


TITLE: **HERBICIDE MANAGEMENT**

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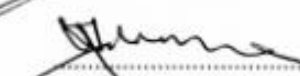
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Introduction

Vegetation on property owned by, or under the control of, Eskom must be managed in an environmentally responsible and cost effective manner. Various methods can be employed to achieve this end, ranging from the use of registered herbicides to mechanical means. As some of these herbicides and their application hold inherent liabilities and risks, Eskom commits to the following policy and strategies.

1 Scope

1.1 Purpose

To manage possible negative short, or long term, effects of herbicides on health and safety, desirable vegetation, the soil, surface or ground water, and on the environment as a whole.

1.2 Applicability

This policy is applicable Eskom wide, Eskom Enterprises and subsidiaries.

2 Normative references

The following documents contain provisions that, through reference in the text, constitute requirements of this policy. At the time of publication, the editions indicated were valid. All standards and specifications are subject to revision, and parties to agreements based on this policy are encouraged to investigate the possibility of applying the most recent editions of the documents listed below. Information on currently valid national and international standards and specifications can be obtained from the Information Centre and Eskom Documentation Centre at Megawatt Park.

The Fertilisers, Farm Feeds, Agricultural Remedies and Stock Remedies Act, 1947 (Act No. 36 of 1947).

The Environmental Conservation Act (Act No. 73 of 1989).

The Occupational Health and Safety Act (Act No. 85 of 1993).

National Veld and Forest Fire Act (Act No. 101 of 1998).

The Fertiliser, Farm Feeds, Agricultural Remedies and Stock Remedies Act (Act No. 15 of 1973).

The National Road Traffic Act (No 83 of 1996).

ESKPBAAD6: Rev 7, *Environmental Management Policy*

ESKAGAAJ6: Rev 0, *Guidelines for the rehabilitation and vegetation management of herbicide treated sites*

ESKADABJ3: Rev 0, *Waste Reporting Directive*

ESKPVABX8: Rev 0, *Environmental Performance Indicator Reporting Procedure (DRAFT)*

Note: Eskom Herbicide Web: Herbicide Knowledge base is available on the Eskom Intranet under Eskom Enterprises, Technical Knowledge Repositories.

NEC (New Engineering Contract Document) with the related documentation will apply.

ESKASAAL0: Rev 0, *The safe use of pesticides and herbicides*

ESKASABG3: Rev 1, Standard for bush clearance and maintenance within overhead powerline servitudes.

Technology, Services International (TSI) herbicide guidelines on:

TRR/S91/032 *Bush encroachment under power lines;*

TRR/S91/097 *Fire breaks;*

TRR/S92/034 *Herbicide usage in substations;*

TRR/S92/085 *Herbicides for chemical mowing and "species switch";*

TRR/S93/115 *Reed eradication with herbicides under power lines using aerial and ground equipment.*

Any other additional guidelines, standards and operating procedures, which will support the Herbicide Management policy.

3 Definitions and abbreviations

3.1 Definitions

3.1.1 course certificate: A certificate given to the trainee after undergoing adequate/appropriate herbicide training, as provided by a registered pest control operator.

3.1.2 herbicide: A chemical substance or cultured biological organism used to control, suppress or kill plants, or severely interrupt their normal growth processes.

3.1.3 pest control operator: means a person who as, or in the course of, his trade or occupation administers agricultural remedies for the purposes for which they are intended;

[Definition of "pest control operator" inserted by s. 1 (b) of Act No. 4 of 1980.]

(The Fertilizers, Farm Feeds, Agricultural Remedies and Stock Remedies Act, 1947 (Act 36 of 1947) (as amended))

Section 7 (2) (a) No person shall, for reward or in the course of any industry, trade or business-

- (i) use, or recommend the use of, any agricultural remedy or stock remedy for a purpose, or in a manner, other than that specified on the label on a container thereof, or described on such container,
- (ii) use any agricultural remedy unless he is a pest control operator registered in terms of this Act, or otherwise than in the presence and under the supervision of a pest control operator, so registered.

[Paragraph (a) substituted by s. 6 of Act No. 4 of 1980.]

(The Fertilizers, Farm Feeds, Agricultural Remedies and Stock Remedies Act, 1947 (Act 36 of 1947) (as amended))

3.1.4 weed: means any kind of plant that has been declared a weed, and includes the seed of such plant, and any vegetative part of such plant that reproduces itself asexually (Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act, No 43 of 1983)

3.2 Abbreviations

3.2.1 NEC: New Engineering Contract Document

3.2.2 GIFAP Group of National Associations of Manufacturers of Agrochemical Products

4 Policy

The use of herbicides for the management of vegetation on Eskom owned or controlled property shall be managed in an environmentally responsible manner, in order to manage possible negative short or long term effects on health and safety, desirable vegetation, the soil, surface or ground water and on the environment as a whole. Only registered herbicides shall be used by trained applicators, adhering to label specifications.

5 Strategies

- A herbicide management plan, in accordance with ESKASAAL0: *The safe use of pesticides and herbicides*, shall be available and implemented at all sites where these products are required.
- All herbicides shall be managed in accordance with SABS ISO 14001 with appropriate documentation and records.
- All contractors appointed to apply herbicides, shall be registered as pest control operators in terms of the Fertilizers, Farm Feeds, Agricultural Remedies and Stock Remedies Act (Act 36 of 1947), as amended, and shall tender according to the NEC (New Engineering Contract Document) for Small Works and associated documentation.
- **NOTE** All contractors must have an insurance policy against environmental damage.
- Herbicide application shall be done under the direction of a qualified pest control operator registered under the Fertilizers, Farm Feeds, Agricultural Remedies and Stock Remedies Act (Act No 36 of 1947), or by suitably trained personnel in possession of an appropriate course certificate. (Refer to 3.3 for the definitions as per the Act).
- Herbicide application shall be in accordance with the manufacturer's label specifications, and the necessary precautions shall be taken at all times.
- Herbicide selection and purchasing shall be done according to Eskom's procurement process in conjunction with a suitably qualified person:
 - When selecting a herbicide the risks to the environment and human health shall be evaluated and the safest product that will achieve the desired result, shall be utilised.
 - Other means shall also be considered to replace herbicides, such as mechanical methods, fire etc., if these methods would be more appropriate in the circumstances.
- Storage of pesticides & herbicides shall be in accordance with ESKASAAL0, *The safe use of Pesticides and Herbicides*, in such a manner that only authorised personnel have access to the products.
- Transportation and disposal of all pesticides, herbicides and containers shall be done in accordance with ESKASAAL0: *The safe use of Pesticides and Herbicides*.

- Herbicide applicators shall wear, at all times, appropriate protective clothing as specified by the International Group of National Associations of Manufacturers of Agrochemical Products (GIFAP) in its brochure "Guidelines for personal protection when using pesticides in hot climates", and in accordance with the Occupational Health and Safety Act (Act No. 85 of 1993).
- All incidents involving herbicides shall be reported according to Corporate and Group reporting procedures, in accordance with SABS ISO 14001.

6 Responsibilities and accountabilities

- All Eskom BUs shall be responsible and accountable for the implementation of this policy.
- All herbicide and related work shall be managed in accordance with all relevant legislation, appropriate legal agreements and Eskom policies, procedures, directives, standards and guidelines.
- Functional Groups shall provide advice and support to the line Groups when requested.