



AGRICHEMICAL HANDLING FACILITY (PORTABLE) Conservation Practice Job Sheet

FL309JS

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

March 2008



An adequate water supply for mixing chemicals, rinsing chemical containers and tanks, and rinsing the containment pad will be available. Water is normally supplied from a nurse tank. For hand sprayers and backpack sprayers the water is generally supplied from a faucet.



Definition

A portable device to be used to prevent accidental release of agrichemicals to the environment during mixing and transferring of agrichemicals.

Purpose

This practice may be applied as part of a resource management system to reduce pollution of surface water, groundwater, and soil by providing an impervious surface on which to safely mix and load chemicals, rinse chemical containers, and retain accidental spillage.

Where used

Areas where continued mixing of chemicals occur and permanent mixing facilities are not available or impractical.

General criteria

The station will consist of a portable impermeable container for mixing of chemicals and rinsing chemical containers.

It will include hoses, nozzles, valves, pumps, etc., designed to: (a) safely transfer chemicals from the chemical containers to equipment spray tanks, hand sprayers and backpack sprayers (b) thoroughly rinse chemical containers, and (c) clean up and recover any liquid spilled onto the pad.

Resource Management System

Portable agrichemical handling facilities are normally established as part of a resource management system to address the soil, water, air, plant, and animal needs and the owner's objectives.

They are usually an integral part of the pest management section of a resource management plan. Optimum safe utilization of chemicals can be achieved by proper operation of the station.

They are used to prevent potential spills of chemicals especially when the mixing occurs regularly in the same area. These portable systems may be simple or more complex using nurse tanks with pumps and valves.

Considerations

Verify with the manufacturer of the portable handling facility that any pump to be used in pressure rinsing is compatible with the rinse device. Generally, positive displacement pumps should be used.

Consider using a top/bottom-loading valve with built-in check valve in the hose from the nurse tank to the spray tank. This will enable the operator to remain on the ground while filling the sprayer.

Follow all safety precautions and manufacturers recommendations when using chemicals.

Mixing of chemicals at the same location should be avoided except for:

Smaller nurseries operating only hand held and backpack sprayers utilizing the same location. This is acceptable as long as the mixing station is maintained in proper working order. Inspection of the mixing pad for cracks or tears will be done prior to each use. The containment pad will be replaced or repaired when signs of malfunction occur.

Plans and specifications

Plans and specifications are prepared in accordance with the Florida NRCS conservation practice standard Agrichemical Handling Facility, Code 309. Site-specific requirements are listed on the specification sheet. Additional provisions are entered on the job sketch sheet.

Operation and maintenance

All Federal, State, and local laws, rules and regulation will be followed.

Use appropriate personal safety equipment such as gloves, eye protection, and respirator when mixing and handling agricultural chemicals.

An operation and maintenance plan will include inventory, methods of proposed handling of material, Safety Data Sheets.

It will also include all safety requirements required by Worker Protection Standard and the operation and care for the system components.

Always follow the manufacturer's instructions when operating a portable handling facility. Never leave the handling facility unattended during any mixing or filling operation. If a top/bottom-loading valve is not used, avoid potential back siphoning by always keeping the discharge end of the fill hose above the water level in the spray tank. Repair any breaks, leaks, or damaged components or replace immediately.

Prior to first use and at the beginning of each season, check the unit for proper operation using only clean water. For winter storage, drain all water from the unit to avoid freeze damage.

Manual containers – Containment component shall be stored out of the weather when not in use.

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March 2008

If needed, an aerial view or a location view of the agrichemical handling facility location(s) can be shown below (or attach or refer to appropriate plan map). Other relevant information, such as complementary practices, adjacent field or tract conditions, and sensitive areas should be shown.

Scale 1" = _____ ft. (NA indicates sketch not to scale: grid size = 1/2" by 1/2")



Operation and Maintenance:		
Appropriate personal equipment as required by the chemical label will be used.		
Follow manufacturer's instructions when operating commercial type mixing stations.		
Prior to first use and at the beginning of each season check for proper operation by using only clean water.		
Backpack and hand sprayers will be rinsed and stored appropriately when not in use.		
Repairs to sprayers and mixing station will be made immediately or replaced.		

Certification: This practice meets NRCS standards and specifications.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Signature of authorized conservationist:	Date	Date