



TRUCK CLEANING PROCEDURES AFTER CARRYING FERTILISER TREATED WITH FUNGICIDE

Contamination of farm produce with pesticides may lead to violations of the Maximum Residue Level (MRL) in farm produce, and adversely affect its marketability on domestic and international markets.

For this reason, trucks that have been used to transport bulk fertiliser that has been treated with agricultural chemicals, e.g. fungicides, must be thoroughly cleaned if being used for any other purpose other than to carry fertiliser, e.g. for grain.

This can be achieved by sweeping or using compressed air to remove most of the dust, followed by washing. The addition of a detergent to the water may assist with the removal of residues.

Sweeping out the vehicle post carriage of fertiliser with a broom will not adequately reduce the level of fungicide residue and will risk the contamination of grain when carried as the next cargo.

The use of compressed air will give better results, and on its own, is the absolute minimum in cleaning. It may still result in contamination.

Therefore, it is recommended that sweeping or the use of compressed air be followed by washing. Neither sweeping with a broom nor the use of compressed air will remove fertiliser dust and chemical residues to the extent that a thorough wash-down with water achieves.

When washing out a bulk transport, use the following procedure:

- Raise the trailer hydraulics slightly to allow the rinse water to flow from the trailer without creating a risk of slips or falls;
- Clean the high sections first, including any sections of the roll-tarpaulin that are exposed to fertiliser dust;
- Wash the walls down from the top to the bottom;
- Finally, wash the floor from the forward end to the back end.
- Dispose of rinsate and dust in an approved manner. Do not allow rinsate to enter waterways.

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