
Safe Weed Spraying Operation

Consolidated Group | Equipment Operating Procedure | EOP09

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Applies to	CG, CTS and JG operators, employees, contractors and subcontractors
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1.0 Introduction

This Equipment Operating Procedure (EOP) establishes the formal methodology by which all safe weed spraying operations are performed on sites controlled by Consolidated Group of Companies (CGC), including the safe handling and application of herbicides.

2.0 Purpose

This procedure ensures weed spraying operations are conducted safely and efficiently, that chemicals are stored, handled and applied in accordance with product labels and Safety Data Sheets (SDS), and that operators are competent to perform the function for which they are engaged.

3.0 Scope

This procedure applies to all CGC personnel and contractors conducting weed spraying operations on any CGC work site or project.

4.0 Related Documents and Definitions

4.1 Related Documents

- Job Safety Analysis (JSA) / Safe Work Method Statement (SWMS)
- Safety Data Sheet (SDS) for each chemical in use
- Chemical Register
- Environmental Management Plan (site-specific)
- Spill Response Procedure

4.2 Definitions

SDS	Safety Data Sheet — must be current (within 5 years) and available on site for every chemical in use
Buffer Zone	The minimum distance maintained from waterways, vegetation, or sensitive receptors during spraying, per the product label and Environmental Management Plan
PPE	Personal Protective Equipment, including chemical-rated items specified on the SDS

5.0 Roles and Responsibilities

5.1 Operator

Holds current competency for the chemical application method used, completes pre-start inspections, reads and follows the SDS and product label for each chemical, and reports any spill, exposure or equipment fault immediately.

5.2 Supervisor

Confirms operator competency and chemical approval before work begins, and ensures SDS and Chemical Register are current and accessible.

6.0 Pre-Start and Planning

6.1 Pre-Start Toolbox Meeting

Before commencing work, all personnel attend the pre-start meeting conducted by the project supervisor, delegate or client representative, covering:

- The vehicle/pump to be operated and its condition/defect status
- Where personnel and other machinery will be operating
- The chemical(s) to be applied, associated SDS and any buffer zone or weather restrictions
- Safety topics relevant to the work area, and the opportunity to raise hazards or concerns

6.2 Minimum Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Before departing the pre-start meeting, all personnel must be wearing or carrying:

- Safety helmet, safety glasses, safety boots
- High-visibility clothing meeting the site day/night rating
- Long sleeve shirt with collar, long trousers and socks
- Chemical-rated PPE specified on the SDS for the product(s) in use — typically chemical-resistant (PVC/nitrile) gloves, goggles or face shield, and respiratory protection where required

6.3 Pre-Start Inspection of the Vehicle and Pump

Before commencing work, the operator must complete a documented walk-around inspection of the vehicle and spray unit.

Item	Pass	Fail	N/A
Pump and frame are undamaged and clean			
No out-of-service or danger tags in place			
Engine oil and hydraulic oil levels are sufficient			
Hoses are in good condition, free from sag, damage or debris			
No fuel, oil, water or chemical leaks			
Fire extinguisher present, in good condition, arrow in the green, current test tag			
Pull rope/starter mechanism undamaged			
On/off and emergency stop switches are operational			
Chemical/water tank is not leaking and all fill caps are secure			
Spray gun/nozzle is undamaged and produces correct spray pattern			
Fuel tank is at the required level			
Current SDS for the chemical(s) loaded is on hand			
Spill kit is present, stocked and accessible			
Required PPE (including chemical-rated items) is in good condition and available			

All deficiencies are to be recorded on the pre-start inspection form and reported to the Supervisor immediately. Do not operate with a leaking tank, damaged hose or missing SDS.

6.4 Mounting, Dismounting and Refuelling/Filling

- Always use the safety step and maintain three points of contact
- Always face the vehicle when mounting or dismounting
- Never mount or dismount moving equipment, and never jump from a step
- Take extra care in wet conditions as steps and hand rails may be slippery
- Ensure good footing before releasing hand rails

7.0 Start-Up Procedure

Prior to starting the pump, the operator shall:

1. Turn the ignition switch to the on position
2. Start the engine and release the key once running
3. Confirm all gauges are operating normally
4. Allow the engine to idle for 1–2 minutes to warm up
5. Check the water/chemical flow handles and confirm flow through the pump

Level	Indicator	Action
1	Low pressure	Operator to be aware of the problem and monitor
2	Engine cutting in and out	Check fuel level
3	Complete loss of pressure	Stop pump and check for burst hose or low water level. All leaks must be rectified before operation resumes

