

Guidance for the safe handling of fertiliser Bulk Bags on the farm

STORAGE

Empty Bags

Empty Bulk Bags should be stored in such a manner that accidental damage and exposure to the elements are avoided. Fabric strength and the life of the bags can be adversely affected by prolonged time in the open and exposure to direct sunlight. This will usually mean storage in sheds or covering bags stored outside with a tarpaulin.

Filled Bags

It is most important that the supplier's recommendations are followed in order to obtain the maximum life and performance from the bag and to avoid damage to the contents.

As with empty bags, this will involve storage in weatherproof sheds, or under tarpaulins if stored for short periods in the open.

Ensure bags are stored in a stable manner (preferably in a pyramidal style). They should not be stacked more than two high for bags containing more than 1000 kg, or more than four high for bags containing up to 500 kg per bag. Do not allow bags to come into contact with water, either from rain, condensation or the surface on which they are stored.

LIFTING

Before lifting any filled bag, it is important that:

- It is inspected for any damage which may render it unsafe i.e. structural flaw, including fraying, tears and extreme fading. Check that the use-by date of the bulk bag has not expired. This information is located on the lower section of the front panel, under the Incitec Pivot logo. Notify your Incitec Pivot Dealer, Agent or Distribution Centre if you consider a bag unsafe.
- The lifting straps plus other lifting devices are positioned according to recommendations (shown over page) and show no signs of deformation or deterioration.
- The hooks or forklift tines employed for lifting should have rounded edges or be protected by wrapping.
- The stability of the load is checked when the bag is suspended, is to be moved or stacked.



- The stated load weight is checked against the Safe Working Load (SWL) before lifting the bag.
- The forklift or lifting device/boom is confirmed to have adequate lifting capacity to carry the suspended load.

Further information on lifting Bulk Bags and Safe Working Loads can be found in Australian Standards AS3668 and AS2359.

Lifting equipment must be tested and rated. The Safe Working Load will be detailed on the compliance plate.

EMPTYING

When emptying by gravity through the bottom discharge tube, the rate of discharge can be controlled by restricting the discharge tube. Flow may be stopped completely by lowering the Bulk Bag onto the discharged load.

**FOR THE PROTECTION OF PERSONNEL AND EQUIPMENT
ALWAYS USE A SAFETY FRAME WHEN OPERATING
UNDER A BULK BAG**



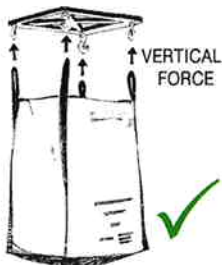
Because the land is your life.

How to handle Bulk Bags

Bulk fertiliser bags are made to specifications which allow for handling by various methods. However, within these handling systems there are a number of guidelines which should be adhered to at all times to ensure the safety of people and guard against damage to the bulk bag, product and equipment.

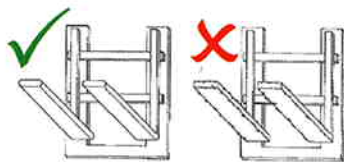
NOTE: When damage affecting the strength of the Flexible Intermediate Bulk Container (Bulk Bag) or bulk bag is discovered, it is imperative that it be taken out of service immediately.

LIFTING BULK BAGS FITTED WITH FOUR STRAPS



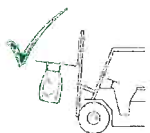
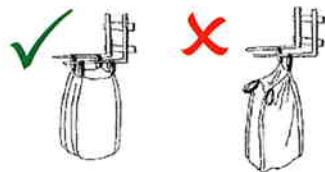
Attach the lifting device to the 4 lifting straps on the bag – ensuring the load is evenly spread. Lifting straps must be in a vertical position when bag is being lifted.

DO NOT lift bags by placing some or all of the straps on one hook or shackle



Avoid fork tines with rough or square edges.

Adjust forks to ensure all 4 straps are vertical and load is evenly spread.



- Avoid tilting forks forward;
- Check SWL capacity to carry suspended bag;
- Do not stop or start suddenly;
- Do not subject bag to snatch lifts or jerk stops;
- Do not withdraw forklift tines before all bag straps are free of the load (vertical force).

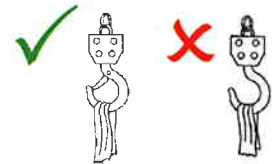


LIFTING SINGLE LOOP BAGS



The lifting process for the single loop requires an approved single lifting hook that complies with Australian Standards – identified by a compliance plate.

Ensure lifting hooks, shackles & associated devices have no sharp edges.

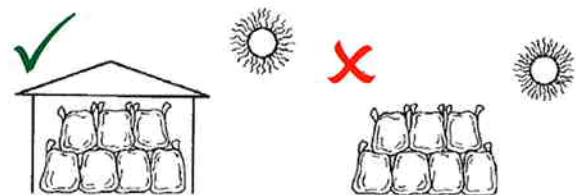


EMPTYING



Do not stand directly under the bag.
ALWAYS USE A SAFETY FRAME.

STORAGE



Bulk Bags should be stacked in a stable manner and under cover to prevent ultraviolet degradation and getting wet.