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Australian Made
Family Owned*



FERTILIZERS

IBC Handling Guidelines 2016/2017



SLTEC® Fertilizers provides a wide range of liquid fertilizer products in 20 L, 220 L, and 1000 L IBC containers.

This guideline provides a summary of SLTEC®'s transport, storage and handling standards and policies.

www.sltec.com.au

SLTEC®'s IBC Return Policy

• Definition: IBC stands for Intermediate Bulk Container.

• Sustainable Liquid Technology Pty Ltd (SLTEC®) provides their product range in a number of pack sizes including 20 L, 220 L, 1000 L IBCs and true bulk.

• A deposit of \$250 / 1,000 L IBC will be charged with each invoice.

• The freight arrangements associated with transporting IBCs from dealer depots or farm properties to SLTEC® depots (Tongala VIC or Devonport TAS) and any associated freight charges remain the dealer responsibility.

• Damaged IBCs will remain the property of the dealer or farmer.

• This deposit will be returned as an account credit upon return of the IBC to a SLTEC® Depot with the security tag and key fittings in place.

• IBC's must be returned within 6 months from date of dispatch from a SLTEC® depot to receive the deposit credit. Failure to return the IBC's within 6 months from date of dispatch from a SLTEC® Depot will void any claim for deposit credit.

• Where IBCs are returned with parts missing or damaged the following fee structure applies for repairs and fittings;

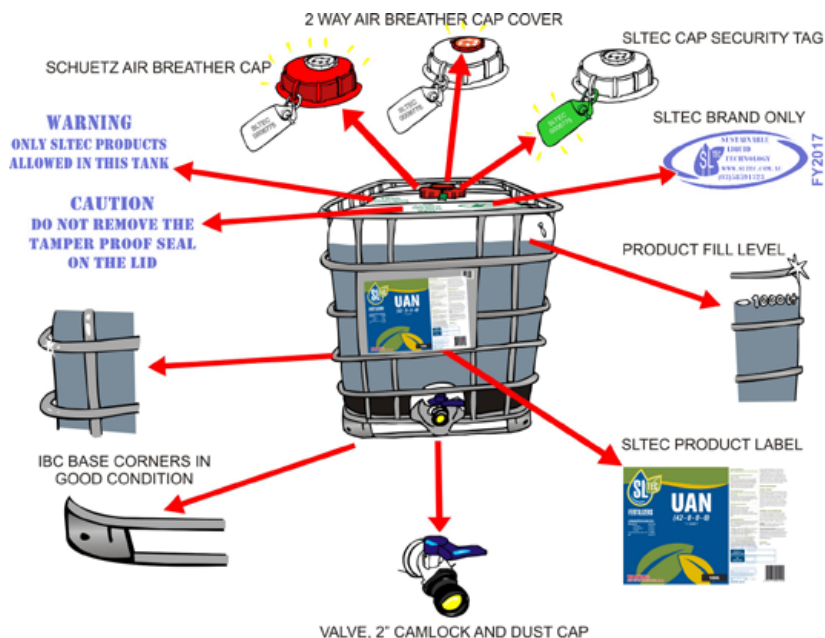
- 2 Way Air Vent with Cap - \$28 ex GST
- Camlock Adapter and Dust Plug - \$15 ex GST
- Dust Plug only - \$5 ex GST

Best Practice

SLTEC® is totally committed to ensuring its IBCs are supplied to you in a safe and maintained condition.

