

FAO SPECIFICATIONS  
FOR PLANT PROTECTION PRODUCTS

**TRICHLORFON**

Dimethyl 2,2,2-trichloro-1-hydroxyethylphosphonate

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS  
Rome, 1988

Group on Pesticide Specifications

FAO Panel of Experts on Pesticide Specifications, Registration Requirements and  
Application Standards

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## CONTENTS

DISCLAIMER .....	4
INTRODUCTION TO FAO SPECIFICATIONS DEVELOPED UNDER THE OLD PROCEDURE .....	5
SUBMISSION OF DRAFT SPECIFICATIONS TO FAO .....	8
INFORMATION.....	9
TRICHLORFON TECHNICAL.....	10
TRICHLORFON DUSTABLE POWDER .....	11
TRICHLORFON WATER SOLUBLE POWDERS .....	13
TRICHLORFON SOLUBLE CONCENTRATES .....	15
TRICHLORFON WETTABLE POWDERS .....	17

## **DISCLAIMER<sup>1</sup>**

FAO specifications are developed with the basic objective of promoting, as far as practicable, the manufacture, distribution and use of pesticides that meet basic quality requirements.

Compliance with the specifications does not constitute an endorsement or warranty of the fitness of a particular pesticide for a particular purpose, including its suitability for the control of any given pest, or its suitability for use in a particular area. Owing to the complexity of the problems involved, the suitability of pesticides for a particular purpose and the content of the labelling instructions must be decided at the national or provincial level.

Furthermore, pesticides which are manufactured to comply with these specifications are not exempted from any safety regulation or other legal or administrative provision applicable to their manufacture, sale, transportation, storage, handling, preparation and/or use.

FAO disclaims any and all liability for any injury, death, loss, damage or other prejudice of any kind that may arise as a result of, or in connection with, the manufacture, sale, transportation, storage, handling, preparation and/or use of pesticides which are found, or are claimed, to have been manufactured to comply with these specifications.

Additionally, FAO wishes to alert users to the fact that improper storage, handling, preparation and/or use of pesticides can result in either a lowering or complete loss of safety and/or efficacy.

FAO is not responsible, and does not accept any liability, for the testing of pesticides for compliance with the specifications, nor for any methods recommended and/or used for testing compliance. As a result, FAO does not in any way warrant or represent that any pesticide claimed to comply with a FAO specification actually does so.

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<sup>1</sup> This disclaimer applies to all specifications published by FAO.

## **INTRODUCTION TO FAO SPECIFICATIONS DEVELOPED UNDER THE OLD PROCEDURE**

Between 1975 and 2000, FAO published booklets of specifications for technical materials and related formulations of plant protection products. Revisions of, and additions to, already published specifications will be issued when necessary. However, all changes and revisions of FAO specifications are now subject to the new procedure described in the *Manual on the development and use of FAO and WHO Specifications for Plant Protection Products*, FAO Plant Production and Protection Paper No. 173, Rome 2002 (Revised First Edition available only on the FAO home page of the Internet at: <http://www.fao.org/ag/agp/agpp/pesticid/>)

FAO specifications developed under the old procedure are based on the requirements defined in the Fourth Edition of the *Manual on the development and use of FAO specifications for plant protection products*, Plant Production and Protection Paper No. 128, Rome 1995.

This manual contained detailed definitions and other essential background information on basic procedures and technical principles adopted by the group on Pesticide Specifications of the FAO Panel of Experts on Pesticide Specifications, Registration Requirements, Application Standards and Prior Informed Consent, such as:

### 1. Categories of Specifications (Section 3.1 of the Manual)

FAO Tentative Specifications (Code 'S/T', formerly 'TS') are those which have been recommended by FAO as preliminary specifications and which are based on minimum requirements. The methods of analysis cited are normally supplied by the manufacturer or may already have been published or be the subject of collaborative work.

FAO Provisional Specifications [Code 'S/P', formerly ('S')] are those for which more evidence of the necessary parameters is available and where some collaborative study of the methods of analysis has been carried out.

FAO (full) Specifications (Code 'S/F', formerly 'S').

Specifications that have all necessary requirements together with CIPAC (full) methods, or other collaboratively studied (proven) methods.<sup>2,3</sup>

Wherever possible, standards for apparatus and common names for pesticides are those approved by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO).

