

# Bulk Bags

## Safe Handling Guide



### SAFETY

As Australia's leading Specialty Fertiliser importer, Campbells Fertilisers Australasia is committed to grower and customer safety. To ensure safe handling practices, all parts of the Supply Chain have specific challenges based around unloading, storage and warehousing, loading and transport.

This Guide is designed to assist you with decisions around safe handling practices.

### BULK BAG OR FIBC HANDLING

FIBC's (Flexible Intermediate Bulk Containers), commonly referred to as Bulk bags, are generally strong and made of resilient material, but appropriate safety measures should be taken to ensure safety when handling bulk bags.

Bulk bags are commonly available in varying sizes from 500 to 1200kg's, with 4 loop and single loop configurations available. (Other Suppliers may also be supplied in much smaller 200 - 300kg bags occasionally)

Most of the Bulk Bags currently in the market are Single Trip bags, and Campbells Fertilisers products are supplied in one way or Single Trip bags, and are non-returnable and non-reusable.

### RISK

Risk factors may include:

- UV Damage from bag exposure to excessive sunlight
- Physical damage to Bulk Bag body, such as rips and tears
- Physical damage to Bulk Bag straps, such as cuts
- Incorrect loading or unloading practices
- Incorrect storage practices
- Unsuitable equipment
- Non-complying or under-load rated equipment
- Incorrect lifting techniques
- Travelling with Bulk bag over uneven surfaces
- Physical damage to forklift or tractor fork tines

### REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

For further specific information on safe use of Forklifts: [safeworkaustralia.gov.au](http://safeworkaustralia.gov.au) (Aust); [worksafe.govt.nz/](http://worksafe.govt.nz/) (NZ)

For information around safe use of attachments on tractors (such as tractor forks), refer to your relevant Worksafe website.

### RECOMMENDED BULK BAG HANDLING PRACTICES

#### DO

- Inspect for damage before handling, and close top correctly
- Check Label, Review and check bag SWL (Safe Working Limit)
- Check discharge arrangements are properly secured before filling
- Ensure filled Bulk Bags are stable, ensuring stability when stacked
- Use suitable certified lifting gear of sufficient capacity to take the suspended load (Relative to bag weight)
- Adjust fork tines to the correct width of the Bag being handled
- Check that fork tines are free of sharp edges
- Tilt the mast of the forklift backwards to an appropriate angle
- Ensure Bulk bags are adequately secured when transporting
- Travel slowly, avoiding excessive bag movement
- Ensure crane hooks are of adequate size and well rounded
- Take appropriate measures for dust control
- Consider the possibility of static electricity hazards
- Protect Bulk bags from rain and/or prolonged sunlight

#### DO NOT

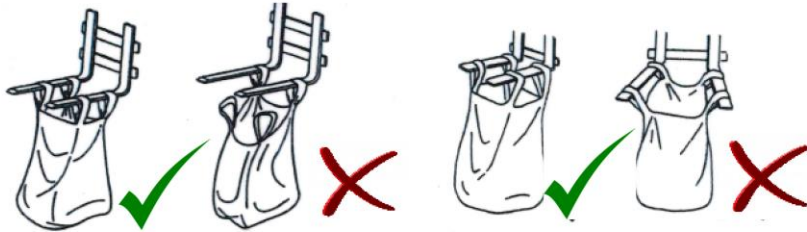
- Exceed the bag SWL under any circumstances
- Fill Bulk Bags unevenly
- Stop or start suddenly during transportation
- Subject Bulk Bags to snatch lifts or jerk stops
- Drag or drop Bulk Bags
- Allow personnel under a suspended Bulk Bag
- Use sharp or jagged fork tines
- Allow Bulk Bag to project over the side of a vehicle or pallet
- Tilt the mast of the forklift forwards
- Allow Bulk bags to impact the forklift mast, or bounce repeatedly whilst travelling over uneven surfaces. This will cause the load to exceed the Safe Working Limit, and may result in strap breakages, bag splitting or both (Bulk Bags should always be transported on pallets. Straps **MUST** be used for lifting only, not transport)
- Subject the Bulk bags to snatch lifts or jerk stops
- Withdraw fork tines before relieving the load on a lifting device
- Use or transport damaged Bulk Bags
- Attempt to repair any Bulk Bag while under load of any type

### DISCLAIMER

*Campbells Fertilisers Australasia has taken all reasonable care in the preparation of this information guide, and shall not be liable for any loss or damage suffered by person or any third party arising from or in connection with the use of Bulk Bags or FIBC's.*

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- Never suspend a Bulk Bag on fewer lift loops than have been provided
- Ensure lifting tines are spaced correctly, to prevent excessive lateral force when
- Do not travel with lift tines tilted forward, always ensuring the forklift mast is tilted to the rear
- Do not travel with Bulk Bag above drivers line of sight
- Keep personnel clear of any potential hazards from suspended Bulk Bags (Risk applies to bags being raised, or suspended)
- Ensure Bulk Bags are correctly stacked and securely, using a Pyramid stacking method

- Do not stand immediately under the Bulk Bag when untying the bag chute
- Utilise or consider a bulk bag frame to protect personnel

- Avoid fork tines with square or rough edges
- Edges must be rounded to at least the thickness of the Bulk Bags lift loops

- Never gather loops to lift with one hook, unless bag is specifically designed to do so
- Consider lifting equipment and suitable frames to distribute weight evenly (Must be certified to Aust. Standards)

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