



Waste Minimisation (Agrichemicals and Farm Plastics) Regulations 2026

Rt Hon Dame Helen Winkelmann, Administrator of the Government

Order in Council

At Wellington this 24th day of August 2026

Present:

Her Excellency the Administrator of the Government in Council

These regulations are made under sections 22 and 23 of the Waste Minimisation Act 2008—

- (a) on the advice and with the consent of the Executive Council; and
- (b) on the recommendation of the Minister for the Environment made after complying with sections 22(2) and 23(3) of that Act.

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Regulations

1 Title

These regulations are the Waste Minimisation (Agrichemicals and Farm Plastics) Regulations 2026.

2 Commencement

These regulations come into force on 1 March 2027.

3 Interpretation

In these regulations, unless the context otherwise requires,—

Act means the Waste Minimisation Act 2008

Agrecovery Foundation means the charitable trust of that name established by trust deed dated 16 December 2005

agrchemical—

- (a) means a liquid or solid substance used to—
 - (i) manage plants or livestock; or
 - (ii) control pests; or
 - (iii) regulate plant or livestock health; and
- (b) excludes—
 - (i) products supplied in aerosol form; and
 - (ii) detergents and sanitisers; and

- (iii) vertebrate toxic agents; and
- (iv) products intended for domestic use (except for products used in controlling pests or weeds in a home or garden)

agricultural product means—

- (a) seeds used for sowing, including pasture, arable, horticultural, and specialised crop seeds:
- (b) livestock feeds, including grain-based rations and specialised feeds:
- (c) fertilisers, including conventional and speciality fertilisers, used to enhance horticultural production or crop and pasture growth:
- (d) soil and crop inputs used to improve soil structure, fertility, or productivity (excluding home garden products):
- (e) supplements provided in addition to livestock feed and used to support livestock health, performance, and nutrition

Group 1 agrichemical means an agrichemical that is—

- (a) an adjuvant:
- (b) an animal nutrient (within the meaning given in regulation 3 of the Agricultural Compounds and Veterinary Medicines (Exemptions and Prohibited Substances) Regulations 2011) if that animal nutrient is—
 - (i) exempted from registration under the Agricultural Compounds and Veterinary Medicines Act 1997; and
 - (ii) not classified as hazardous under the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996:
- (c) a dye:
- (d) a fertiliser that is not classified as hazardous under the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996:
- (e) a foam marker:
- (f) a spray marker:
- (g) a spraying oil:
- (h) a spreader:
- (i) a sticker:
- (j) a surfactant:
- (k) a wetting agent

Group 2 agrichemical means an agrichemical that is not a Group 1 agrichemical or a Group 3 agrichemical

Group 3 agrichemical means an agrichemical that—

- (a) is a veterinary medication; or
- (b) is an anthelmintic; or

(c) is a fertiliser classified as hazardous under the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996; or

(d) contains 1 or more of the active ingredients listed in Schedule 2

home garden products means soil and crop input products used for domestic gardening, including potting and planting mixes, mulch, pumice, vermiculite, and perlite

livestock includes poultry and equine animals

quarter means a 3-month period starting on 1 January, 1 April, 1 July, or 1 October

regulated products means the products described in regulation 5

Rural Recycling Scheme means the accredited scheme for the management of the regulated products operated by the Agrecovery Foundation

scheme manager means the scheme manager of the Rural Recycling Scheme.

4 Transitional, savings, and related provisions

The transitional, savings, and related provisions (if any) set out in Schedule 1 have effect according to their terms.

Regulated products

5 Regulated products

(1) The following products are regulated products:

(a) agrichemicals sold in plastic containers and plastic drums of 1,000 litres or less in volume:

(b) plastic bale wrap and silage sheets:

(c) agricultural products—

(i) packaged in plastic bags where the weight of each unit is 16 kilograms or more, but is not more than 40 kilograms:

(ii) packaged in woven polypropylene bags where the weight of each unit is more than 40 kilograms.

(2) An agricultural product described in subclause (1)(c) is a regulated product only if the product—

(a) has completed manufacture and is packaged ready for supply, sale, or distribution in New Zealand; and

(b) is not to be supplied for its further manufacturing or processing within New Zealand.

*Prohibition on sale of regulated products***6 Prohibition on sale of regulated products**

- (1) A person must not sell a regulated product except in accordance with the Rural Recycling Scheme.
- (2) A person sells a regulated product in accordance with the Rural Recycling Scheme if the producer of that product is registered with the Rural Recycling Scheme.
- (3) *See* section 65(1)(a) and (b) of the Act for related offences.