### 2. Expression of active ingredient content (Section 4.2.5 of the Manual)

- for solids, liquid technical materials, volatile liquids (of maximum boiling point 50°C) and viscous liquids (with minimum kinematic viscosity of  $1 \times 10^3 \text{ m}^2/\text{s}$  at 20°C) the FAO Specification shall be based on expression of the content as g/kg;

- for all other liquids the active ingredient content of the product shall be declared in terms of g/kg *or* g/l at 20°C. If the customer requires both g/kg *and* g/l at 20°C, then in case of dispute the analytical results shall be calculated as g/kg.

### 3. Tolerance on content (Section 4.2.7 of the Manual)

A declared content of active ingredient must be included in all specifications, and one of the problems immediately arising is the level of tolerance acceptable about the nominal figure. The tolerance is influenced by (a) the reproducibility of the method of analysis, (b) the sampling error and (c) the manufacturing variance.

Allowable variations in analytical results (i.e. tolerances in content of active ingredient) with respect to specific pesticide consignments are intended to cover reasonable variations in the contents of active ingredients. For examples of such tolerances, see the table in Section 4.2.7 of the Manual.

### 4. Containers/packaging

FAO guidelines are in preparation.

Containers shall comply with pertinent national and international transport and safety regulations.

#### Technical materials, dustable powders and granules

Containers shall be suitable, clean, dry and as specified, and shall not adversely affect, or be affected by, the contents, but shall adequately protect them against external conditions.

#### Wettable powders

The product shall be packed in suitable, clean, dry containers as specified in the order. The container shall provide all necessary protection against compaction, atmospheric moisture, loss by vaporization and/or contamination to ensure that the product suffers no deterioration under normal transit and storage conditions.

The product shall be protected by an adequate moisture barrier. This may be a suitable bag of polyethylene or alternative means of giving equal or better protection.

#### Solutions and emulsifiable concentrates

Containers shall be lined, where necessary, with a suitable material, or the interior surfaces shall be treated to prevent corrosion and/or deterioration of the contents.

Additional information should be given in all specifications where particular pesticides present problems in packaging.

5. Biological information

Phytotoxicity

No test can be specified to cover the possible phytotoxicity of a formulation to all crops. When a crop is not mentioned in the instructions for use, purchasers should check with the supplier that the material is suitable, always provided that such a use is not restricted or legally forbidden.

Wetting of crops

The dilute spray should satisfactorily wet the leaves of the specified crops when used in accordance with the instructions. Test method MT 53.2, CIPAC F, p.162, may be useful.

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<sup>1</sup> Should national pesticide specifications developed from these approved FAO specifications deviate from them, the National Authority responsible for making such changes is requested to inform the FAO Plant Protection Service of the nature of, and the reasons for, the modifications.

<sup>2</sup> Methods of analysis and miscellaneous techniques referred to in these specifications have been developed and adopted by CIPAC (Collaborative International Pesticides Analytical Council Ltd.). See CIPAC Handbooks 1 (1970), 1A (1980), 1B (1983), 1C (1985), D (1988), E (1993), F (1995), G (1995), CIPAC Proceedings 1980 and 1981, obtainable from Black Bear Press Limited, King's Hedges Road, Cambridge CB4 2PQ, England. The page numbers of specific methods are given in parentheses in the specifications. Copies of methods not yet published can be obtained from the FAO Plant Protection Service.

<sup>3</sup> Information on standard waters for laboratory evaluation of pesticidal formulations will be found in CIPAC Monograph 1, Standard Waters and an FAO Survey on Naturally Occurring Waters (1972), Black Bear Press Limited, King's Hedges Road, Cambridge CB4 2PQ, England.

## **SUBMISSION OF DRAFT SPECIFICATIONS TO FAO**

Any organization, commercial firm or interested individual is encouraged to submit relevant specifications, or proposals for revision of existing specifications, for pesticide products for consideration and possible adoption by FAO. Correspondence should be addressed to the Pesticide Management Group, Plant Production and Protection Division, FAO, Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00153 Rome, Italy.

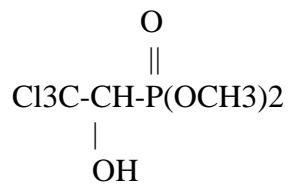
General guidelines on preparing draft specifications are given in the *Manual on the development and use of FAO and WHO Specifications for Plant Protection Products*, FAO Plant Production and Protection Paper No. 173, Rome 2002 (Revised First Edition available only on the FAO home page of the Internet at: <http://www.fao.org/ag/agp/agpp/pesticid/>).

Specifications which are considered suitable for further processing are assigned priorities and circulated to appropriate organizations and specialists to comment. Comments, together with other relevant information, are then reviewed in detail by the Group on Specifications of the FAO Panel of Experts on Pesticide Specifications, Registration Requirements, Application Standards and Prior Informed Consent. The drafts are converted into FAO Provisional Specifications, or full FAO Specifications.

