

The Bulk Storage Program

Purpose: To store large quantities of agricultural chemicals in a safe manner with the least possible impact on people, property, and the environment.

The bulk storage program provides environmental and groundwater protection while also providing an operational scheme that will protect the products being stored and personnel working in the facility.

Currently, over 250 bulk storage facilities are registered and inspected on an annual basis by staff in the Pesticide and Plant Pest Management Division.

Regulation 640: Commercial Pesticide Bulk Storage (enacted 1992) and Regulation 641: Commercial Fertilizer Bulk Storage (enacted 1999) list the requirements to store bulk agrichemicals for commercial use.



Types of Containment

Primary

All liquid pesticides and fertilizers need to be stored in containers (tanks) resistant to corrosion, puncture, and cracking.

Secondary

While the tank itself is essential as a safeguard from potential releases, all bulk liquid tanks must be within a diked area. The dike must be able to hold 110 percent of the largest tank's volume, plus a six-inch volume of rainfall, and the displacement of other tanks below the wall.

Types of containment materials include:

sealed concrete



fabricated steel



modular concrete block, concrete, fiberglass, or treated lumber frame w/synthetic liner



synthetic or clay lined earthen berm (fertilizers only)

Operational

To prevent any runoff or leaching of agrichemicals, all operations need to be conducted on a mix/load pad.

The mix/load pad must have:

- an impermeable surface
- minimum dimensions of 10' by 20'
- at least a 1,500 gallon capacity



Dry Products

Although bulk dry products do not require secondary containment, products need to be stored in a building or structure that prevents contact with precipitation and surface water.



What is Considered Bulk?

Bulk Pesticide

- 55 gallons individual quantity
- 100 lbs individual quantity includes minibulks includes solutions and rinsates

Minibulk Pesticide

- undivided quantity ranging from 55 to 400 gallons

Bulk Fertilizer

- 2,500 gallons individual quantity
- 7,500 gallons combined total
- 2,000 lbs individual quantity includes solutions and rinsates



Registration

Each new, existing, and proposed commercial bulk storage facility is required to register annually with the Michigan Department of Agriculture & Rural Development.

Registration consists of 4 parts:

- Application on Form Provided by MDARD
- Discharge Response Plan
- Site Plan
- Aboveground Storage Tank Register

All registrations expire on December 31st of each year and there is no fee required to register.

Other Areas Addressed

- Siting
- Security
- Container Labeling
- Liquid Level Gauging
- Inspection and Maintenance
- Recordkeeping
- Operational Plans
- Site Remediation
- Abandoned Containers

Agrichemicals Need to be Stored in a Manner that...

- Protects the environment
- Ensures human and animal safety
- Preserves the product and container integrity



For More Information:

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Bulk Storage

Requirements for the Commercial Storage of Bulk Agrichemicals

**Pesticide & Plant Pest Management
Division**

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