

Producing a Quality Product

Today's consumers, both domestically and internationally, are demanding a high quality product, and in particular one free of chemical residues. The Australian farmer grows a quality product and needs to continue to use only registered chemicals and good husbandry to ensure this quality is maintained.

Food manufacturers are conscious of the threat of consumer prosecution and/or government action against any products containing illegal or excessive chemical residues. Consequently all raw materials are thoroughly checked prior to processing.

As a consequence the Australian crushing industry has to take the necessary precautions to ensure it can meet the manufacturers specifications.

The following testing procedure is an example of common practice used in the oilseed industry.

1. A sample is retained from each consignment at every receival point.
2. Random samples are fully tested for chemical residues.
3. Bulk samples from all storages eg. local depots are taken and analysed for chemical residue prior to despatch for crushing.
4. If any residues are found, all growers samples contributing to the storage are analysed to determine the source of the contamination.
5. The supplier of the contaminated seed faces loss of payment and possible prosecution.

On-farm grain storage can be effectively utilised by negotiating on-farm storage contracts.

CHEMICALS REGISTERED FOR SUNFLOWER

On crop

only use those chemicals registered for weed, insect and disease control at their label rates.

The use of above label rates and unregistered chemicals can result in loss of crop payment or even prosecution.

If in doubt - check the label.

In storage

Chemicals registered for use on cereal grains are not necessarily registered for use on oilseeds. Exercise caution when putting oilseeds into storage which have been used for other crops.

For further information refer to the AOF leaflet "Chemicals for Storing Oilseeds".

or contact:

*Robin Reid, Graincorp Toowoomba
(07) 4639 9244.*

