstruct the standards officer, or another inspector in the exercise of a power under this section, unless the person has a 30

reasonable excuse.

Maximum penalty for subsection (2)—20 penalty units.

Board to make statement on damage

33.(1) Where the standards officer receives a report from another inspector in pursuance of section 32(1) the standards officer shall submit such report, together with such comments as the standards officer thinks are applicable, to the Board.

(1A) Where the standards officer has made a report in pursuance of section 32(1) the standards officer shall submit that report to the Board.

(1B) Upon receiving any such report the Board shall—

- (a) consider the report and comments (if any) of the standards officer; and
- (b) make a statement in relation to the alleged loss or damage which was the subject of the report.

(2) The Board may issue a copy of the statement made in pursuance of subsection (1) to those persons who in the opinion of the Board are interested parties.

Powers of inspectors

34.(1) An inspector may—

- (a) enter any place where—
 - there is or the inspector has reasonable ground to believe there is or will be any aircraft or ground equipment which the inspector reasonably believes to be used or intended to be used for aerial or ground distribution;
 - (ii) the inspector has reasonable ground to believe aerial or ground distribution is being, has been or will be carried out;
- (b) search therein for any crop, material, aircraft, aerial equipment, ground equipment, loading equipment or mixing equipment;
- (c) inspect and examine or cause to be inspected and examined any

crop, material, aircraft, aerial equipment, ground equipment, loading equipment or mixing equipment found therein;

- (ca) open or cause to be opened any package, container, bin, tank or hopper found therein that contains or that the inspector has reasonable ground to believe contains an agricultural chemical;
- (cb) select and take or cause to be selected and taken, and remove or cause to be removed for analysis any crop or material found therein or any other matter found therein that the inspector suspects is an agricultural chemical, or portions or samples of any such crop, material or matter;
- (d) ask anyone the inspector considers can help, to help the inspector search, inspect, examine, open, select, take or remove anything on the place;
- (e) question with respect to matters under this Act any person; and require any person to answer the questions put and to sign a declaration of the truth of the person's answers.

(2) No provision of subsection (1) or of section 40 shall be construed so as—

- (a) to oblige any person to answer any question or make any statement which answer or statement would or would tend to incriminate the person; or
- (b) to render any person liable to a penalty for failure to make such an answer or statement.

(3) Subsection (1) shall not authorise any of the persons mentioned in that subsection to enter and search without the permission of the occupier any dwelling house or any part used for residential purposes of a building unless that person does so under the authority of a search warrant.

(4) If it appears to a justice of the peace, upon complaint made on oath by any of the persons mentioned in subsection (1), that such person has reasonable grounds for believing and does believe that any aircraft or ground equipment or agricultural chemical which such person reasonably believes to be used or to be intended to be used for aerial distribution or ground distribution is in any dwelling house or in any part used for residential purposes of a building then that justice may issue his or her warrant directing the person named therein to search that dwelling house or part of a building.

PART 7—GENERAL

Faulty or defective equipment

36.(1) Where any ground equipment, any aerial equipment, or any part thereof, is or appears to an inspector to be faulty or defective in any particular, or to be in such a state as to be likely to cause loss of or damage to any stock or crops, the inspector may give to the owner of that equipment and, in the case of aerial equipment, to the licensed aerial distribution contractor at whose direction or upon whose authority the aircraft to which the aerial equipment is attached is being used to carry out aerial distribution a notice in writing to that effect, and such notice may require the owner or, as the case may be, the licensed aerial distribution contractor either—

- (a) to wholly desist from using such equipment forthwith, or after a date to be stated in such notice, until certain replacements, repairs, or alterations as stated in the notice have been effected; or
- (b) to have certain replacements, repairs, or alterations as stated in the notice effected within the time specified in such notice.

(1A) In addition to the matters specified in subsection (1), a notice under the subsection may require the owner of the equipment to refrain from selling, hiring, or otherwise disposing of, or parting with the possession of, such equipment until the requirements of the inspector as specified in such notice have been complied with.

