

## **Five Golden rules for safe use**

The 5 principles (golden rules) are listed below along with a brief explanation of what is taught during training and some general attitude/practice findings based on extensive experience

### **Exercise caution at all times**

- Awareness of the risks involved in applying CPPs
- Systematic approach to the tasks of measuring and mixing concentrated product, good application techniques and post spraying cleaning procedures
- The importance of keeping children and animals away from the sites
- The safe storage of product and application equipment
- Correct disposal of waste product and packaging materials
- Assessment of weather conditions (wind speed and direction, temperature)
- Avoidance of drift
- The importance of no smoking, eating and drinking whilst handling

Minimizing the risk of personal contamination through careful planning and common sense is the overriding message of this rule.

### **Read and understand the product label**

- Literate users and advisors are made aware of all the information included on the product label (Technical, usage and safety)
- Illiterate users and advisors are made aware of the meanings of the pictograms on the label relating to safe application of the product.
- International hazard symbols are explained

Most literate users have some knowledge of what information is contained on the product label. Illiterate users very often understand the basic meaning of each pictogram but can't relate the meaning to the activity. This is a particular problem when pictograms are not displayed in a logical sequence on the label. Advice pictograms must be linked with activity pictograms.

### **Good personal hygiene**

- The importance of washing thoroughly (shower or bath) after the task
- Washing work clothes and PPE thoroughly and separately from other household laundry
- To wash immediately if a spill occurs, paying particular attention to eye contamination

Most users willingly comply to this rule. Even if the user forgets to wash the spouse and children will very soon complain. However, highlighting the importance of washing work clothes and PPE separately needs to be constantly reinforced during the training.

### **Care and maintenance of application equipment**

- Understanding how sprayer works and identifying why and where leaks can occur if the machine is not well maintained.
- Advice is given on what nozzles are best suited for the application of product
- Sprayer maintenance schedules (seals, filters, pumps and nozzles)

- How to repair the sprayer
- How to correctly calibrate a sprayer to apply the recommended quantity of products
- Advice is given on what spare parts a user should keep available.
- Prevention by maintenance rather than dealing with leaks

This rule has to be taught in a very practical way. Real sprayers must be used, users actually have to demonstrate they can repair and calibrate the sprayers correctly. It is very important that local sprayers are used for this work. It can be very beneficial to involve a local sprayer retailer into this training, it builds rapport between him and his customers and local engineers can be invaluable in sorting out local issues.

### **Personal Protective clothing and equipment (PPE)**

- It is stressed that if the first 4 rules are obeyed the dependency of PPE to prevent personal contamination is greatly reduced. PPE should be seen as the last line of defense
- Minimum requirement for any pesticide related activity is a long sleeved shirt, a pair of trousers (cotton) and non absorbent footwear.
- Gloves, hats, masks, eye protection and waterproof aprons are prescribed for particular tasks.
- Users are systemically taught what PPE should be worn for each operation (measuring and mixing concentrated products, spraying and post spraying cleaning).
- Correct cleaning and care of PPE is taught
- Replacement schedules are discussed
- Advice is given on how to make pieces of PPE from locally available materials

To be effective safe and effective use of pesticides training of users and advisors is and must be practical and reflect what is possible in the locality.