

SANSOR Industry Guideline for the Labelling of Treated Seed

Issue Nr. 1: October 1st, 2020

1) Introduction

The purpose of this document is to obtain greater uniformity, ensure full compliance and provide adequate warning with labelling and the presentation of information on all containers packaged with seed that have been treated with one or more agricultural remedies. These guidelines do not replace the requirements set out in the Act (Act 36 of 1947), and the Regulations promulgated thereunder, they are merely complementary.

SANSOR is of the opinion that only critical information should be printed on seed labels, as proposed by the seed industry. This, to keep the cost of seed to a minimum and to take the limited availability of printing space on packets sold in the retail market into consideration.

The minimum requirements for the information indicated on seed containers as indicated below is taken from the International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management – Guidelines on Good Labelling Practices for Pesticides (Revised August 2015 edition) of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and World Health Organization (WHO), Section 4.14. In Annexure 2, special purpose labels are discussed where a specific section is included for the precautionary statements applicable to treated seeds.

2) Summary of labelling requirements taken from the FAO & WHO International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management Guidelines on Good Labelling Practice for Pesticides (revised August 2015)

4.14.2 Chemically treated seed

“Labelling of chemically treated seed requires a different approach, since the standard seed bag or sack is not a pesticide container and only carries information on the nature, weight and perhaps origin of the contents.”

Warning phrases should be applied to the outside of the bag, which cannot be removed and are in the language of the area where the seed is to be used.

As a minimum, the following information should appear on the label:

1. The statement: ***Seed treated with common name(s) of the active ingredient(s)***
2. **Local distributor or supplier name**
3. The warning: ***Do not use treated seed for human or animal consumption or for processing***
4. The warning: ***Keep out of reach of children, livestock, and wildlife.***
5. **Contact details** of the national/ regional **poison centre** or other similarly qualified institution.
6. **User and operator safety information**
7. **Environmental protection measures**

In addition, the following information **may** appear:

1. The rate (concentration) at which the active ingredient has been applied.
2. Commercial name of the pesticide product(s)
3. Local distributor or supplier address, telephone number and email address.

Standard precautionary phrases to appear on the label are provided in Annexure 2.

4) Although the Guidelines on Good Labelling Practices for Pesticides provides minimum requirements, the South African Seed Industry felt strongly that the following industry labelling standards also needed to be adhered to by its members:

4.1) All information shall be labelled with permanent ink, contrasting to the background in letters, figures, and symbols of not less than two millimetre high.

4.2) The trademark (logo) may also be used in whose favour the agricultural remedy concerned is registered.

4.3) The registration number of the agricultural remedy concerned must be expressed in terms of an Act. **“Reg Nr L 1234 “Act No. 36 of 1947”**. Only remedies that require registration (L Number) in terms of the mentioned Act needs to be indicated on the label.

4.4) The rate (concentration) at which the active ingredient has been applied must also be indicated to aid physicians in determining how much of an active ingredient has been consumed.

4.4) It is compulsory to display the telephone number of a poison information centre and client service number in the Republic. Pictograms may also be utilized as per the example below:



5. Labelling Requirements

5.1 Labels of containers with treated seed must display the following printed information:

Compulsory information as agreed on by industry	
Seed containers: Bulk	Small seed containers: Hobby Market
1) The statement: Seed treated with common name(s) of the active ingredient(s)	1) The statement: Treated with common name(s) or the active ingredient(s)
2) Local distributor or supplier name	2) N/A
3) The warning or pictogram/s: Do not use treated seed for human or animal consumption or for processing.	3) The warning or pictogram/s: Do not use treated seed for human or animal consumption or for processing.
4) The warning or pictogram: Keep out of reach of children, livestock, and wildlife.	4) N/A
5) Contact details of the national/ regional poison center or other similarly qualified institution.	5) Contact details of the national/ regional poison center or other similarly qualified institution.
6) User and operator safety information. Pictograms or precautionary statements. (Up to the discretion of the seed company)	6) User and operator safety information Pictograms or precautionary statements (if applicable, discretion of seed company)
7) Environmental protection measures *Pictograms or precautionary statements (if applicable, discretion of seed company)	7) Environmental protection measures *Pictograms or precautionary statements (if applicable, discretion of seed company)
8) Product Registration number (L Number) of seed treated locally.	8) Product Registration number (L Number) of seed treated locally. (If available)
9) The rate (concentration) at which the active ingredient has been applied	9) N/A

3) Specimen labels (examples only):

3A. Normal and bulk containers containing chemically treated seed:

*Self-adhesive or stitch on type

Treated Seed: Do not use for food, feed or processing. Keep out of reach of children, livestock, and wildlife.

	Seed treated with: Product Name and supplier	Active Ingredient:	Reg. Nr. (L): Act 36 of 1947	Dosage Rate: e.g., ml/kg
1				
2				
3				

*Refer to product label for full details.



Example Pictograms:

- 1) Poison Centre Emergency Contact Number
- 2) Client Service Contact Number
- 3) Do not use treated seed for food, feed or processing
- 4&5) Environmental protection measures
- 6) User and operator safety information

3B) Template label for retail/ hobby market packages containing chemically treated seed:

Back:

Treated with common name/s or active ingredient/s. L number if available.



Example Pictograms:

- 1) Poison Centre Emergency Contact Number
- 2) Client Service Contact Number
- 3) Do not use treated seed for food, feed or processing
- 4) Environmental protection measures
- 5) User and operator safety information

Annex 2 – Examples of precautionary statements

Agricultural practice

The appropriate agricultural practice statements depend on the exact use pattern (e.g. crop, disease vector), the pesticide and its formulation, and should be specified by the manufacturer and agreed by the competent authority. No agricultural practiced statements are given in the GHS.

The following examples of precautionary statements for specific agricultural practices may therefore be relevant to pesticide products.

Treated seed.

In general:

- Do not use treated seed for human or animal consumption or for processing.*
- Keep out of reach of children, livestock and wildlife.*
- Handle seed packages carefully.*
- Avoid contact with skin and respiratory tract and wear suitable protective equipment during seed handling and equipment cleaning.*
- Wash hands and exposed skin before meals and after work.*
- Remove any seed spillages.*
- Keep treated seeds away from surface water.*

Before sowing:

- When opening seed bags and during, filling or emptying of the drilling machine, avoid dust exposure.*
- Avoid transfer of dust from the seed bag into the sowing machine.*
- Do not treat the previously seeds with additional products.*

At sowing outdoors

- Adequate seed drilling equipment shall be used to ensure a high degree of incorporation in soil, minimisation of spillage and minimisation of dust emission.*
- Sow at the recommended seeding rate.*
- To protect birds and mammals, treated seeds must be covered by soil, also at row ends.*

After sowing.

- Do not leave empty bags or left-over treated seed in the environment. Dispose them accordingly to local legislation.*
- Ensure that left over treated seeds is returned to their original bags and do not use empty seed bags for other purposes.*

END