AMMONIUM NITRATE

Security-Sensitive Ammonium Nitrate (SSAN)* was **BANNED** for agricultural purposes in Tasmania from 21 November 2005.

What is the law?

Under the Security-Sensitive Dangerous Substances Act 2005, Security-Sensitive Ammonium Nitrate* was banned for agricultural purposes in Tasmania from November 21 2005.

The transitional period for disposal of SSAN has now passed. You can now be penalised (fined) for the possession of Security-Sensitive Ammonium Nitrate.

What fertilisers are affected?

Security Sensitive Ammonium Nitrate fertilisers include:

- Ammonium Nitrate (Nitram);
- Calcium Ammonium Nitrate (Cal-Am); and
- Blends containing more than 45% Nitram or 56% Cal-Am.

These products are not presently marketed by either of the major fertiliser suppliers in Tasmania, Impact Fertilisers or Incitec Pivot.

Ammonium Sulfate Nitrate (Incitec Pivot N-Sure) is not classified as SSAN, as it contains 40% ammonium nitrate and 60% ammonium sulfate.

How can I dispose of existing stocks of SSAN fertilisers?

If you have existing stocks of Nitram, Cal-Am or any other SSAN fertiliser, there are 2 options available to farmers;

1. Spread as fertiliser on to your pastures or crops.
2. Contact the Department of Primary Industries and Water (DPIW) on 1300 368 550 for advice on disposal of large quantities of SSAN.

*Security-Sensitive Ammonium Nitrate relates to all fertilisers that contain more than 45% ammonium nitrate.

You can be penalised (fined) for possession of Security-Sensitive Ammonium Nitrate.

Urea is the most economical source of nitrogen and therefore the most commonly used nitrogen fertiliser.

Contact the Department of Primary Industries and Water (DPIW) on 1300 368 550 for advice on disposal of large quantities of SSAN.

What alternative fertilisers are available?

Tasmania's major fertiliser suppliers, Impact Fertilisers and Incitec Pivot, have already withdrawn all SSAN products from sale in Tasmania. The following is a list of alternative solid fertilisers they have available;

Fertiliser Compound	% Nitrogen	Impact	Incitec Pivot
Urea	46	✓	✓
Ammonium sulfate nitrate (N-Sure)	26	✗	✓
Sulfate of ammonia	20.2 to 21	✓	✓

Urea, N-Sure and sulfate of ammonia are also available in blends.

Urea is the most economical source of nitrogen and therefore the most commonly used nitrogen fertiliser.

Ammonium nitrate fertilisers are sometimes used in preference to urea where a quick response is required to nitrate or where volatilisation loses from surface applied urea may be high. Applying the fertiliser into the soil, applying it with irrigation water or irrigating it in soon after application can prevent volatilisation loss. Rain will also carry the fertiliser into the soil.

In general, the yields achieved with different nitrogen fertilisers are similar. A literature review by the University of Melbourne on the results of 600 fertiliser experiments conducted over the last 50 years show that there is no yield differences between the different sources of nitrogen (Eckard, 2004)."

N-Sure may be used if a fertiliser containing some nitrogen in the nitrate form is required. It contains 26% nitrogen (N), 19% in the ammonium form, 7% as nitrate. N-Sure needs to be applied at a 25% higher rate than Nitram to apply the same rate of nitrogen.

Urea Ammonium Nitrate or UAN solution is also available. Incitec Pivot EASY N contains 42.5% w/v N, 21.5% as urea, 10.5% as ammonium, and 10.5% as nitrate.

Reference

Eckard, R., (2004), What's gone with ammonium nitrate, Grassland Society of Southern Australia Inc. Newsletter.

Participating Organisations

Further information

Information on alternative fertilisers will be available from DPIW discussion groups, via local agribusiness outlets or by calling DPIW on

1300 368 550

For further information on permits and legislation of Security-Sensitive Dangerous Substances (including SSAN), for non-agricultural purposes, ring Workplace StandardsTasmania on

1300 366 322