(2) A person to whom such notice has been given shall comply in every respect with the requirements of that notice.

Maximum penalty for subsection (2)-20 penalty units.

Aerial and ground distribution with approved equipment only and in compliance with s 25

38. A person shall not operate, permit, authorise or direct another person to operate aerial or ground equipment for the purpose of aerial or ground distribution unless—

- (a) that equipment is of a type or kind approved under this Act;
- (b) where the provisions of section 25 apply—
 - (i) those provisions have been complied with; and
 - (ii) the security thereby required subsists.

Maximum penalty—20 penalty units.

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Aerial or ground distribution by or under supervision of licensed persons

39.(1) A person shall not carry out or cause or permit to be carried out aerial distribution unless the pilot in command of the aircraft from which the distribution is carried out holds a pilot chemical rating licence and the aerial distribution is carried out in the course of the business of, at the direction of or under the authority of a licensed aerial distribution contractor.

Maximum penalty—20 penalty units.

(2) A person shall not carry out or cause or permit to be carried out ground distribution unless the person who operates the ground equipment from which the distribution is carried out—

- (a) is a licensed commercial operator authorised by his or her licence to undertake such distribution; or
- (b) operates the equipment under the supervision of a licensed commercial operator authorised by his or her licence to undertake such distribution who is present during the whole of such distribution.

Maximum penalty-20 penalty units.

(3) It is a defence to a charge of an offence against subsection (2) that the operator of the ground equipment was using the equipment at the material time on—

- (a) land owned or occupied by—
 - (i) himself or herself; or
 - (ii) a relative of his or hers; or
 - (iii) his or her employer who is primarily engaged in pastoral or agricultural pursuits and to whom he or she is bound by a contract of service that is primarily for work other than the carrying out of the ground distribution in question; or
- (b) any crown land, reserve or road within the meaning of the *Land Act 1962* that adjoins land referred to in paragraph (a) with the permission of the person or authority who holds or controls the crown land, reserve or road.

Obstructing inspection etc.

40. Any person who—

- (a) assaults, resists, or obstructs an inspector in the exercise of the inspector's powers or in the discharge of the inspector's duties under this Act or attempts so to do;
- (b) fails to answer any question put to the person in pursuance of this Act by an inspector or gives any false or misleading answer to any such question;
- (c) directly or indirectly prevents any person from appearing before or being questioned by an inspector, or attempts so to do;
- (d) uses any threat or any abusive or insulting language to any inspector or to an employee with respect to any inspection or examination or questioning;
- (e) fails when reasonably required so to do to assist an inspector in the exercise of the inspector's powers under section 34;

shall be guilty of an offence against this Act.

Maximum penalty—20 penalty units or imprisonment for 6 months.

Prosecutions generally

42.(1) An offence against this Act is a summary offence, unless expressly provided otherwise.

(2) A proceeding for an offence against this Act must start—

- (a) within 1 year after the offence is committed;
- (b) within 6 months after the offence comes to the complainant's knowledge, but within 2 years after the offence is committed.

Responsibility for acts or omissions of representatives

43.(1) If, in a proceeding for an offence against this Act, it is relevant to prove a person's state of mind about a particular act or omission, it is enough to show—

- (a) the act or omission was done or omitted to be done by a representative of the person within the scope of the representative's actual or apparent authority; and
- (b) the representative had the state of mind.

(2) An act or omission done or omitted to be done for a person by a representative of the person within the scope of the representative's actual or apparent authority is taken, in a proceeding for an offence against this Act, to have been done or omitted to be done also by the person, unless the person proves the person took all reasonable steps to prevent the act or omission.

(**3**) If—

- (a) an individual is convicted of an offence against this Act; and
- (b) the individual would not have been convicted of the offence if subsections (1) and (2) had not been enacted;

the individual is not liable to be punished by imprisonment for the offence.

Executive officers must ensure corporation complies with Act

44.(1) The executive officers of a corporation must ensure that the corporation complies with this Act.

(2) If a corporation commits an offence against a provision of this Act, each of the executive officers of the corporation also commits an offence, namely, the offence of failing to ensure the corporation complies with this Act.