*Fees***7 Product stewardship fees for regulated products**

- (1) Regulations 8 and 9 set the product stewardship fees payable by producers for the management of the regulated products (*see* section 23(1)(d) of the Act).
- (2) The scheme manager must send a quarterly invoice to each producer registered under the Rural Recycling Scheme that specifies the fees payable by the producer for that quarter.
- (3) A producer must pay the fees—
 - (a) to the scheme manager; and
 - (b) within 20 working days of receipt of the quarterly invoice.
- (4) *See* section 65(1)(c) of the Act for the related offence.

8 Fees for agrichemicals

- (1) A producer must pay a product stewardship fee for each regulated agrichemical product sold in New Zealand by the producer.
- (2) The total fee payable in respect of each regulated agrichemical product is to be calculated by adding together the packaging component and chemical component for that product.
- (3) The packaging component of the fee is,—
 - (a) for household pest and weed control products, the fee set out in table 1 of Schedule 3:
 - (b) for all other agrichemical products, calculated by multiplying the volume of the container (in litres) by the applicable fee per litre as specified in table 2 of Schedule 3.
- (4) The chemical component of the fee is calculated,—
 - (a) for solid agrichemicals, by multiplying the weight of the product in kilograms by the applicable rate for that group of agrichemicals as specified in table 3 of Schedule 3:

- (b) for liquid agrichemicals, by multiplying the volume of the product in litres by the applicable rate for that group of agrichemicals as specified in that table.
- (5) In this regulation, **regulated agrichemical product** means an agrichemical sold in plastic containers and plastic drums of 1,000 litres or less in volume.

9 Fees for farm plastics

- (1) A producer must pay a product stewardship fee on each regulated farm plastic product sold in New Zealand by the producer.
- (2) The fee payable on each regulated farm plastic product is the applicable fee, based on product type, specified in table 4 of Schedule 3.
- (3) In this regulation, **regulated farm plastic product** means—
 - (a) plastic bale wrap and silage sheets:
 - (b) agricultural products that are regulated products under regulation 5.

10 Exemption

A person is not required to pay a fee under these regulations for a product exported from New Zealand.

11 Fees exclusive of GST

The fees payable under, and any amounts referred to in, these regulations are exclusive of goods and services tax.

12 Purposes for which fees must be used by scheme manager

The scheme manager must apply the product stewardship fees for the following purposes:

- (a) to manage the Rural Recycling Scheme:
- (b) to fund the take-back service described in regulation 15:
- (c) to pay the costs of monitoring the scheme to the Secretary as described in regulation 13:
- (d) to collect the fees payable under these regulations.

13 Costs for monitoring scheme

- (1) This regulation relates to the costs payable to the Secretary under section 20 of the Act for monitoring the performance of the Rural Recycling Scheme (*see* sections 20(b) and 22(1)(e) of the Act).
- (2) The scheme manager must pay the costs to the Secretary from the fees collected under these regulations.
- (3) The costs are fixed at \$220,000 per year.
- (4) The scheme manager must pay the costs quarterly, within 20 days of receipt of an invoice issued by the Secretary.

*Information gathering***14 Information to be collected by scheme manager**

- (1) The scheme manager must collect the following information from producers registering with the Rural Recycling Scheme:
 - (a) the producer's name;
 - (b) the producer's New Zealand Business Number;
 - (c) the producer's contact information;
 - (d) a list of all brand names and product names used to sell the regulated products.
- (2) The scheme manager must collect information from each registered producer about the quantity and type of each regulated product sold in New Zealand by the producer during each quarter.
- (3) The scheme manager must—
 - (a) collect the information in subclause (2) within 60 days after the end of each quarter; and
 - (b) provide that information (and any other information required under the accreditation for the Rural Recycling Scheme) to the Secretary within 75 days after the end of each quarter.

*Take-back service***15 Take-back service**

- (1) The scheme manager must—
 - (a) provide, or arrange for others to provide, a take-back service for waste regulated products; and
 - (b) collect and provide to the Secretary information about the requirements for the take-back service imposed by this regulation.
- (2) The take-back service must—
 - (a) apply to waste regulated products that satisfy criteria for acceptance under the Rural Recycling Scheme; and
 - (b) be available to any person, including any consumer or commercial user; and
 - (c) provide a system for tracking the collection of waste regulated products; and
 - (d) meet any targets that are set by the Rural Recycling Scheme.
- (3) See section 65(1)(c) of the Act for the related offence.
- (4) In this regulation, **waste regulated products** means regulated products that are waste or diverted material.

