



**Type of document:** FSC® Pesticide Derogation Approval

**Confidentiality:** No restrictions

**Approved by:** FSC Board Pesticides Committee

**Effective Date:** 07 November 2017

**Expiration Date:** 07 November 2020

**Related Documents:** *FSC-POL-30-001 FSC Pesticides Policy*  
*FSC-STD-30-001 Indicators and thresholds for the identification of 'highly hazardous' pesticides (HHP)*  
*FSC-PRO-30-001 Pesticide Derogation Procedure*

**Pesticide derogation:** Use of paraquat dichloride in South Africa

**FSC reference code:** FSC-DER-30-V2-0 EN paraquat dichloride South Africa 07112017

**Date:** 07 November 2017

**FSC Board Committee decision:**

The Pesticides Committee has approved a derogation to use paraquat dichloride for the preparation of firebreaks in South Africa provided that the certificate holder applies the pesticide with the following conditions:

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. Personal protective equipment: Despite providing PPE for every worker that either mixes or applies paraquat, the certificate holder shall have a monitoring process in place to ensure that all workers applying paraquat must always be fully clad in their supplied PPE. Any worker found failing this must be removed from the spray operation immediately and disciplined according to company HR protocol. Regular checks shall be done on PPE to ensure all parts are still serviceable and any worn out items such as gloves or boots must be replaced. All PPE must be thoroughly cleaned every day after end of the working session.
2. Personal safety: Before a spray season commences all spray operators shall undergo health checks with full blood analysis. Workers who are immune compromised should not be tasked with handling or applying paraquat. After the spray season, all spray operators must undergo the same health checks and full blood analysis. Urine tests during the spray season shall be conducted on all spray operators. Spray operators must undergo refresher training at least twice per annum.

3. Cease spraying during windy conditions. Spraying with paraquat shall not commence when the wind velocity exceeds 10 km/hour.
4. Incident management. The certificate holder shall have access to a 24 hour poison information centre for advice on managing personal exposure, spills or fires. Spill containment and management kits must be available in pesticide stores. Clinical staff responsible for health care in the company acquaint themselves with stabilisation and immediate treatment of a person may accidentally or deliberately ingest paraquat or have a large scale dermal contact with the product.
5. Evacuation of people and livestock from the spray area. The certificate holder shall have a system in place to inform local communities that spraying with paraquat will commence and that no person nor any livestock may be present during the application of paraquat and for the first four days after application of paraquat. Checks shall be done in the treated area to ensure no people or livestock enter the treated areas.
6. Program to identify alternatives to paraquat. The certificate holder shall continue collaborating with other companies, scientific experts or PhD students at research institutions or commercial enterprises in the search for alternatives to highly hazardous pesticides.
7. Limited acquisition of paraquat. The certificate holder should only order and acquire sufficient paraquat formulation for total use in one season to prevent accumulation of obsolete pesticide stocks.
8. Empty container management. The certificate holder should ensure that all paraquat containers are triple rinsed according CropLife SA instructions and triple rinsed containers are handed over to, or collected by approved recyclers. No containers, however clean they may be, may be donated or sold to any other persons.

**List of FSC certified forestry units covered by this derogation:**

Derogation applicants		
Company	Certificate Number	Date of inclusion
NECF	candidate	07 November 2017