Maximum penalty—the penalty for the contravention of the provision by an individual.

(3) Evidence that the corporation committed an offence against this Act is evidence that each of the executive officers committed the offence of failing to ensure that the corporation complies with this Act.

(4) However, it is a defence for an executive officer to prove—

- (a) if the officer was in a position to influence the conduct of the corporation in relation to the offence—the officer took all reasonable steps to ensure the corporation complied with the provision; or
- (b) the officer was not in a position to influence the conduct of the corporation in relation to the offence.

Protection from liability

44A.(1) In this section—

"official" means-

- (a) the chief executive; or
- (b) an officer; or
- (c) a member of an executive committee of the Board.

(2) An official does not incur civil liability for an act done, or omission made, honestly and without negligence under this Act.

(3) If subsection (2) prevents a civil liability attaching to an official, the liability attaches instead to the State.

Evidence

45. In any proceedings—

(a) it shall not be necessary to prove the appointment of any officer,

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or the authority of any officer to do any act or to give any direction or order;

- (b) a certificate purporting to be under the hand of the standards officer of the standards officer making any request under this Act, or of the standards officer giving, issuing, or posting any notice, direction, or other thing under this Act, or of the standards officer giving or not giving any authority under this Act or of the receipt or non-receipt by the standards officer of any notice, application, or other document or of any other thing required by or under this Act to be given, made, or lodged to or with the standards officer, shall upon its production in evidence, be evidence of the matter or matters certified to therein and that the signature on the certificate is the signature of the standards officer, and in the absence of evidence in rebuttal, shall be conclusive evidence of such matter or matters and signature;
- (c) every entry in any minute book of the Board purporting to be an entry relating to the proceedings of the Board in any such case signed by the chairperson thereof or by the standards officer, and every certified copy of or extract from any such entry signed by the standards officer shall upon its production in evidence, be evidence of the proceedings appearing by such entry (without proof of any meeting to which the same may refer or by which the same were made having been duly convened or held or that such proceedings were carried out or made in accordance with the prescribed provisions in that behalf), and that the signature thereon is the signature of the chairperson, or as the case may be, standards officer, and in the absence of evidence in rebuttal, shall be conclusive evidence of such proceedings, or as the case may be, signature;
- (d) the production of a certificate of analysis purporting to be under the hand of an analyst shall upon its production in evidence be evidence of the matter or matters certified therein and that the signature thereon is the signature of the analyst concerned, and in the absence of evidence in rebuttal shall be conclusive evidence of such matter or matters and signature.

Chief executive may approve forms

46. The chief executive may approve forms for use under this Act.

Regulations

48.(1) The Governor in Council may make regulations under this Act.

(2) A regulation may make provision about the following—

- (a) regulating aerial and ground distribution of agricultural chemicals over hazardous areas, including issuing permits for carrying out the distribution (and cancelling and suspending them);
- (b) regulating the flying of aircraft equipped with aerial equipment, or movement of ground equipment carrying agricultural chemicals, over hazardous areas;
- (c) providing for and regulating the cleansing of aircraft and ground equipment used to carry agricultural chemicals;
- (d) regulating aerial and ground distribution of agricultural chemicals in conditions likely to cause the chemicals to drift;
- (e) regulating the use in aerial and ground distribution of preparations containing agricultural chemicals;
- (f) regulating the droplet or particle size in aerial and ground distribution;
- (g) approving the types of aerial and ground equipment that may be used and specifying the entity to give approval;
- (h) regulating the type of aerial and ground distribution and the appliances that may be used;
- (i) types of licences, qualifications needed to hold a licence, terms under which licences may be obtained and held and the authority the licence confers on the licensee;
- (j) testing of licensees, the entity giving the tests, the times and places the tests are to be held, and the subjects of the tests;
- (k) fees to be paid for the issue or renewal of a licence, an application for a licence or permit, undertaking a test or any other purpose of

the Act;

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- (l) regulating inspection, investigation and samples, including-
 - (i) the way samples are taken; and
 - (ii) the quantity or weight of samples; and
 - (iii) the labelling of samples; and
 - (iv) the delivery of samples to the standards officer;
- (m) analysis and examination of agricultural chemicals, portions, samples, material and other things for this Act, including ways of analysing and examining to decide—
 - (i) the composition or physical properties of an agricultural chemical; or
 - (ii) the nature and amount of residue on any crop or stock; or
 - (iii) damage to any crop or stock;
- (n) imposing penalties not exceeding 35 penalty units for a contravention of a regulation;
- (o) regulating cancellation and suspension of licences.

