

Contractor Standard Chemical Weed Control STD002

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EAST GIPPSLAND CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY WORK STANDARD STD002

TASK: Chemical Weed Control

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Objective: Chemical control of weeds using cut and paint, stem injection, or foliar spray with handheld or vehicle-based spray units.

This document sets a standard expected by the Authority for chemical weeding tasks - the Contractor / Supplier of Services must adapt their Safe Work Procedure to meet or exceed these standards and ensure that a Safe Working Method Statement (SWMS) is completed with reference to the Contractor / Supplier of Services procedures.

This is a Working Outdoors activity - Relevant requirements of the Working Outdoors Standard STD005 apply to this task before the controls specified in this document are applied.

When planning works under this Standard, the requirements of the Occupational Health and Safety (Psychological Health) Regulations 2025 apply and must be considered.

Activity	Hazard Description	Control Measures - Actions to be Taken
Chemical Weed Control	Manual Handling injuries	Workers must be trained in safe manual handling techniques and complete a manual handling risk assessment for the task. Identified controls must be applied to the task.
	Dangerous Goods and Hazardous Substances	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least one person present on the site at all times is to have completed an Australian Chemical Users Course and obtain an Agricultural Chemical Users Permit (ACUP) accreditation. • Employees who are not accredited are to work under the supervision of an accredited chemical user, who is present onsite at all times. • Ensure spraying records are completed and kept for all chemical use.

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Activity	Hazard Description	Control Measures - Actions to be Taken
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure the use of chemicals as per the manufacturer’s recommendations. • Ensure no off-label use of chemical without the necessary permits. • Ensure all equipment is maintained regularly. • Ensure all Safety Data Sheets (SDSs) are current, are available on site and the location know to crew members. • Ensure the correct PPE is available and used appropriately. • Discuss with works crew onsite the spill response and spill kit location. • Ensure chemicals are stored separately and in original containers which are still labelled correctly. • Chemical handling training against the SDS for the chemicals being used. • Mix chemicals in an appropriate staging area, as defined by the label. • Be aware that some chemicals become volatile at certain temperatures. Refer to the current SDS. • PPE to be worn must be as stated in the SDS. • Use of spray dye to identify sprayed areas and assist in avoiding direct physical contact with wet foliage is recommended where appropriate. <p>IMPORTANT: Garlon 600 herbicide is not recommended for knapsack & 12-volt spray packs to treat woody weed infestations. Check label for usage recommendations.</p>
<p>Weed Preparation for direct herbicide application (cut and Paint) using a chainsaw, axe, pruning saw and secateurs</p>	<p>Risk of Snakebite</p>	<p>IMPORTANT: Snakes are territorial and may return to their habitat after initially moving away during the walk through.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be aware of surroundings (snakes can be found anywhere, especially under rocks, logs, planks, long grass and near water sources). • Check the immediate surroundings before commencing weed preparation for direct herbicide application.

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use a long-handled tool to check for the presence of snakes before placing hands in vegetation or to move stones, sticks etc. • If you see or suspect a snake is present remain still and alert other workers while making sure that they do not approach the snake. Move slowly away while making some noise, watch its movements and be alert for other snakes in the area you are moving towards. Allow the snake to move away. If possible, maintain the higher ground and stay up hill from its last known location as snakes typically travel down slopes/hills when trying to get away from danger. • Never attack or attempt to harm a snake, they will become more aggressive if provoked. Be mindful that they are a protected species. Treat every snake as if it is venomous. Remain aware of its presence and do not approach a snake (dead or alive). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two Level 2 first aid trained persons to be present at all times. • Carry a snake bite kit within the first aid kit. • Avoid known areas of high snake concentration in peak risk periods. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advice other works groups in the area of multiple sightings or aggressive snakes. <p>PPE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feet, legs, arms and hands must be protected from a bite. The PPE requirement will depend on the vegetation encountered. The approach to be adopted must be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In open grazed paddocks or bare ground, boots and long pants are required. • In grassed areas below knee height, knee-high gaiters and closely fitted to boots are required. • In vegetation areas above knee height (grasses or shrubs), full-length chaps or waders must be worn.

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If the task requires placing the hands or arms near vegetation, additional PPE such as arm gaiters and gloves (no bare skin permitted), or elbow length gloves of a suitable puncture resistant material must be worn.
	<p>Injury from use of hand and power tools</p>	<p>Use of chainsaws to undertake this task is to be kept to a minimum. Use of axes, tomahawks or pruning saws are the preferred tools for removing bark to expose the wood of the tree to apply chemical.</p> <p>When using a chainsaw all operators of chainsaws must have trim and cut felled trees qualifications.</p> <p>Operators are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Select the most suitable chainsaw for the task. Smaller chainsaws are easier to control and have a lower risk of injury from kickback and musculoskeletal disorder. Ensure the chainsaw is regularly maintained and clean to facilitate detection of loose, worn or defective parts and other safety hazards. Ensure all guards are fitted, secure and functional. Check the effectiveness of the chain brake and operating controls including interlock throttle system. Inspect fuel lines, tank, and the area around the carburettor for fuel leaks. Do not operate unit if leaks are found. Wear mandatory PPE as prescribed by formal chainsaw training. Only conduct chainsaw work at a safe distance (at least 10 metres) away from other workers. Please note this distance is applicable for the task of removing thick bark ONLY, not for pruning of limbs or felling of trees. <p>When using an axe:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimise repetitive work by taking adequate regular breaks and changing tasks. Carry axe securely when not in use with blade protected by sheath/holster.

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Only conduct axe work at a safe distance (at least 10 metres) away from other workers.• Maintain a firm grip of the handle while striking the target.• Where practicable use on stable terrain.• When using an axe wear slash resistant leg protection <p>When using secateurs and handsaws:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Where reasonably practicable, wear protective gloves to protect hands from cuts and abrasions.

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