Each SLTEC IBC has the following quality assurance features;

- IBC Label indicating the product name, product specifications, date of packaging and date of dispatch
- **WARNING:** Only SLTEC® products allowed in this tank
- **CAUTION:** Do not remove the tamper proof seal on the lid
- SLTEC® brand and contact details
- Schuetz Air Breather Cap with 2 way air breather
- SLTEC Air Breather Cap Security Tag
- Safety Cage in good condition
- 2" Valve, 2" Camlock Cap with Dust Cap

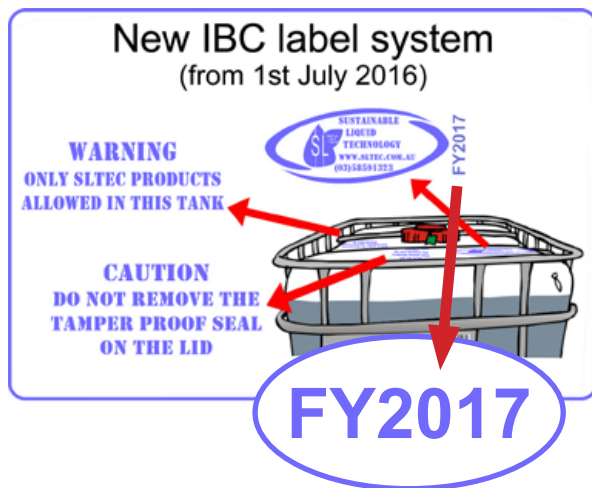


6 Month Return and Deposit Credit

All IBCs need to be returned to us within 6 months from the date of dispatch from a SLTEC® depot or manufacturing facility to validate any deposit credit.

There are many reasons for the 6 months return policy, several of these include;

- IBCs need regular maintenance, returning them within 6 months ensures that the necessary safety maintenance procedures are carried out in a timely manner.
- IBCs have a limited life and SLTEC® needs to ensure that aging IBCs are retired appropriately



New IBC Return Requirements;

Before you return your IBCs check the following;

- The IBC date of dispatch is within the last 6 months
- The warning and caution messages on the top of the IBC include the symbol, **FY2017**.
- The 2" Camlock Cap and Dust Cap are on the valve at the base of the IBCs (screwed onto the valve)
- The 2 way air breather cap is present and in good condition
- The green tamper proof safety ziplock tie is present on the 2 way air breather cap
- The safety cage and plastic bottle isn't damaged or rusty



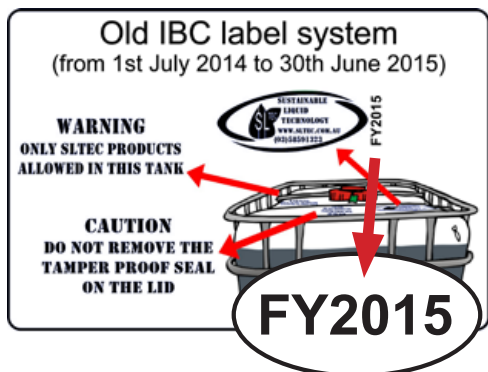
One Way IBCs

There are some situations where one way IBCs are dispatched from SLTEC® depots. These IBCs are generally dispatched to remote locations where the return of IBCs isn't practical.

In these cases, the painted details on the top of the IBCs are red.

WARNING: Only SLTEC products allowed in this tank

CAUTION: Do not remove the tamper proof seal on the lid



Should IBCs with red markings be returned to a SLTEC® depot no deposit credit will be possible as no deposit would have been charged at time of dispatch.

Old IBCs

Between the 1st of July 2014 to 30th of June 2015, IBCs dispatched from SLTEC® depots had **FY2015** spray painted on the lid of each IBC.

As from the 31st of December 2015, there were no deposits for these IBCs credited. Dealers and farmers are welcome to keep the IBCs.



Between the 1st of July 2015 to 30th of June 2016, IBCs dispatched from SLTEC depots had **FY2016** spray painted on the lid of each IBC.