ENDNOTES

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2 Date to which amendments incorporated

This is the reprint date mentioned in the Reprints Act 1992, section 5(c). Accordingly, this reprint includes all amendments that commenced operation on or before 30 March 2000. Future amendments of the Agricultural Chemicals Distribution Control Act 1966 may be made in accordance with this reprint under the Reprints Act 1992, section 49.

3 Key

Key to abbreviations in list of legislation and annotations

AIA	=	Acts Interpretation Act 1954	(prev)	=	previously
amd	=	amended	proc	=	proclamation
amdt	=	amendment	prov	=	provision
ch	=	chapter	prov	=	part
		-	-		•
def	=	definition	pubd	=	published
div	=	division	R [X]	=	Reprint No.[X]
exp	=	expires/expired	RA	=	Reprints Act 1992
gaz	=	gazette	reloc	=	relocated
hdg	=	heading	renum	=	renumbered
ins	=	inserted	rep	=	repealed
lap	=	lapsed	S	=	section
notfd	=	notified	sch	=	schedule
o in c	=	order in council	sdiv	=	subdivision
om	=	omitted	SIA	=	Statutory Instruments Act 1992
orig	=	original	SIR	=	Statutory Instruments
р	=	page			Regulation 1992
para	=	paragraph	SL	=	subordinate legislation
prec	=	preceding	sub	=	substituted
pres	=	present	unnum	=	unnumbered
prev	=	previous			

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Table of earlier reprints

TABLE OF EARLIER REPRINTS

[If a reprint number includes a roman letter, the reprint was released in unauthorised, electronic form only.]

Reprint No.	Amendments included	Reprint date
1	to Act No. 78 of 1994	21 March 1995
1A	to Act No. 13 of 1996	9 July 1996
1B	to Act No. 19 of 1999	17 May 1999

Tables in earlier reprints

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6 List of legislation

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	remaining provisions commenced on date of assent
	as amended by—
Agr	icultural Chemicals Distribution Control Act Amendment Act 1968 No. 38 date of assent 11 December 1968 commenced on date of assent
Agri	icultural Chemicals Distribution Control Act Amendment Act 1970 No. 18 date of assent 16 April 1970 commenced on date of assent
Met	ric Conversion Act 1972 No. 31 pt 2 sch 1 date of assent 21 December 1972 commenced 23 July 1973 (proc pubd gaz 21 July 1973 p 2150)
Agr	icultural Chemicals Distribution Control Act Amendment Act 1978 No. 68 date of assent 28 November 1978 commenced on date of assent
Agr	icultural Chemicals Distribution Control Act Amendment Act 1983 No. 1 date of assent 10 March 1983 ss 1–2 commenced on date of assent remaining provisions commenced 1 July 1984 (proc pubd gaz 5 May 1984 p 156)
Agri	 icultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Queensland) Act 1994 No. 78 ss 1–2, 37 sch date of assent 1 December 1994 ss 1–2 commenced on date of assent remaining provisions commenced 15 March 1995 (1995 SL No. 51)
Stat	ute Law Revision Act 1995 No. 57 ss 1–2, 4 sch 1 date of assent 28 November 1995 commenced on date of assent
Prin	nary Industries Legislation amendment Act 1996 No. 13 pts 1–2 date of assent 23 May 1996 commenced on date of assent
Stat	ute Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1999 No. 19 ss 1–3 sch date of assent 30 April 1999 commenced on date of assent
Poli	ce Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000 No. 5 ss 1–2(1)–(2), 373 sch 2 date of assent 23 March 2000 commenced on date of assent (see s 2(1)–(2))

