



Key rules for using the herbicide Taskforce

The Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) has modified the approval for the herbicide Taskforce. Taskforce can now be used to control kangaroo grass, in addition to Chilean needlegrass and nasella tussock in pasture. It can also be aerially applied to pasture, as long as certain rules are followed, such as letting the EPA know before and after you apply Taskforce.



This document contains:

This document provides guidance for people using Taskforce by:

- ground-based application methods (page 1)
- aerial application (page 2).

There are other rules you must also follow when storing or disposing of Taskforce. For a full list of all of the rules that apply to Taskforce under the Hazardous Substances Act and regulations see the *Controls for approved hazardous substances* database on the EPA website www.epa.govt.nz.

The EPA also recommends using Taskforce as directed by the manufacturer or supplier.

Ground-based application

- Taskforce can only be used on pasture to control kangaroo grass, Chilean needlegrass and nasella tussock.
- If you apply Taskforce as a commercial contractor, or you apply it in a wide dispersive manner, you must be an approved handler.
- If it has been aerially applied, you need to wait at least one year before applying Taskforce to that place using ground-based methods.
- Taskforce can only be applied to a place at a maximum application rate of 3L/ha.
- The maximum application frequency of Taskforce is once per year.

You must not apply Taskforce:

- into water bodies (including intermittently flowing rivers or streams), or
- to an area where bees are foraging, or to any plant that is flowering, or is likely to flower within 10 days.

Record keeping for ground-based application

You must keep records if you apply 3L or more of Taskforce within 24 hours and it could leave the place it was applied to (such as by spray drift). These records must be kept for at least three years.



Each record must include:

- The name of the substance
- The date and time of each application of Taskforce
- The classification(s) of Taskforce
- The amount of Taskforce applied or discharged
- The location where Taskforce was applied or discharged
- A description of the wind speed and direction when Taskforce was applied or discharged, and
- The name of the user of Taskforce and the user's address.





Aerial application

To manage possible risks to the environment or human health from the aerial application of Taskforce, you need to follow additional rules than when you apply Taskforce by ground based methods. These include:

- notifying various people, including the EPA, prior to application, and
- keeping records and supplying them to the EPA after application.

- Taskforce can only be used on pasture to control kangaroo grass, Chilean needlegrass and nasella tussock.
- Taskforce can only be aerially applied to a place once every five years.
- If it has been aerially applied, you need to wait at least one year before applying Taskforce to that place using ground-based methods.
- Taskforce can only be applied to a place at a maximum application rate of 3L/ha.
- You must be an approved handler to aerially apply Taskforce. The EPA considers this requirement met if you have a current pilot chemical rating in accordance with Part 61 of the Civil Aviation Rules.

You must not apply Taskforce:

- into water bodies (including intermittently flowing rivers or streams)
- if heavy rainfall is expected within 24 hours that may lead to runoff from the treated area, or
- to an area where bees are foraging, or to any plant that is flowering, or is likely to flower within 10 days.



Contact us

If you have questions about how to comply with the rules set out in these guidelines call the EPA on: 0800 376 234.

Notifications for aerial application

If you are intending to apply Taskforce aerially, you must notify the following people:

- occupiers and owners of land, dwellings and buildings next to the land where Taskforce will be applied
- relevant local iwi rūnanga representatives (the EPA can assist you with this if needed), and
- the EPA (email: notifications@epa.govt.nz).

Notification must be given to these people at least 10 days, but no more than three months, before applying Taskforce.

The notification must include:

- the location where Taskforce will be applied
- the date and approximate duration of each application
- the name of the organisation applying Taskforce, and
- contact details for the person in charge of the application (phone, email or postal address).

Record keeping for aerial application

The aerial applicator must keep records of the aerial application for at least seven years and provide them to the EPA as soon as possible, and no later than three months, after applying Taskforce.



Each record must include:

1. The name of the substance
2. The target pest species
3. The date and time of each application or discharge of Taskforce
4. The classification(s) of Taskforce
5. The amount of Taskforce applied or discharged
6. The location where Taskforce was applied or discharged (including a map showing where Taskforce was applied, the property boundaries, and evidence of aircraft flight lines during the application)
7. A description of the wind speed and direction when Taskforce was applied or discharged
8. The name of the user of Taskforce and the user's address, and
9. A local weather forecast and source of the forecast for the 24 hour periods before and after application.