## INFORMATION

COMMON NAME: Trichlorfon (ISO)

STRUCTURAL FORMULA:



EMPIRICAL FORMULA: C<sub>4</sub>H<sub>8</sub>Cl<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>P

RMM: 257.4

CAS REGISTRY NUMBER: 52-68-6

CIPAC CODE NUMBER: 68

CHEMICAL NAME:

dimethyl 2,2,2-trichloro-1-hydroxyethylphosphonate (IUPAC)  
dimethyl (2,2,2-trichloro-1-hydroxyethyl) phosphonate (CA)

**TRICHLORFON TECHNICAL**  
FAO Specification 68/TC/S (1989)

**.1 DESCRIPTION**

The material shall consist of trichlorfon together with related manufacturing impurities. It shall be a near-white crystalline solid free from visible extraneous matter and added modifying agents.

**.2 ACTIVE INGREDIENT**

**.2.1 Identity tests**

Where the identity of the active ingredient is in doubt, then it shall comply with at least one additional test.

**.2.2 Trichlorfon (CIPAC I, 68/1/M/1.2, p. 685)**

The trichlorfon content shall be declared (not less than 980 g/kg) and when determined, the content obtained shall not differ from that declared by more than +/- 10 g.

**.3 IMPURITIES**

**.3.1 Water (MT 30.1 CIPAC I, p. 897)**

Maximum: 3 g/kg.

**.3.2 Acetone insolubles (MT 27 CIPAC I, p. 894)**

Maximum: 5 g/kg

**.4 PHYSICAL PROPERTIES**

**.4.1 Acidity or alkalinity (MT 31 CIPAC I, p. 902)**

Maximum acidity: 3 g/kg calculated as H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>.

Maximum alkalinity: 0.5 g/kg calculated as NaOH

**TRICHLORFON DUSTABLE POWDER**  
FAO Specification 68/DP/S (1989)

**.1 DESCRIPTION**

The material shall consist of a homogeneous mixture of technical trichlorfon [complying with the requirements of FAO Specification 68/TC/S(1989)] together with carriers and any other necessary formulants. It shall be in the form of a fine, free-flowing powder, free from visible extraneous matter and hard lumps. (Note 1)

**.2 ACTIVE INGREDIENT**

**.2.1 Identity tests**

Where the identity of the active ingredient is in doubt then, the isolated active ingredient shall comply with at least one additional test.

**.2.2 Trichlorfon (CIPAC I, 68/2/M/1.2. p. 687)**

The trichlorfon content shall be declared (g/kg) and when determined, the content obtained shall not differ from that declared by more than -10 to +15% of the declared content.

**.3 PHYSICAL PROPERTIES**

**.3.1 Acidity or alkalinity (MT 31. CIPAC I, p. 902)**

Maximum acidity: 1 g/kg calculated as H<sub>2</sub>S0<sub>4</sub>

Maximum alkalinity: 2 g/kg calculated as NaOH

**.3.2 Dry Sieve test ( CIPAC I, 68/2/M/1.4, p. 687)**

Maximum: 8% retained on a 75 µm test sieve.

Not more than (0.008 x X)% of the amount of the sample used for the determination shall be present as trichlorfon in the residue on the sieve, where X is the trichlorfon content (g/kg) found under . 2.2. ( Note 2)

**.3.3 Flowability (MT 44, CIPAC IA, p. 1567)**

If required, maximum flow number: 12

In the absence of proven methodology, this clause is for information only.

## **.4      STORAGE STABILITY**

### **.4.1 Stability at 54 C (MT 46.1.4 CIPAC I p. 953)**

After storage at 54 +/- 2°C for 14 days, the product shall continue to comply with .2.2 (except that the minimum permitted content shall be 90% of that found under .2.2), .3.1, and .3.2.

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Note 1 If required, the product shall contain a dye in agreement with pertinent national legislation.

Note 2 If the product has a found content of 50 g/kg of trichlorfon and 20 g of sample is used in the test, then the amount of trichlorfon in the residue on the sieve should not exceed 0.08 g, i.e.,

$$\frac{(0.008 \times 50) \times 20}{100} \quad \text{g}$$

**TRICHLORFON WATER SOLUBLE POWDERS**  
FAO SPECIFICATION 68/SP/S (1989)

**.1 DESCRIPTION**

The material shall consist of a homogeneous mixture of technical trichlorfon [complying with the requirements of FAO Specification 68/TC/S (1989)] together with any necessary formulants. It shall be in the form of a fine powder free from visible extraneous matter and hard lumps. (Note 1)

**.2 ACTIVE INGREDIENT**

**.2.1 Identity tests**

Where the identity of the active ingredient is in doubt, then the isolated active ingredient shall comply with at least one additional test.