8.0 Before Spraying

Prior to spraying, the operator shall ensure that:

- Clear communication is established with the vehicle operator
- All PPE, including chemical-rated items, is correctly fitted
- The emergency stop switch has been tested
- The park brake is disengaged only once ready to move
- There is a clear line of sight to the area being sprayed
- Current weather conditions (wind speed/direction) are within the product label restrictions, and buffer zones to waterways and sensitive vegetation are identified

9.0 Safe Pump and Chemical Application Operation

Different sites have different rules and conditions, but the following points apply to safe, efficient spraying operations:

- Keep alert for animals, persons and vehicles that create hazards at the roadside
- Walk around loose material or uneven ground where possible rather than through it
- Evaluate the task before commencing — check for personnel, equipment, and the area/type of weeds to be treated
- Use the lowest effective spray pressure to reduce drift, and spray at low pressure when close to the target
- Only perform slow turns while spraying
- Treat hoses with care and avoid running over rocks or debris
- When parking, apply the park brake and select first gear
- Do not operate the spray gun unless properly balanced and braced
- When spraying uphill, take care not to allow chemical to spray back onto yourself
- Reduce flow, or stop spraying, in windy conditions that risk drift beyond the target area
- Do not run the pump when the tank is very low, to avoid pump damage and chemical concentration changes
- Wash down equipment and PPE in a designated wash-down area, not into stormwater or waterways
- Report any spill immediately and action the Spill Response Procedure

10.0 Parking and Shutdown

When instructed to park, operators shall:

6. Park in a designated parking area
7. Apply the park brake, select first gear and shut down the engine
8. Ensure the pump is not running

CRITICAL

At the end of shift, the operator must ensure the pump and vehicle are clean and free of leaks, and have not been parked under powerlines or on a haul road.

11.0 Breakdown Procedure

If the pump or vehicle breaks down, the operator must immediately notify their Supervisor and switch on hazard lights, then follow instructions given.

11.1 Parking Equipment Needing Repair

Park correctly, wait for assistance and follow the Supervisor's instructions.

11.2 Servicing, Refuelling or Refilling

Operators must be out of the cab and on the ground while servicing, refuelling or refilling is carried out, to ensure nobody is near the controls.

12.0 Fires and Electrification

12.1 Fires

Fires can result from contact with overhead powerlines, lightning strike, fuel/chemical leaks or electrical faults. On becoming aware of an active fire, the operator will:

- Notify the Supervisor by radio/phone immediately
- Park at the closest designated area, or where directed
- Shut down the vehicle/pump
- Vacate from the side opposite the fire, where possible
- Move to a distance of at least 100 metres, or as specified in the site Emergency Response Plan
- Only attempt to fight the fire if safe and trained to do so

12.2 Vehicle Electrification

Should the operator suspect the vehicle has become electrified:

- Notify the Supervisor immediately
- Remain in the vehicle until advised it is safe to evacuate
- Park so the vehicle can be accessed by a rescue vehicle (usually a water truck or similar)
- If forced to leave due to fire risk, jump clear without touching any steel component, and without contacting the ground and vehicle at the same time

13.0 Chemical Spill and Exposure Response

In the event of a chemical spill or suspected exposure: stop the spray operation, notify the Supervisor immediately, refer to the SDS for first aid and containment measures, use the spill kit to contain and clean up the spill, and do not allow contaminated wash water to enter stormwater or waterways.

14.0 Fatigue Management

It is every employee's responsibility to advise their Supervisor of circumstances preventing them from completing their shift safely. Any operator suffering from, or suspecting another person is suffering from, fatigue must notify their Supervisor immediately.

15.0 General

- Seat belt is to be worn at all times while in the vehicle
- Spotters are used where visibility is restricted, or when entering/leaving vision-restricted areas
- Windows and doors are to remain closed during spraying operations
- Air conditioning is to be operating at all times
- The two-way radio is to remain on at all times

16.0 Smoking

Smoking is not permitted in any vehicle, plant or machine owned, leased or hired by CGC. Persons found smoking will face disciplinary action.

17.0 Job Safety Analysis (JSA) / SWMS

All weed spraying work must only be carried out after an appropriate and detailed JSA/SWMS has been developed, including chemical-specific risks identified from the SDS. The JSA/SWMS must be signed by the person completing the work and reviewed/approved by a member of the safety team or the works Supervisor.

Record of Training

I confirm that I have read, understood and been trained in this Equipment Operating Procedure, and agree to comply with its requirements.

Name (print)	Signature	Date	Supervisor