



MEDIA RELEASE

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FQC produces guidelines for bulk fertiliser storage and handling

The Fertiliser Quality Council (FQC) has produced a set of storage and handling guidelines for manufacturers and distributors who deal with bulk fertiliser. The guidelines, which can also be applied to the storage and handling of fertiliser on-farm, aim to ensure that the physical quality of the product is maintained from when it arrives at the depot (or farm) to the point it is distributed on the land.

Anders Crofoot, Chairman of the FQC, says while this isn't a major issue for the industry, it is something that is picked up from time to time by fertiliser spreading companies.

“Ground and aerial spreaders sometimes discover that what’s happening out there on the paddocks isn’t tallying with the expected spread patterns for the product that is being distributed. This is when spreaders find that the physical characteristics of the product have altered, often due to poor storage and handling.”

The guidelines give tips and advice across several topics including; storage considerations; receiving product; bagging off; blending; segregating product; and transporting fertiliser.

They also provide simple reminders that vehicle decks must be leak free and dry, covers too must be clean and dry so no contamination occurs, and storage warehouses must be weather tight.

Emphasis is placed on always rotating product and information is given as to why caking and dust formation might occur.

Importantly, the guidelines encourage everyone involved in the supply chain to take responsibility for maintaining the product quality to ensure that the end-user has a product that is fit for purpose.

The guidelines are available to download via the FQC website www.fqc.co.nz. They can be printed as a poster or as an A4 size and displayed in the storage area.

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Further information:

Anders Crofoot, FQC Chairman

anders@castlepoint.co.nz

027 426 5324

Lisa Carruthers, FQC Communications

lisa.looppr@gmail.com

021 122 0364