**.2.2 Trichlorfon (CIPAC I, 68/16/M/1.2. p. 690)**

The trichlorfon content shall be declared (g/kg) and when determined, the content obtained shall not differ from that declared by more than the following amounts:

<u>Declared Content</u>	<u>Permitted Tolerance</u>
up to 500 g/kg	-5 to + 10%
above 500 g/kg	-25 to + 50 g

**.3 IMPURITIES**

**.3.1 Water (MT 30.1 CIPAC I, p. 897)**

Maximum: 15 g/kg

**.3.2 Water insolubles (MT 10.2 CIPAC I, p. 843) (Note 2)**

The content of solid matter insoluble in water shall be declared (g/kg) and when determined, the content obtained shall not differ from that declared by more than +/-15%.

**.4 PHYSICAL PROPERTIES**

**.4.1 Acidity or alkalinity (MT 31, CIPAC I, p. 902) (Note 3)**

Maximum acidity: 5 g/kg calculated as H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>,

Maximum alkalinity: 1 g/kg calculated as NaOH

**.4.2 Persistent foam** (MT 47, CIPAC I, p. 954)

Maximum: 5 ml after 1 minute.

**.4.3 Wet sieve test** (MT 59.3, CIPAC I, p. 981)

Maximum: 3% retained on a 45 µm test sieve.

**.4.4 Rate of solution** (MT 60, CIPAC I, p. 983)  
(Note 4)

All the product, other than the insoluble matter declared, shall dissolve in water within 3 minutes at 20 +/- 2 C, the concentration being 1%.

**.5 STORAGE STABILITY**

**.5.1 Stability at 54 C** (MT 46.1.1 CIPAC I, p. 951)

After storage at 54 +/- 2°C for 14 days, the product shall continue to comply with .2.2 (except that the minimum permitted trichlorfon content shall be 95% of that found under .2.2), .4.1 (an increase in acidity to a maximum of 8 g/kg is acceptable; Note 3) and 4.4.

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Note 1 If required, the material shall contain a dye in agreement with pertinent national legislation.

Note 2 Use CIPAC Standard Water C for diluting the material and stir the mixture for 10 minutes.

Note 3 Limits are given for products which do not contain acidic stabilizers. For other products maximum acidity shall be declared.

Note 4 Use CIPAC Standard Water C for diluting the material.

**TRICHLORFON SOLUBLE CONCENTRATES**  
FAO Specification 68/SL/S (1989)

**.1 DESCRIPTION**

The material shall consist of a solution of technical trichlorfon [complying with the requirements of FAO specification 68/TC/S (1989)] together with any necessary formulants. It shall be free from visible suspended matter and sediment.

**.2 ACTIVE INGREDIENT**

**.2.1 Identity tests**

Where the identity of the active ingredient is in doubt, then the isolated active ingredient shall comply with at least one additional test.

**.2.2 Trichlorfon (CIPAC 1, 68/3/M/1.2 p. 688)**

The trichlorfon content (g/l at 20°C or g/kg; Note 1) shall be declared and when determined, the content obtained shall not differ from that declared by more than the following amounts:

<u>Declared content</u>	<u>Permitted tolerance</u>
up to 500 g/l or g/kg	-5% to + 7% of the declared content
above 500 g/l or g/kg	-25 to +35 g

**.3 IMPURITIES**

**.3.1 Water (MT 30.1, CIPAC 1, p. 897)**

Maximum: 7 g/kg

**.4 PHYSICAL PROPERTIES**

**.4.1 Acidity or alkalinity (MT 31, CIPAC I p.902)**

Maximum acidity: 5 g/kg calculated as H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>,

Maximum alkalinity: 0.5 g/kg calculated as NaOH

**.4.2 Flash Point (MT 12, CIPAC I, p. 846)**

If required, the flash point of the product shall not be lower than the minimum declared flash point. (Note 2). A closed cup method shall be used and the method stated.

#### **.4.3 Miscibility with water (MT 41, CIPAC I, p 933) (Note 3)**

The product, after the stability test at 54° C (.5.2) shall give a clear and homogeneous solution after dilution at 30 C with CIPAC Standard Water C. (Note 4).

