

OFFICE OF THE TEXAS STATE CHEMIST

Texas Feed and Fertilizer Control Service • Agricultural Analytical Service

445 Agronomy Road • College Station, TX 77843-2114

Mailing Address
P. O. Box 3160
College Station, TX 77841-3160

Tel. (979) 845 1121
Fax. (979) 845 1389
<http://otsc.tamu.edu>

Issued: August 1, 2017

FERTILIZER INDUSTRY MEMORANDUM 5-11

FERTILIZER MIXTURES THAT CONTAIN NUTRIENT STABILIZER ADDITIVES

OBJECTIVE:

To define registration, labeling, and measurement requirements of nutrient stabilizer additives in accordance with the Texas Commercial Fertilizer Control Act §63.002 and the Texas Commercial Fertilizer Rules §65.17 and §65.27.

BACKGROUND:

The Texas Commercial Fertilizer Code §63.002 explains that unless otherwise stated in the Act, a substance is subject to the Law if it is a fertilizer material (§63.001(8)), a mixed fertilizer (§63.001(11)), a customer-formula fertilizer (§63.001(5)), or any other substance or material that is intended for use, or used, as a component of a mixture that is intended to promote plant growth. This provision allows the Texas Feed and Fertilizer Control Service to enforce requirements pertaining to the registration, labeling, and measurement of certain agricultural products incorporated in commercial fertilizer mixtures.

As per the Texas Commercial Fertilizer Rules §65.17(e)(3), the Service may request proof that any non-nutritional fertilizer components or additives guaranteed or claimed on the label provide: long-term safety to animals, plants, and the environment; and availability and efficacy. Texas Commercial Fertilizer Rules §65.27 requires that when additives are incorporated in a commercial fertilizer: the fertilizer mixture must be registered in accordance with §63.031 and guaranteed with respect to the kind and percentage of each additive (§63.051 & §63.053); the additive(s) must be determinable by an acceptable laboratory method; and the fertilizer mixture must be labeled to prominently display the purpose of the additive. In addition, it must be shown by scientific data that each additive is present in sufficient quantities to impart a distinctive characteristic to the product.

In response to the increased production and use of nutrient stabilizer additives with Enhanced Efficiency (Fertilizer) (EEF) or Slow-Release properties, as defined by the American Association of Plant Food Control Officials (AAPFCO), the Service details the requirements below.

POLICY:

A. Registration of Fertilizer Mixtures that Contain Nutrient Stabilizer Additives

Fertilizer mixtures, except customer-formula fertilizer mixtures, that incorporate a nutrient stabilizer with EEF or Slow-Release properties must be registered with the Service. The registration requirement applies to any fertilizer material, mixed fertilizer, or specialty fertilizer (§63.001(16)) that contains a nutrient stabilizer additive(s).

OFFICE OF THE TEXAS STATE CHEMIST

Texas Feed and Fertilizer Control Service • Agricultural Analytical Service

445 Agronomy Road • College Station, TX 77843-2114

Mailing Address
P. O. Box 3160
College Station, TX 77841-3160

Tel. (979) 845 1121
Fax. (979) 845 1389
<http://otsc.tamu.edu>

B. Labeling Fertilizer Mixtures that Contain Nutrient Stabilizer Additives

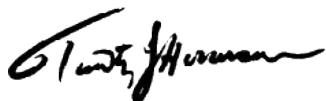
Commercial fertilizer mixtures, including customer-formula fertilizer, that incorporate nutrient stabilizer additives must state the following for each additive:

- i. Kind of Additive;
- ii. Purpose of the Combined Fertilizer and Nutrient Stabilizer Additive; and
- iii. Quantity of Additive (% by weight).

C. Measurement of Nutrient Stabilizer Additives

Each nutrient stabilizer additive in a fertilizer mixture must have a currently accepted laboratory method of analysis. Companies that wish to register fertilizer mixtures that contain nutrient stabilizer additives with the Service must:

- i. Incorporate products permitted by AAPFCO to claim EEF or Slow-Release properties; or
- ii. Provide to the Service scientific data to show that each nutrient stabilizer additive is present in sufficient quantities to impart a distinctive characteristic to the product.



Dr. Timothy J. Herrman
State Chemist & Director
Office of the Texas State Chemist