AFRICAN BIOLOGICALS ALLIANCE

For Africa. By Africa.

REGISTRATION · SOUTH AFRICA · AGRICULTURAL REMEDIES

Non-crop remedies

Pesticides used in homes, gardens, buildings, wood, water and public health, rather than on crops. They have their own efficacy tests, and their own advertising rules.

32 groupings, each with its own tests	**75%** mortality or control needed (90% for rodenticides)
3 replicates at least, and 3 field trials for outdoor claims	**2017** the year of the guideline: check it is current

WHAT COUNTS

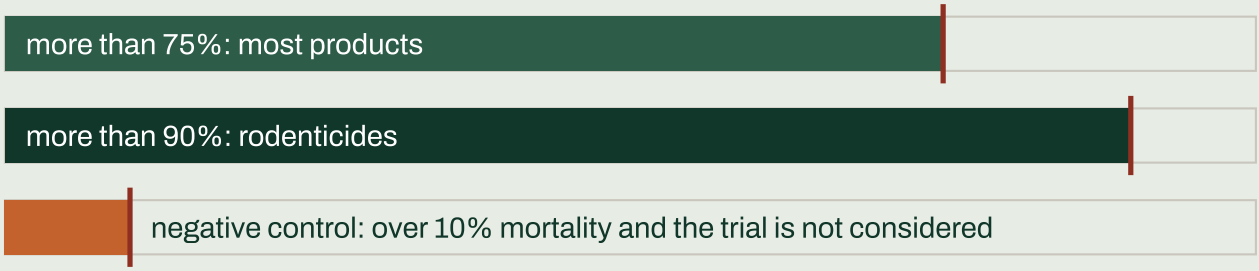
Thirty-two groupings, in seven families

Each has its own efficacy requirements in the guideline. Find yours, then read its section.

Sprays and baits Surface residual sprays, space sprays, cockroach, ant and fly baits, aerosols.	**Stores and preservation** Stored grain protectants (with residues), tobacco curing protectants, wood and timber preservatives, wool, skin, hide and leather preservatives, paints, resins and coatings.
Public health Insecticide-treated nets, indoor residual spraying, space spraying, aircraft aerosols, larvicides, pests in water.	**Repellents** For skin, for materials and textiles, impregnated insect killers, bird repellents.
Specific pests Termiticides, rodenticides, molluscicides, dusting powders.	**Home and garden** Vegetables and fruit, ornamentals, other products used indoors.
Land, water and other Industrial vegetation, aquatic weeds and alien plants, adjuvants, aircraft products, smoke generators and fumigants, pheromones.	

THE EFFICACY BAR

How good, and how tested



Every trial

General rules.

3	Replicates at least
1	Negative control And a standard registered reference product.
SA	Done in South Africa Foreign data supports but cannot carry a claim alone.

How many trials

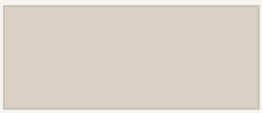
Unless a section says otherwise.

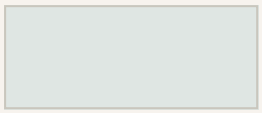
1	At least one laboratory trial
3	Field trials for any outdoor claim
1+1	Surface residual spray, outdoor: one laboratory and one field trial

SURFACES AND AEROSOLS

Test on the surface you claim

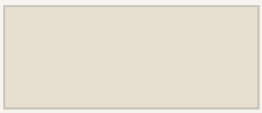
Surface type changes how well a product works. Where a surface is named on the label it is tested separately. Regularly cleaned surfaces are generally accepted at four weeks of residual action. A longer claim needs proof at 75% mortality.

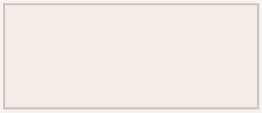

Glazed tiles


Glass


Unpainted wood


Unpainted cement


Enamel painted wood


Emulsion painted cement


Unglazed ceramic tiles


Laminated wooden flooring


Stainless steel


Textiles


Zinc


Clay brick

Aerosols three kinds

Space spray

No residual action.

1. Sprayed in the air, a fine spray

Surface spray

Residual action of at least a week.

1. Not sprayed in the air, a coarser spray
2. Claim up to four weeks, with efficacy data

Dual purpose

Like a space spray.

1. May claim "kills flying and crawling insects on contact"
2. "On contact" in lettering the same size

ADVERTISING

What an advertisement may and may not say

Must

1. Be approved by the Registrar first
   Submit 2 months before publication, in triplicate with a covering letter.
2. Show the registration number, holder name and active ingredients
3. Call a product new for one year only
4. Show only adults aged 16 and over

Must not

~~natural~~ ~~organic~~ ~~environmentally friendly~~ ~~safe~~ ~~healthy~~

X Pictures of people or domestic animals on labels
Domestic animals are allowed in advertising where appropriate.

X Faxed submissions

Approval of advertising lasts three years, in line with the renewal cycle.

ALSO IN THE GUIDELINE

Labels, imports and free sale certificates

The label

1. An English copy, in triplicate
2. Other languages must not deviate
   A foreign language needs a certified translator's affidavit.
3. Legible, matching the application form exactly
4. "Keep out of reach of children, uninformed persons and pets"
   Warnings are not numbered.

Import permit

Unregistered products only.

1. For trials, with the protocol agreed with the technical adviser first
2. Or in an emergency, where no registered product is available
3. A letter, description, quantity, origin, port, safety data sheet

Certificate of free sale

1. Ask in writing
2. Give the registered name and number
   They must match your certificate.

WHERE IT IS UNCLEAR

Ask before you rely on it

This 2017 guideline says	But
Aerosols are toxicity category II (yellow band) or III (blue band)	The 2022 GHS guideline says there shall be no colour band
Forms and labels in triplicate	The 2023 regulations say duplicate and two label copies
Late renewals within 30 days, then re-registration at the full fee	See the renewals guide for the 2023 regulation and the 2026 notice
Form C updates your contact details	In the 2024 renewal guideline Form C is a declaration
Written under the old department name	Whether it is current is not confirmed

Information, not legal advice. Facts as of 26 October 2026, from the Registrar's Guidelines on the data and documents required for the registration of agricultural remedies used in non crop situations in South Africa (October 2017). Later changes are not reflected, and the efficacy tables for each use pattern are not reproduced. Guidelines page: https://www.nda.gov.za/index.php/publication/581-guidelines

Sources

Prepared by the African Biologicals Alliance from these documents. They belong to the department and remain subject to its own terms.

- Guidelines on the data and documents required for the registration of agricultural remedies used in non crop situations in South Africa. Issued by the Registrar of Act 36 of 1947, October 2017. https://www.nda.gov.za/index.php/publication/581-guidelines

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