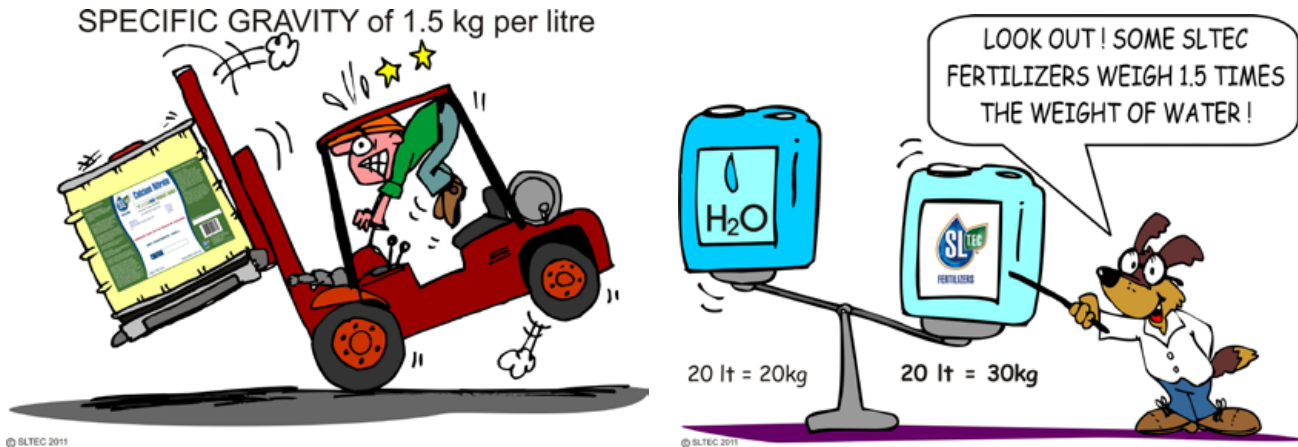
As from the 31st of December 2016 there will be no deposits for these IBCs credited. Dealers and farmers are welcome to keep the IBCs.

Safety Considerations with SLTEC® IBCs

Use a Forklift rated to safely lift 2.5 tonnes capacity

SLTEC® Fertilizer products weigh much more than water.

Accordingly, you will need a forklift or tractor with forklift extensions rated at 2.5 tonne or greater. Using a lifting device that is under rated can pose very serious safety risks to all concerned.



Wearing a seat belt when using a forklift is essential.

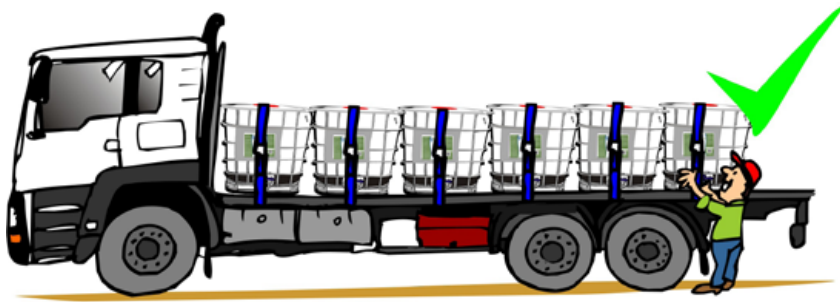
Safety Protective Equipment when Handling Liquid Fertilizers

The following safety equipment is recommended when transferring or decanting liquid fertilizer from any liquid fertilizer.

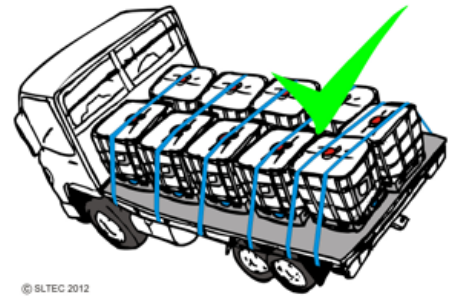


A Summary of Sustainable Practices

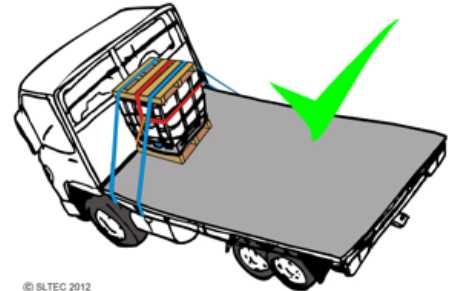
Picking up and Transporting IBCs from SLTEC® Depots



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IBCs are heavy and need to be transported safely. Remember that IBCs of SLTEC® fertilizer can and often do weigh up to 1.5 tonnes (1000 L = 1,500 kg). Hence if you have a truck with a load capacity of 12 tonne, then you can only carry 8 IBCs.

