

SATI Member Communication: Update PCO Registration and Restricted Agricultural Remedies

Circulated to: All SATI members via email

Date: 13 March 2026

Dear SATI Member,

SATI would like to inform members of recent developments following a High Court ruling concerning the regulatory framework governing pest control operator (PCO) registration and the use of restricted agricultural remedies.

Background

Croplife South Africa circulated a communication on **29 January 2026**, which was distributed to SATI members via the regional offices, indicating that the High Court identified a discrepancy between:

- the “**restricted-use remedies**” referred to in the **PCO Regulations published in 2011**, and
- the “**restricted agricultural remedies**” defined in the **Regulations Relating to Agricultural Remedies promulgated in 2023**.

The court concluded that the restricted agricultural remedies defined in the 2023 regulations **do not fall under the scope of the current PCO regulations**, as the relevant regulatory frameworks do not reference one another.

Implications

As a result of this ruling, **PCO registration is currently not a legal requirement for the application of restricted agricultural remedies**. This means that growers may purchase and apply these remedies without holding a PCO licence or being directly supervised by a registered Pest Control Operator.

Proposed Regulatory Approach

The **Department of Agriculture** has indicated that it does not intend to amend the regulations themselves. Instead, the Department is proposing a change to **product registration conditions**, specifically:

- Amending the condition from “**restricted to PCOs**” to “**restricted to trained and/or certified applicators**”.

A **multi-stakeholder working group** is being established to consider this proposal and discuss the future regulatory framework.

Next Steps

- A virtual meeting of stakeholders is expected to take place towards the end of March 2026.
- SATI intends to participate in this process through a **representative on the working group** to ensure that the interests of the **South African table grape industry** are represented.

SATI will continue to monitor developments closely and **share further updates with members as the process unfolds**.

Additional Information

Members are encouraged to consult the **presentation circulated by CroLife South Africa** ([click here to view the presentation](#)) on the High Court ruling regarding **PCO registration requirements** for further detail.

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