



May I use it?

The basics of agricultural registrations

In the agricultural industry, the use of different chemicals or substances is accompanied by many questions. They range from a simple 'will it work?' to 'it is registered on another crop for the same purpose, may I use it?'

Hanna-Let Rautenbach
SUBTROP

OFF-LABEL USE OF AGRICULTURAL REMEDIES AND FERTILISERS IS PROHIBITED BY LAW IN SOUTH AFRICA.

If a product is registered for a specific purpose on another crop and not specified for the crop in question, the product is not allowed to be used on that specific crop, e.g. if a product is registered for the control of *Phytophthora* in potatoes, and it does not specify use on avocado on the label, it may not be used for the control of *Phytophthora* on avocado, irrespective of the possibility that it may work.

WHEN IT COMES TO THE USE OF DIFFERENT CHEMICALS OR SUBSTANCES FOR A SPECIFIC PURPOSE ON A SPECIFIC CROP, THE ANSWER IS SIMPLE.

• Is it registered under Act 36 of 1947: Does it have a L, B, M or K registration number?	Y	Y	N	N
• Does the label indicate what you want to use it for?	Y	N	Y	N
May I use it?	Yes		No	

WHAT ARE L, K, B AND M REGISTRATIONS?

L-Registrations

L-Registration numbers are awarded to agricultural remedies registered under Act 36 of 1947 (Nepfumbada, 2016).

'Any chemical substance or biological remedy, or any mixture or combination of any substance or remedy intended or offered to be used -

(a) for the destruction, control, repelling, attraction or prevention of any undesired microbe, alga, nematode, fungus, insect, plant, vertebrate, invertebrate or any product thereof, but excluding any chemical substance, biological remedy or

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Teacher 230 SC is a contact suspension concentrate fungicide for the control of post-harvest diseases in Cherries, Citrus, Kiwis, Litchis, Mangoes, Papayas, Pomegranates, Pome Fruits (Apples & Pears), Stone Fruits (Apricots, Nectarines, Peaches, Plums) and Sweet Potatoes.



ICA Prochloraz⁴⁵⁰ EC

ICA Prochloraz 450 EC is an emulsifiable concentrate fungicide for the control of post-harvest diseases in Avocado, Banana, Citrus and Mango.

Teacher 230 SC and ICA Prochloraz 450 EC are products of ICA International Chemicals (PTY) Ltd. Reg. No. 2001/013319/07.

Teacher 230 SC contains 230 g/ℓ fludioxonil (phenylpyrrole). Reg. No. L9919 of Act 36 of 1947.

ICA Prochloraz 450 EC contains 450 g/ℓ prochloraz . Reg. No. L8478 of Act 36 of 1947.

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other remedy in so far as it is controlled under the Medicines and Related Substances Control Act, 1965 (Act 101 of 1965), or the Hazardous Substances Act, 1973 (Act 15 of 1973); or (b) as plant growth regulator, defoliant, desiccant or legume inoculant, (c) and anything else which the Minister has by notice in the Gazette declared an agricultural remedy for the purposes of this Act.'

Fertiliser registrations

Act 36 defines a **fertiliser** as follows (DAFF, 2015): 'Any substance which is intended or offered to be used for improving or maintaining the growth of plants or the productivity of the soil.'

Fertilisers are divided into three different groups:

Group 1: Contains more than 100 g/kg of nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P) or potassium (K) as the main ingredients. They are also known as inorganic fertilisers (South African Government, 2016). Awarded a **K-Registration** under Act 36 of 1947.

Group 2: Contains less than 100 g/kg of

nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P) or potassium (K) as the main ingredients. They are also known as organic fertilisers (South African Government, 2016). Awarded a **B-Registration** under Act 36 of 1947.

Group 3: A natural or synthetic substance or organism/s that improve/s the growth or yield of plants or the physical, chemical or biological condition of the soil (DAFF, 2016). Awarded a **M-Registration** under Act 36 of 1947.

Companies usually prefer the Fertiliser Registration instead of L-Registrations because it has fewer requirements and ultimately costs less. Due to this fact, Fertiliser Registrations are a lot quicker than L-Registrations. L-Registrations can take three to five years to develop and sometimes even longer periods, if field conditions are not ideal for registration trials (Matteucci, 2016).

Before using any product on a crop, it is essential to remember that registration and compliance to the label is key!

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