

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

VIRGINIA

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE REQUIREMENTS

AGRICHEMICAL HANDLING FACILITY

CODE 309

Land Owner/Operator _____

County _____ SWCD _____ Farm/Tract No. _____

Prepared By _____ Date _____

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE ITEMS

A properly operated and maintained Agrichemical Handling Facility can be an asset to your farm. The Agrichemical Handling Facility was designed to control incidental spillage from chemical mixing and equipment filling operations. The estimated life span of this installation is at least 15 years. The life of this installation can be assured and usually increased by developing and carrying out a systematic operation and maintenance program.

This practice will require you to perform periodic operation and maintenance to maintain satisfactory performance. Develop an Operation & Maintenance and Emergency Response Plan and keep a current copy on location at the Agrichemical Handling Facility. This plan is to describe in detail your operation and maintenance program requirements to include, at a minimum, the following items:

A. Documentation

- 1) Develop a brief description of the facility. Define parameters used to size and design the facility such as storage tank and equipment sizes.

- 2) An emergency response plan must be developed with safety procedures covering accidental spills, exposure, fire, or other hazardous incident. Provide a list of safety equipment, contact names, and phone numbers. Include the telephone numbers for the emergency spill center and poison control center. Attach all Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) to the emergency response plan. Records shall be provided to the local fire department that list the chemicals stored on the site. The emergency response plan is to be posted at the Agrichemical Handling Facility by the nearest telephone.

B. Notification

- 1) For all spills, the operator must notify: Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Pesticide Services, at **(804) 371-6558**. If further notification of other organizations is required, VDACS will assist by providing the appropriate contacts.

<u>Agency</u>	<u>Telephone</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

C. Safety

- 1) Post warning, "no trespassing", and "no smoking" signs around the facility. Post bilingual signs, if appropriate.
- 2) Use appropriate personal safety equipment such as gloves, eye protection, and a respirator when mixing and handling agricultural chemicals. State regulations and chemical labels may require additional safety equipment.

D. Operation

- a. During the operation of the facility, all local, state, and federal laws shall be followed.
- b. The Agrichemical Handling Facility shall be kept free of items not necessary for the storing, mixing, loading, and cleanup operations. The facility should not be used for purposes other than the storing, mixing, loading, cleaning and maintenance of materials and equipment used for chemical application. The facility shall not be used to store feed, seed, petroleum products, or livestock.
- 3) Do not allow the operation of any equipment that exceeds the design limit on or within ten feet of the Agrichemical Handling Facility.

E. Maintenance

- 1) All safety features such as ventilation, lighting, fire extinguishers, and smoke detectors must be maintained in working order. All locks shall be maintained and/or replaced as necessary. All fences, railings, and/or signs shall be maintained to provide warning and/or prevent unauthorized human or livestock entry.
- 2) Any need for repairs or material replacement should be attended to immediately. The facility shall not be used until repairs are made. Inspect the site after all potentially damaging natural events. Immediately repair any vandalism, vehicular or livestock damage to the structure, earthen areas surrounding the structure, or any appurtenances.
- 3) Perform appropriate actions for winterizing the facility, such as draining all tanks and pipes, and cleaning the chemical mixing/handling pad.

- 4) Positive drainage shall be maintained around the facility.
- 5) Do not drain rinse water or rinsate from the chemical application equipment onto the mixing pad as a standard practice due to the probability of contamination by soil, trash and other chemicals. Accumulated rainwater on any part of the facility shall be disposed of as a dilute

- 6) All material removed from the containment mixing pad and sump must be: (a) applied to the target crop as pesticide, (b) used as make-up water in mixing to be applied to the target crop, or (c) disposed of as waste in conformance with all local, state, and federal regulations. Empty containers shall be disposed of in a method that is consistent with state law.
- 7) The rinsate tanks used for holding tanks for sump discharge should be emptied as soon as possible. The rinsate can be applied as a dilute chemical or used as dilution water for subsequent batches of chemicals that are labeled for the same crop.
- 8) Sump pumps and all associated electric components shall be maintained in working order. Sumps should be thoroughly cleaned between the mixing and loading of different chemicals. The resulting rinsate can be applied as a dilute chemical to a labeled site or used as make-up water for subsequent batches of the chemicals that are labeled for the same crop. The sump shall be pumped dry at the end of each day of operation.
- 9) Sediment from a sump shall be removed with proper precautions taken to reduce exposure of the worker to any potential contaminants in the sediment. Sediment from a pesticide is considered the same weight active ingredient as the formulated chemical being mixed. This sediment should be land applied to the target crop at a rate below the label recommendation. The sediment shall be removed from the sump prior to a switch from one chemical to another chemical.

F. Inspection

- 1) Develop a schedule of any written inspection and maintenance reports required by local, state, or federal law.
- 2) The Agrichemical Handling Facility should be inspected at least twice annually to ensure proper operation. The inspection should include, but is not limited to, checking for:
 - cracks in the concrete pad and sump.
 - adequate sealer on the interior surfaces of the pad, sump, and sidewalls.
 - proper operation of back flow prevention devices.
 - proper performance of hoses, pipes, valves, connectors, filters, tanks, and related plumbing material.
 - proper placement of all lids, grates, and shields on openings to underground structures.
 - proper operation of safety equipment.
 - proper operation of the electrical systems.
 - roof and structural integrity of facility.
 - properly maintained access roads and ramps.
 - positive drainage around building.
 - labeling of rinsate storage tanks to ensure rinsate is properly applied back to the land
 - up-to-date chemical inventory.

Additional Operation and Maintenance Requirements Specific to this Plan: _____