### **.5 STORAGE STABILITY**

#### **.5.1 Stability at 0°C (MT 39, CIPAC I, p. 930)**

For products containing 440 g/l or less of active ingredient, the volume of liquid or solid(which separates after storage at 0 +/- 1 C for 7 days shall be not more than 0.3 ml. For other products the limits of low temperature stability shall be declared.

#### **.5.2 Stability at 54 C (MT 46.1.3, CIPAC I, p. 952)**

After storage at 54 +/- 2°C for 14 days, the product shall continue to comply with .2.2 (except that the minimum permitted trichlorfon content shall be 90.0% of that found under .2.2), .4.1 (an increase in acidity to a maximum of 12 g/kg is acceptable) and 4.3.

Note 1 If the buyer requires both g/l at 20°C and g/kg, then in case of dispute, the analytical results shall be calculated as g/kg.

Note 2 Attention is drawn to the appropriate national and international regulations on transport and handling of flammable materials.

Note 3 Use 2.5 ml of sample in 10 ml of water.

Note 4 Formulations may contain up to 50 g/kg of water-immiscible solvents as a visual indicator for spraying liquids. In such a case, the solutions shall be turbid but homogeneous after dilution, and after standing for 18 h at 30 C, up to 15 ml of cream may separate.

**TRICHLORFON WETTABLE POWDERS**  
FAO SPECIFICATION 68/WP/S (1989)

**.1 DESCRIPTION**

The material shall consist of a homogeneous mixture of technical trichlorfon [complying with the requirements of FAO Specification 68/TC/S (1989)] together with fillers and any other necessary formulants. It shall be in the form of a fine powder free from visible extraneous matter and hard lumps. (Note 1)

**.2 ACTIVE INGREDIENT**

**.2.1 Identity tests**

Where the identity of the active ingredient is in doubt, then the isolated active ingredient shall comply with at least one additional test. .2.2 Trichlorfon (CIPAC 1, 68/3/M/1.2. p. 688)

**.2.2 Trichlorfon (CIPAC 1, 68/3/M/1.2 p. 688)**

The trichlorfon content shall be declared (g/kg) and when determined, the content obtained shall not differ from that declared by more than the following amounts:

<u>Declared Content</u>	<u>Permitted Tolerance</u>
up to 500 g/kg	- 5% to + 10% of the declared content
above 500 g/kg	- 25 to + 50 g

**3. IMPURITIES**

**.3.1 Water ( MT 30.1 CIPAC I, p. 897)**

Maximum: 10 g/kg

**.4 PHYSICAL PROPERTIES**

**.4.1 Acidity or alkalinity (MT 31, CIPAC I, p. 902)**

Maximum acidity: 5 g/kg calculated as H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>,

Maximum alkalinity: 2 g/kg calculated as NaOH

**.4.2 Wet sieve test (MT 59.3, CIPAC 1, p. 981)**

Maximum: 2% retained on a 75 µm test sieve.

**.4.3 Water insolubles (MT 10.2. CIPAC I p. 843)**

The content of solid material insoluble in water shall be declared (g/kg) and when determined, the content obtained shall not differ from that declared by more than +/- 25 g/kg.

#### **.4.4 Suspensibility\*** (MT 53.3, CIPAC F, p.164)

A minimum of 50% of the solid material declared under .4.3 shall be in suspension after 30 minutes in CIPAC Standard Water C.

Alternatively, if the buyer requires other CIPAC standard waters to be used, then this shall be specified when ordering.

#### **.4.5 Persistent foam** (MT 47. CIPAC I, p. 954) (Note 4)

Maximum: 25 ml after 1 minute.

#### **.4.6 Wetting of the product** (MT 53.3.1 CIPAC I, p. 967)

It shall be completely wetted in 2 minutes, without swirling.

### **.5 STORAGE STABILITY**

#### **.5.1 Stability at 54 C** (MT 46.1.1, CIPAC I, p. 951)

After storage at 54 +/- 2°C for 14 days, the product shall continue to comply with .2.2, (except that the minimum permitted trichlorfon content shall be 95.0% of that found under .2.2), .4.1 (an increase in acidity to a maximum of 8 g/kg is acceptable) and .4.2.

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Note 1 If required, the product shall contain a dye in agreement with pertinent national legislation.

Note 2 The product should be tested at the highest and lowest rates of use recommended by the supplier, provided this does not exceed a concentration of 2.0% of trichlorfon in the dilute spray.

Specification requirements and methods of determination for those cases are under consideration.

Note 3 This test will normally only be carried out after the heat stability test .5.1.

Note 4 The amount of sample to be used in the test should be specified.