Not only do you need to have a vehicle rated for the load weight you anticipate picking up from a SLTEC® depot, but you also need to have appropriately rated load restraints. Old ropes and string are unacceptable. Nylon ratchet straps rated at 2.5 tonne are considered a minimum requirement.

Key Considerations

- SLTEC® and our depot service providers will not load trucks that are deemed on arrival to be non compliant with transport regulations.
- SLTEC® and our depot service providers will only load product within the placarded rating for your proposed transport vehicle.
- Load restraint devices must be fit for purpose and in sound working condition. Where worn straps or ropes are presented loading may be refused.
- IBCs loaded on wooden pallets are less likely to slip on steel truck trays.
- Where a single IBC is transported on a truck with a steel truck tray, a wooden pallet underneath the IBC and a wooden pallet on top of the IBC is recommended along with appropriate 2.5 tonne load restraint straps.



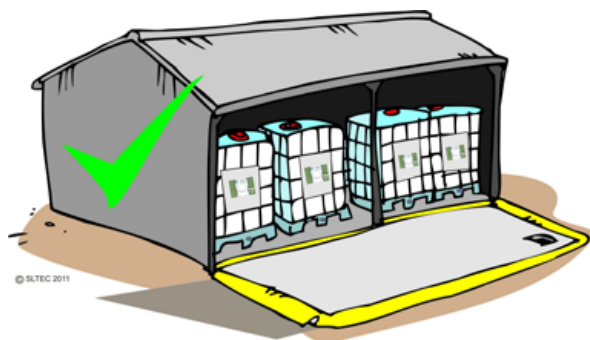
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Unrestrained IBCs will move in transit and must be restrained with fit for purpose load restraint devices.

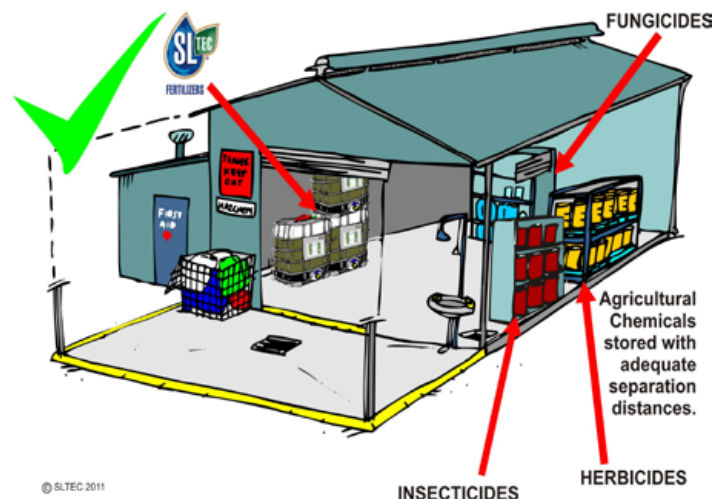
Storing SLTEC Fertilizer IBCs

SLTEC® IBCs should be stored separately to fungicides, herbicides and insecticides.

Another example of a bundled IBC storage facility with a bundled external loading or decanting bay.

