



FarmKenya Initiative:

Securing our Growth



How to Safely Transport Crop Protection Products

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The transportation of highly flammable or poisonous products like (Pest Control Products) can be a tricky affair for anyone intending to use them in a different location. This can be over short distances such as from the store to the main shop, from the shop to the farm or even over longer distances which cut across international borders.

The nightmare in the transportation of these products is the various risks they pose. These risks include exposure to humans, animals and the environment. Precautions must be taken so as to safely and securely deliver the Pest Control Products (PCPs) to the intended destination without any form of exposure. According to Agrochemical Association of Kenya (AAK), Chief Executive Officer, Eric Kimung'yi, several considerations need to be made to ensure the integrity of the products remains intact during and after transportation. "Ensure that the products are clearly labelled. The label should be in accordance with international and national regulations on chemical labelling. This makes it easy for handlers to identify any hazards that may arise during transportation. The hazards

may be physical, health or environmental," Eric says.

He adds that "Ensure the consignment is accompanied by a Safety Data Sheet (SDS). The SDS gives more information on the chemicals being transported and acts as a quick reference for the personnel involved in handling and transportation. Still, ensure the stacks are within the acceptable limits. Over stacking can lead to leakages and accidents during loading and offloading." While transporting bulk, the condition of the equipment used to transport is key in ensuring safety. All harnesses and straps should be properly working and no objects which may cause damage to the package should be in the same transportation space. The use of padding and pallets is also highly recommended. The transporter

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must be live to the facts that accidents can occur. As a precautionary measure, a spill kit and emergency first aid kit should be at hand in the event that an accident occurs and there is need to take corrective action. Weather proofing is important for such bulk consignments; because water, air and temperature fluctuations may have a significant effect of the integrity of the packaging as well as the contents being transported. Transporting small quantities of pest control products is as critical as transporting bulk.

This usually happens at the end user stage where they transport products either from the Agro dealer shop to the farm or from the store to the point of application. Eric advises that several considerations should be made in order to reduce the risks associated with these products. "Isolate the pest control products from food and animal feed to avoid cross contamination, you need also to inspect the transport means to ensure there are no sharp objects which can puncture the packaging, in addition to this, how you pack them matters. Secure the pest control products safely to avoid them knocking each other or against the chassis.



Containers of poisonous pesticides been offloaded from a truck. [Photo. AAK]

This can lead to spillage which poses a risk to the environment," Eric warns.

He adds that "If transport is by public vehicles, one must declare any pest control products being carried to the loader or driver so that appropriate preventive action can be taken. It is also important to place any pest control products away from the passenger cabin to avoid the risk of contamination and exposure. Lastly, do not leave the pest control products unattended since they can be mistaken for harmless products." As a general rule, the transporter should always consider the route to be taken from the point of collection to the destination so as to anticipate spillage or exposure.