Schedule 1
Transitional, savings, and related provisions

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Part 1
Provisions relating to these regulations as made

There are no transitional, savings, or related provisions in these regulations as made.

Schedule 2

Active ingredients in Group 3 agrichemicals

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Acephate
Alachlor
Azamethiphos
Bifenthrin
Chlorothalonil
Chlorpyrifos
Chlorthiamid
Clopyralid
Cyanamide
Cyfluthrin
Cypermethrin
2,4-D
Diazinon
Dicamba
Dichlobenil
Dichlorvos
Dinoseb
Malathion
MCPB
Parathion
Permethrin
Phosmet
Terbufos
Tetrachlorvinphos
Tetramethrin
Thiram
Triforine

Schedule 3

Product stewardship fees for regulated products

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Table 1

Packaging component of product stewardship fees for household pest and weed control products

Column 1	Column 2
Item description	Fee per item (\$)
Household pest and weed control products	0.10

Table 2

Packaging component of product stewardship fees for other agrichemical products

Column 1	Column 2
Item description	Fee per litre (\$)
Containers with volume of 60 litres or less	0.10
Containers with volume greater than 60 litres (excluding Intermediate Bulk Containers)	0.025
Intermediate Bulk Containers	0.02

Table 3

Chemical component of agrichemical product stewardship fees

Column 1	Column 2
Item description	Fee per litre or kilogram (\$)
Group 1 agrichemicals—household pest and weed control products	0.02
Group 2 agrichemicals—household pest and weed control products	0.08
Group 3 agrichemicals—household pest and weed control products	0.10
Other Group 1 agrichemicals	0.01
Other Group 2 agrichemicals	0.03
Other Group 3 agrichemicals in containers up to 60 litres in volume	0.04
Other Group 3 agrichemicals in containers more than 60 litres in volume	0.06

Table 4

Product stewardship fees for regulated farm plastic products

Column 1	Column 2
Item description	Fee (\$)
Bale wrap	462.02 per tonne
Silage sheets	462.02 per tonne
Agricultural products in plastic bags (weighing 16 to 40 kilograms when full)	0.20 per bag

Column 1	Column 2
Item description	Fee (\$)
Agricultural products in woven polypropylene bags (weighing over 40 kilograms when full)	3.58 per bag

Rachel Hayward,
Clerk of the Executive Council.

Explanatory note

This note is not part of the regulations but is intended to indicate their general effect.

These regulations, which come into force on 1 March 2027, prohibit the sale of the following products (the **regulated products**) unless the sale is in accordance with the Rural Recycling Scheme:

- agrichemicals sold in plastic containers or plastic drums of 1,000 litres or less in volume;
- plastic bale wrap and silage sheets;
- products used in agriculture that are packaged in plastic bags where the weight of each unit is at least 16 kilograms but not more than 40 kilograms;
- products used in agriculture that are packaged in woven polypropylene bags where the weight of each unit is more than 40 kilograms.

A sale is in accordance with the Rural Recycling Scheme if the producer of the regulated product is registered with the scheme.

These regulations also—

- prescribe the product stewardship fees that producers of regulated products must pay to the Rural Recycling Scheme; and
- describe the purposes for which those fees must be used by the Rural Recycling Scheme; and
- prescribe information that must be collected by the Rural Recycling Scheme; and
- require the Rural Recycling Scheme to operate a take-back service for waste regulated products.

Regulatory impact statement

The Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions, and Transport produced a regulatory impact statement on 22 October 2025 to help inform the decisions taken by the Government relating to the contents of this instrument.

A copy of this regulatory impact statement can be found at—

- <https://environment.govt.nz/what-government-is-doing/cabinet-papers-and-regulatory-impact-statements/>
- <https://www.regulation.govt.nz/our-work/regulatory-impact-statements/>

Consistency with principles of responsible regulation

The Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions, and Transport provided the following documents relating to its review of this secondary legislation, and its process for developing it, for consistency with the principles of responsible regulation under the Regulatory Standards Act 2025:

- a consistency accountability statement on 23 July 2026:
- a summary of underpinning analysis on 23 July 2026.

Copies of these documents can be found at—

- <https://www.mcert.govt.nz/publications/>

The Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions, and Transport considers that a statement from the maker under section 14(1)(b) of the Regulatory Standards Act 2025 is not required for this secondary legislation.

Issued under the authority of the Legislation Act 2019.

Date of notification in *Gazette*: 27 August 2026.

These regulations are administered by the Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions, and Transport.