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s 6A ins 1994 No. 78 s 37 sch

Reference to loss or damage

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Offence to s 35	b use agricultural chemicals not registered amd 1978 No. 68 s 9 om 1994 No. 78 s 37 sch	
Faulty or s 36	defective equipment amd 1978 No. 68 s 10; 1983 No. 1 s 19; 1994 No. 78 s 37 sch	
Aerial dis s 37	tribution with registered equipment only and in compliance with s. 25 sub 1970 No. 18 s 4 om 1983 No. 1 s 20	
cor	nd ground distribution with approved equipment only and in npliance with s 25 amd 1983 No. 1 s 21(a) sub 1970 No. 18 s 5 amd 1983 No. 1 s 21(b)–(e); 1994 No. 78 s 37 sch	
Aerial or s 39	ground distribution by or under supervision of licensed persons sub 1970 No. 18 s 6; 1983 No. 1 s 22 amd 1994 No. 78 s 37 sch	
Obstructi s 40	ng inspection etc. amd 1978 No. 68 s 11; 1983 No. 1 s 23; 1994 No. 78 s 37 sch	
General p s 41	enalty provision amd 1983 No. 1 s 24 om 1994 No. 78 s 37 sch	
Prosecutions 42	ons generally sub 1994 No. 78 s 37 sch	
Responsibility for acts or omissions of representativess 43sub 1994 No. 78 s 37 sch		

Executive officers must ensure corporation complies with Act

s 44 sub 1994 No. 78 s 37 sch

Protection from liability

s 44A ins 1994 No. 78 s 37 sch

Chief executive may approve forms

s 46 amd 1983 No. 1 s 25 sub 1994 No. 78 s 37 sch

Publication of orders in council and regulations

s 47 om 1994 No. 78 s 37 sch

Regulations

s 48 amd 1970 No. 18 s 7; 1983 No. 1 s 26 sub 1994 No. 78 s 37 sch

8 List of forms

Form 1—Application for Examination to Qualify for a Pilot Chemical Rating Licence

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- **Form 2—Application for the Issue of a Pilot Chemical Rating Licence** pubd gaz 23 February 1996 p 857
- **Form 3—Application for Renewal of a Pilot Chemical Rating Licence** pubd gaz 23 February 1996 p 857
- Form 4—Pilot Chemical Rating Licence pubd gaz 23 February 1996 p 857
- Form 5—Renewal of Pilot Chemical Rating Licence pubd gaz 23 February 1996 p 857
- **Form 6—Application for the Issue of an Aerial Distribution Contractor Licence** pubd gaz 23 February 1996 p 857
- Form 7—Application for Renewal of an Aerial Distribution Contractor Licence pubd gaz 23 February 1996 p 857
- Form 8—Aerial Distribution Contractor Licence pubd gaz 23 February 1996 p 857
- Form 9—Renewal of Aerial Distribution Contractor Licence pubd gaz 23 February 1996 p 857

Form 10—Notification of Change to Particulars in Aerial Distribution Contractor Licence

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Form 11—Application for Examination to Qualify for a Commercial Operator's Licence

Form 11—Application for Examination to Qualify for a Commercial Operator's Licence

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- Form 12—Application for the Issue of a Commercial Operator's Licence pubd gaz 23 February 1996 p 857
- Form 13—Application for Renewal of Commercial Operator's Licence pubd gaz 23 February 1996 p 857
- Form 14—Commercial Operator's Licence pubd gaz 23 February 1996 p 857
- Form 15—Renewal of a Commercial Operator's Licence pubd gaz 23 February 1996 p 857
- Form 16—Notification of Complaint on damages to crops or injury to stock

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Form 17—Application for Permit to carry out in Hazardous Area 1 or 2 Aerial/Ground Distribution of Prescribed Agricultural Chemicals pubd gaz 23 February 1996 p 857

Form 18—Permission to Carry out Distribution of Chemicals in a Hazardous area

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