



Information relating to the severely hazardous pesticide formulation “Gramoxone extra” (200 g Paraquat / L), notified to the PIC secretariat by Burkina Faso

A plant protection product (PPP) called “**Gramoxone**” (authorisation number: 000269-00) with the active ingredient **Paraquat (200 g / L)** was authorised in Germany from 1971-1983 as a herbicide in field crops, maize, fruit trees, vegetables, forestry, pastures, hops, viticulture and strawberries at a maximum application rate of 7 litres (PPP) / ha.

The following handling/applicator restrictions were in force at the time of the authorisation:

Mandatory labelling text:

Hazard symbol: T (toxic)

- Very toxic in contact with skin.
- When handling the (undiluted) plant protection product a protective suit and protective gloves and glasses and respiratory equipment must be worn (see booklet no. 18 appendix 2 or AID booklet¹ no. 42).
- When applying/using the plant protection product a protective suit (category 2) and protective gloves and respiratory equipment must be worn (see booklet no. 18 appendix 2 and 3 or AID booklet¹ no. 42).
- Swallowing the undiluted plant protection product can be fatal.
- Avoid contact with the skin.
- Not to be used in playgrounds and/or school yards.
- Cover wounds or scratches with low-fat skin ointment before spraying.
- If respiratory organs should feel irritated whilst working in treated areas, use respiratory equipment.
- When handling the undiluted product in field crops, a particle-filtering half mask DIN EN 149 FFP2 or a half mask DIN 58 646 - HM with particle filter P2 DIN EN 143 (identification colour: white) must be worn.

Another PPP, “**Gramoxone extra**” (authorisation number: 023612-00), with **100 g / L Paraquat** as active ingredient was authorised in Germany from 1998 – 2008 as a herbicide in maize, sugar beet, tree nurseries, viticulture and for acceleration of ripening in cultivated grass, the seeds of which are used for seed production. The maximum application rate was 6 litres (PPP) / ha.

The following information on classification and labelling as well as risk and safety phrases were mandatory labelling text at the time of the authorisation:

- Hazard symbols T+ (very toxic), N (Dangerous for the environment)
- R 37/38: Irritating to respiratory system and skin

¹ An extract of the AID booklet no. 42 and an English translation is enclosed.



- R 48/25: Toxic: danger of serious damage to health by prolonged exposure through swallowing
- R 50/53: Very toxic to aquatic organisms, may cause long-term adverse effects in the aquatic environment
- R 22: Harmful if swallowed
- R 26: Very toxic by inhalation
- R 41: Risk of serious damage to eyes
- R 43: May cause sensitisation by skin contact
- S 1/2: Keep locked away and out of the reach of children
- S 36/37/39: Wear suitable protective clothing, gloves and eye/face protection
- S 13: Keep away from food, drink and animal feeding stuffs
- S 20/21: When using do not eat, drink or smoke
- S 26: In case of contact with the eyes, rinse thoroughly and seek medical advice
- S 28: In case of contact with skin, wash off immediately with plenty of ...(to be specified by the manufacturer)
- S 35: This material and its container must be disposed of in a safe way
- S 45: In case of an accident, or if you feel unwell, seek medical advice immediately (where possible, show this label)
- S 49 : Keep only in the original container
- S 57 : Use appropriate container to avoid environmental contamination
- To avoid risks to man and the environment, comply with the instructions for use.

History of national restrictions

The use of all PPPs containing paraquat was restricted by the Ordinance for Banned Uses of Plant Protection Products. As of 1974, the use of PPPs with paraquat was prohibited in cereals after flowering to prevent residues in the crops. As of 1980, the use of PPPs with paraquat was prohibited in water catchment areas.

As of 1993, the only uses of PPPs with paraquat allowed were

- a) for treatment against weeds and cover crops in maize and sugar beet before drilling or before emergence; on the same area every fourth year,
- b) against weeds in nursery seedbeds on the same area every fourth year,
- c) against weeds in viticulture in the year of planting and up to the third year of stand,
- d) (as of 1997) for acceleration of ripening in cultivated grass, the seeds of which are used for seed production.