

PRESS RELEASE

3 January 2024

Villa Crop Protection Urges Responsible Use of Dichlorvos 1000 EC

Villa Crop Protection, a leading supplier of agricultural chemicals in South Africa, is issuing an urgent notice regarding the responsible and registered use of DICHLORVOS 1000 EC. This notice follows previous communications in February and September 2023. We prioritise public safety and compliance with the specific registration under Act 36 of 1947.

Unauthorised Use Warning: It has been observed that DICHLORVOS 1000 EC, a product specifically registered for agricultural applications, has been incorrectly utilised in the Public Health Market, notably for purposes such as cockroach control and cattle fumigation. This usage is neither registered nor permitted. Villa Crop Protection emphasises that DICHLORVOS 1000 EC is not to be used outside of its intended agricultural purposes, as such applications can pose significant dangers to public health and safety.

Distribution and Sales Requirements: To ensure compliance, as of September 2023, Villa Crop Protection only resumed sales of DICHLORVOS 1000 EC to clients who acknowledged and agreed to the following conditions:

- The product is intended exclusively for registered agricultural applications.
- Sales are only to reputable business partners.
- Avoidance of cash sales to ensure traceability and stewardship.
- Maintenance of a sales register, ensuring the product reaches reputable growers (end users).
- Sale of the product in its original packaging, prohibiting decanting into smaller units.
- Retailers must apply or have a License under Section 4 of the Hazardous Substances Act of 1973 to supply group 1 hazardous substances, with proof of submission or license provided.

Consumer Advisory: Villa Crop Protection urges end consumers not to purchase DICHLORVOS 1000 EC for any unregistered uses. If consumers are uncertain about the supplier's credentials, they are encouraged to contact us directly at info@villacrop.co.za.

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**ABOUT VILLA CROP PROTECTION:**

Villa Crop Protection is committed to providing high-quality agricultural chemicals responsibly and safely, contributing to the sustainable growth of South Africa's agricultural sector.

HAZARDS AND RISKS OF USING DICHLORVOS 1000 EC INDOORS

Dichlorvos is a volatile substance (vapour pressure is 2100 mPa at 25 °C) and when applied indoors will rapidly saturate the indoor space. People residing, sleeping, or working in such spaces will be exposed to dichlorvos which has a high inhalation toxicity (LC₅₀ 4 hrs – 0.083 mg/L air). The hazard of dichlorvos thus materialises as a very high risk for people if applied as a concentrate or even diluted spray mixture indoors. Incidents in which pure dichlorvos was applied indoors resulted in severe organophosphate poisoning symptoms in people because whoever applied the product, overdosed the product 40 to 50 times compared to the dosage that is dispensed by registered dichlorvos containing fumigants.

WITHDRAWAL OF DOMESTIC/RESIDENTIAL USE OF DICHLORVOS 1000 EC FROM ITS LABEL

Following a request from CropLife South Africa in 2020, Villa Crop Protection withdrew the label instructions for the use of DICHLORVOS 1000 EC for building/premises/domestic use due to the risk posed by such use in the hands of irresponsible users. The product was never registered for indoor use and the label only indicated the use outside of buildings. In the interest of public safety, we withdrew all references to DICHLORVOS 1000 EC around buildings to prevent exposure of people to the product.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CEASE SALES OF DICHLORVOS 1000 EC TO CONSUMERS

As the registration holder of DICHLORVOS 1000 EC, Villa Crop Protection instructs all crop advisers and retailers to refrain from recommending, supplying, or selling our product to consumers who are not bona fide tanners. Any recommendations or sales of products which are contrary to the label instructions, are unlawful and will be reported to the Inspectorate of the Directorate of Agriculture Inputs Control.

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End of Press Release