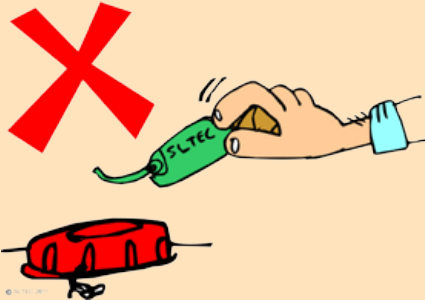




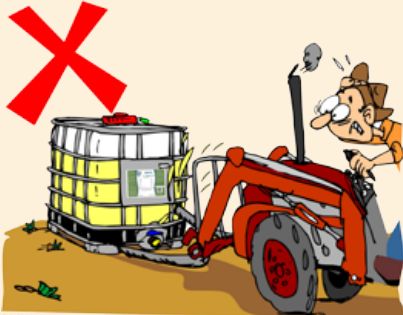


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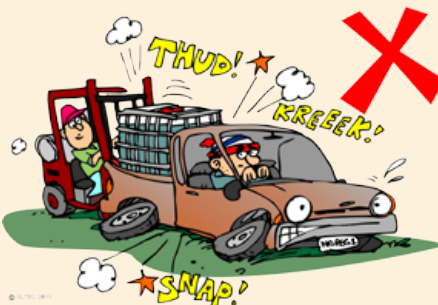

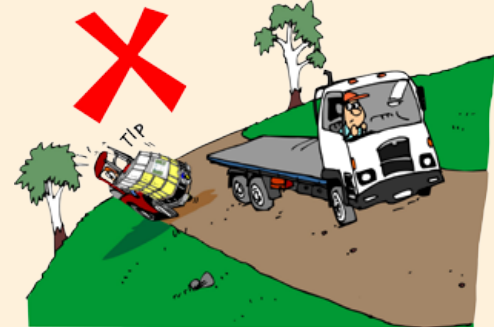


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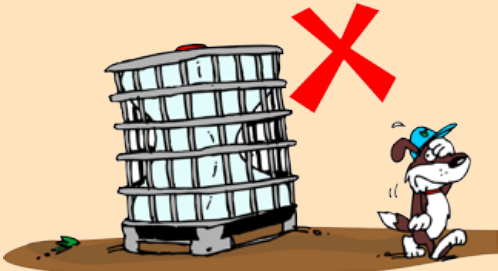
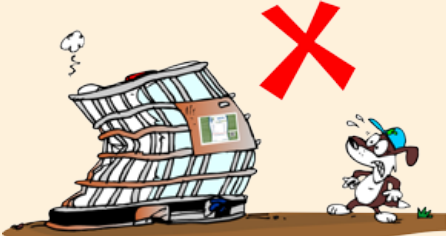



Summary of Inadequate Practices Associated with Handling SLTEC® IBCs

Principle Risk Area	Inadequate Practice Example	Description
Removing SLTEC® Safety Tag		SLTEC® Safety Tag is there for many reasons. It provides you with the assurance that the product contained in the IBC has been filled and sealed by SLTEC®'s professional team and provides you confidence that it complies with our stringent quality assurance procedures. Never remove the safety tag as removal voids any IBC credit return. Action/Alternative; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leave the Safety Tag on the 2 way Air Breather Cap • Receive your deposit back!
Removing the Cap		The Schutz Cap must not be removed under any circumstances. Action/Alternative; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leave the cap on the IBC and if you want an IBC for other purposes, buy one!
Removing the 2 Way Air Breather Cap		Removing the air breather on top of the Schultz cap contravenes a breach in SLTEC®'s IBC security procedures and voids any deposit credit return. Action/Alternative; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leave the air vent in place – do not touch.
Top Filling IBCs with Any Product		SLTEC® IBCs can only be filled and maintained by SLTEC® staff. Any attempts to use the IBC to mix or store other products is completely unacceptable and will void any deposit credit return. Action/Alternative; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If further mixing is required of SLTEC® fertilizer products with other additives use an external mixing tank system
Bottom Filling IBCs with Any Product		Bottom filling IBCs is strictly prohibited. Caution also needs to be taken to ensure that product cannot be sucked back (pumped or by gravity) from other storage or mixing systems. Action/Alternative; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure positive isolation by shutting off
Damaging IBCs with Hay or Tractor Forklifts		Often on farms the only practical option for lifting IBCs involves the use of tractors with hydraulic lifting devices. Hay forks should not be used as they are often bent and can be slippery. Action/Alternative; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use tractor forks • Drive slowly and safely • Ensure the tractor has at least 3 tonne ballast

