



Type of document: FSC® Pesticide Derogation Approval

Confidentiality: No restrictions

Approved by: FSC Board Pesticides Committee

Effective Date: 13th April 2015

Expiration Date: 30th April 2018

Extended Date: 31st March 2019

Related Documents: *FSC-POL-30-001 FSC Pesticides Policy*
FSC-GUI-30-001 FSC Pesticides Policy Guidance
FSC-PRO-01-004 Processing pesticide derogation applications

Pesticide derogation: Use of paraquat dichloride in South Africa

FSC reference code: FSC-DER-30-V2-0 EN paraquat dichloride South Africa 130415

Date: 13th April 2015. Updated on 27th August 2015, 14th October 2015. Updated on 28 February 2017. Updated on 27 April 2018.

FSC Board Committee decision:

The Pesticides Committee has approved a derogation to use paraquat dichloride between the months of February and May¹ to control grassy and broad-leaved plants along firebreaks tracer belts in grasslands in South Africa, provided that the certificate holder:

1. limit paraquat use to steep slopes susceptible to soil erosion (with an inclination greater than 15%-20%) and to the minimum effective application rate, preferentially use the least hazardous herbicide/s available (in accordance with IPM principles), and supplement paraquat with suitable alternative herbicides, mechanical control (hoeing or mower in areas with low erosion risk), use of a mobile gas burner, and/or controlled burning (where the risk to small mammals and other non-target organisms was assessed and is considered to be low);
2. strictly follow safety protocols for pesticide use required by national or regional authorities and equip all workers who handle or spray paraquat with the necessary personal protective equipment, including a respirator with a mist filter, waterproof clothing (coverall) and boots, elbow-length gloves with high chemical resistance, splash-proof goggles, and (for handling concentrate) a face shield and chemical resistant apron;
3. ensure that only trained workers apply paraquat and only authorized persons have access to paraquat, that storage rooms are locked, and that backpack sprayers are regularly checked for leaks and serviced, instruct all workers involved in spraying of paraquat about the associated dangers and the need of using adequate personal

¹ Timeframe extended in October 2015 to accommodate weather conditions

protective equipment and strictly adhering to precautionary measures, acknowledge receipt of this notification, and keep records on training and notifications (available for inspection during annual audits);

4. periodically monitor potential exposure of all workers who handle or spray paraquat (via urine tests), verify if negative health effects among workers are caused by paraquat, and include results in reports to certifier (in particular skin irritation or burn, eye injury, acute poisoning, chronic effects on the lungs);
5. collaborate with other companies, scientific experts or PhD students at research institutions or commercial enterprises in the improvement of GIS mapping and computer models to identify areas with a high risk of fire, trials with mobile liquid petroleum gas burners and less hazardous alternative herbicides, e.g. carfentrazone-ethyl, and uracil herbicides (protox inhibitors) such as butafenacil, saflufenacil, benzfendizone, flupropacil, etc (if registration permits forestry use or if these can be registered for use in afforestation in South Africa);
6. record total annual use of paraquat, include data in audit reports, define quantitative reduction targets for total annual use (e.g. within joint programme for reduced chemical use), and provide a mid-term report to the certifier (which informs FSC IC) until the end of December 2016 on progress with a programme for alternatives;
7. present evidence, as part of the mid-term report, that active outreach to NGOs, local communities and forest workers has been conducted.

List of FSC certified forestry units covered by this derogation:

Derogation applicants		
Company	Certificate Number	Date of inclusion
NCT Forestry Co-operative Ltd.	SGS-FM/COC-000348	13 April 2015
SiyaQhubeka Forests (SQF)	SGS-FM/COC-000870	27 August 2015
Paradise Falls	SGS-FM/CoC-010419	
Mondi Forests	SGS-FM/COC-000084	
HM Timber Limited t/a Berg & East Griqualand Forests	SA-FM/COC- 003134;	
Singisi Forest Products – Matiwane Forest	SA-FM/COC- 003149	
TWK Agri (Pty) Ltd	SA-FM/COC-001353	
York Timbers (Pty) Ltd	SGS-FM/COC 000809	
Amathole Forestry Company	SGS-FM/COC-000123	
Komatiland Forest (Pty) Ltd	SGS-FM/CoC-000068	
Sappi Southern Africa Limited – Forests	SA-FM/COC-001230	
Sappi Out-growers scheme	SA-FM/COC/1363	

Derogation applicants		
Company	Certificate Number	Date of inclusion
TWK Agri (Pty) Ltd	SA-FM/COC 005193	28 February 2017