

**Information to be collected by the Secretariat on paraquat  
as per Part 2 of Annex IV of the Rotterdam Convention  
submission by Australia**

**(a) The physico-chemical, toxicological and ecotoxicological properties of the formulation**

This information is not specific to Australia and is widely available.

**(b) The existence of handling or applicator restrictions in other States;**

In Australia, paraquat is a Schedule 7 poison with special regulations restricting its availability, possession, storage and use (see <http://www.tga.gov.au/ndpsc/susdp.htm> for more information on scheduling of medicines and poisons in Australia). Paraquat is NOT to be supplied for home and garden use.

As a Schedule 7 poison, the heading DANGEROUS POISON is required on all paraquat labels. In addition paraquat labels must contain the additional headings:-

KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN  
READ SAFETY DIRECTIONS BEFORE OPENING OR USING  
CAN KILL IF SWALLOWED  
DO NOT PUT IN DRINK BOTTLES  
KEEP LOCKED UP

These are clearly visible in large bold type on the label. The active constituents are also listed on the label below the product name. In addition, liquid preparations containing paraquat must be coloured blue or green and contain sufficient stenching agent to produce an offensive smell.

**(c) Information on incidents related to the formulation in other States**

The formulation notified by Burkina Faso (Gramoxone super emulsifiable concentrate containing paraquat at 200 g/L) is not registered for use in Australia. Therefore there is no Australian information on incidents related to this particular formulation.

**(d) Information submitted by other Parties, international organizations, nongovernmental organizations or other relevant sources, whether national or international**

Information submitted by Australia is contained in the current document.

**(e) Risk and/or hazard evaluations, where available**

Paraquat is under review by the federal government regulator, the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA), because of concerns over the potential risk to occupational health and safety and the environment (see <http://www.apvma.gov.au/products/review/current/paraquat.php>). If the review finds that the

current strict controls on the use of this chemical in Australia do not satisfy the APVMA's human and environmental safety requirements, then the APVMA can take further restrictive actions.

A hazard evaluation is available at

<http://www.fao.org/ag/AGP/AGPP/Pesticid/JMPR/Download/2003.pdf>.

The APVMA's review is ongoing and further toxicology studies are being conducted to see whether there are any concerns about subtle effects after long-term exposures to low doses. The acute toxicity of paraquat is well characterised and that is why it is the most strictly-controlled herbicide both in Australia and in other jurisdictions.

**(f) Indications, if available, of the extent of use of the formulation, such as the number of registrations or production or sales quantity**

The formulation notified by Burkina Faso is not registered in Australia. However, as of 19 November 2010, there were 61 other formulations of paraquat products registered in Australia (and 17 active constituent approvals). From July 2005 to June 2006, Australia imported and manufactured 2,547,473 L of paraquat manufacturing concentrate.

**(g) Other formulations of the pesticide in question, and incidents, if any, relating to these formulations**

There are 61 formulations of paraquat products registered in Australia (and 17 active constituent approvals). Of these, only one (a soluble concentrate formulation) contains the same 200 g/L concentration of paraquat as the notified formulation.

There have been 18 deaths involving paraquat formulations in Australia since 2000. Of these deaths, 14 were classified by the coroner as 'intentional self harm' with another two classified as 'unlikely to be known'. Two deaths were classified as 'unintentional'.

**(h) Alternative pest-control practices**

There are numerous products registered by the APVMA that are alternatives to paraquat.

Further information can be found at

<http://services.apvma.gov.au/PubcrisWebClient/welcome.do;jsessionid=vskyFtjLZKvxGrpbp nfpZXLRLqj9Z390Z9Gk5JWF2nQBccpBXFFw!546591743>.