Summary of Inadequate Practices Associated with Handling SLTEC® IBCs

Principle Risk Area	Inadequate Practice Example	Description
Storing Fertilizer and Agricultural Chemicals and Old Drums Beside Irrigation Channels and Waterways		Fertilizer and Chemical drums and bags can contaminate the wider environment if poorly stored and handled. Action/Alternative; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Always store empty IBCs and chemical drums etc in bunded cement contained areas Return IBCs ASAP to recover deposit credit!
Storing Chemical Drums and Bags on IBCs		Storing chemical drums and other products on IBCs may damage the IBC and potentially contaminate the IBC. Action/Alternative; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Store SLTEC® fertilizer IBCs in a bunded area away from other chemicals and products.
Children Playing Around Fertilizer Storages		Fertilizers can be corrosive and could cause harm to children if eyes are impacted or if product is ingested. Action/Alternative; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Store SLTEC® Fertilizers in areas where children are prevented from entering.
Loading IBCs into Vehicles		Some vehicles were never meant to carry SLTEC® IBCs. Action/Alternative; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure you arrive with a well maintained, roadworthy vehicle fit and rated to carry liquid fertilizers. Vehicles that are not considered fit for safe transport of SLTEC® fertilizers will not be loaded.
Transporting IBCs Without Appropriately Rated Load Restraint Devices		SLTEC® Fertilizer IBCs are heavy and must be safely restrained in a manner compliant with all legal requirements. Worn ropes are considered inadequate. Action/Alternative; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use 2.5 tonne Nylon Ratchet Straps
Unloading IBCs on Undulating Ground or on Non Sealed Surfaces		Forklifts are not all terrain vehicles and they must only ever be operated on flat terrain with compacted gravel hard stand traffic surfaces. Action/Alternative; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure unloading areas are flat and either cement, bitumen or compacted hardstand areas

Summary of Inadequate Practices Associated with Handling SLTEC® IBCs

Principle Risk Area	Inadequate Practice Example	Description
Imploding IBCS		<p>IBCs occasionally implode if the 2 way air breather vent is partially blocked or if a large suction pump is used to suck the fertilizer from the IBCs.</p> <p>Action/Alternative;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Check that the pump isn't drawing liquid too quickly. Check that the cap is venting, you may need to tap the top of the cap to release the air vent and allow airflow.
Crushed and Damaged IBCS		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IBCs end up like this if they are crushed or dropped during unloading or on farm use. SLTEC® doesn't offer deposit credits for damaged IBCs. <p>Action/Alternative;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> IBCs need to be returned to SLTEC® in the SAME condition as they are received by you.
Heroes and Back Strain		<p>1,000 L Intermediate Bulk Containers (IBCs or shuttles) were designed in such a way as to detract people from manual handling them. Despite these efforts people still attempt the impossible and pay the consequences.</p> <p>Action/Alternative;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only EVER use forklifts and approved handling equipment to move, load, unload chemical drums >20 L.
Storing IBCs in Mud or on Unsealed Areas		<p>Storing IBCs on muddy areas increase risks of damage to the IBC and loss of product.</p> <p>Action/Alternative;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SLTEC® IBCs are heavy and need to be stored on compacted gravel, hard stand, cement or bitumen areas.
IBCs stored on Drums for Decanting		<p>Raising IBCs with pallets and drums to enable gravity decanting presents substantial safety risks.</p> <p>Action/Alternative;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SLTEC® IBCs are heavy and need to be stored on a purpose built steel frame if decanting at height is required. Best practice alternative involves storing the IBC at ground level in a bunded area and pumping the SLTEC® fertilizer into the irrigation or spray vat system with a positive displacement pump. A simple Onga or Davey pool pump can often suffice to transfer fertilizer (Note: ensure the pump can operate at higher pressures than any mainline you are intending to inject into. Consult your irrigation pump specialist or SLTEC® for further assistance).

1800 768 224
enquiries@sltec.com.au

Follow @sltecfert

2055 Finlay Road / PO Box 43,
TONGALA VICTORIA 3621

ABN: 632 340 733 78 ACN: 113 670269

www.sltec.com.au