Organisation
FERTCARE®

100% AUSTRALIAN MADE & OWNED

SLTEC®

FERTILIZERS

IBC Handling Guidelines

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.

SLTEC®'s New IBC Policy

SLTEC Fertilizers is discontinuing the IBC Deposit system as of January 1, 2024, and transitioning to one-way non-returnable IBCs.

Key Benefits:

- Enhance efficiency by improving availability and shorter despatch times of IBC's.
- Eliminate the challenges for growers and dealers from the requirements associated with IBC returns under the IBC Deposit System.
- All bladers will be NEW, eliminating any risk of contamination associated with IBC's being re-used.
- Reduce the environmental footprint by decreasing the number of cycles associated with cleaning and transport of IBC's.
- Improve occupational health and safety.

Key Changes:

- Starting January 1, 2024, all IBC shipments will consist of new or near-new IBCs with a non-returnable charge of $200 (+ GST) per IBC.
- Tamper-proof seals and IBC barcodes will still be added for quality control and IBCs will continue to feature camlocks for ease of use.
- End users will be free to do with the empty IBCs as they wish. To aid resale and reuse, SLTEC will no longer stencil our IBCs with paint.
- SLTEC will exclusively provide Schuetz IBCs and end-users can easily arrange with Schuetz to collect any empty IBCs for free.
- IBC's that have been shipped prior to 1 January 2024 that were ordered with returnable IBC's will continue to be subject to the IBC Deposit System.
- Existing deposits on IBCs shipped before January 1, 2024, will be subject to the IBC Deposit System until June 30, 2024, after which all deposits on outstanding IBCs will be forfeited and no credit will be given for IBCs returned after 30 June 2024.
- SLTEC may choose to accept post-January 1 IBCs at the factory if the tamper-proof seal is intact, but no payment or refund will be issued.
- All customers are welcome to switch to non-returnable IBCs at any time before 31 December 2023.

For further clarification or inquiries, customers are encouraged to contact their sales representative.

Collection and Reconditioning of IBCs

Register on the SCHÜTZ website at www.schuetz.net/ticket to enable SCHÜTZ to send you a customer reference number. This identifies you as a disposer of empty IBCs. Registration is free of charge and non-binding. Current collection and service terms are available on their website.

The SCHÜTZ Collection and Recondition of IBCs Steps:

Order a collection

With your customer reference number you can order the collection of your emptied IBCs. This can be done online, through our website or the app, by e-mail or phone.

Your IBCs are collected

Collection will take place within a few days. We will get in touch if there are any questions or to arrange a collection time.

Replacing the inner bottle

All components that came into contact with the filling product – e.g., the inner bottle, screw caps and valves – are replaced with new original components.

Reusing the steel grid and pallet

The steel components are thoroughly cleaned and repaired if necessary. Replaced plastic or steel components are recycled for materials.

Reuse

As RECOBULK, the SCHÜTZ IBCs provide complete product safety again. The UN approval for the container is extended for a further five years.

Contact SCHÜTZ:

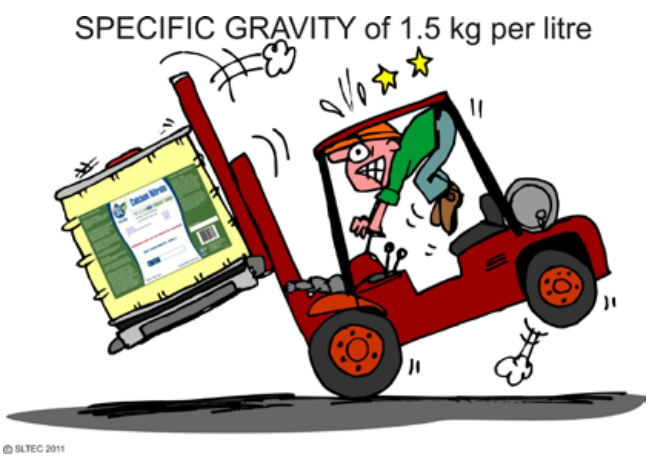
T: 1800 336 228

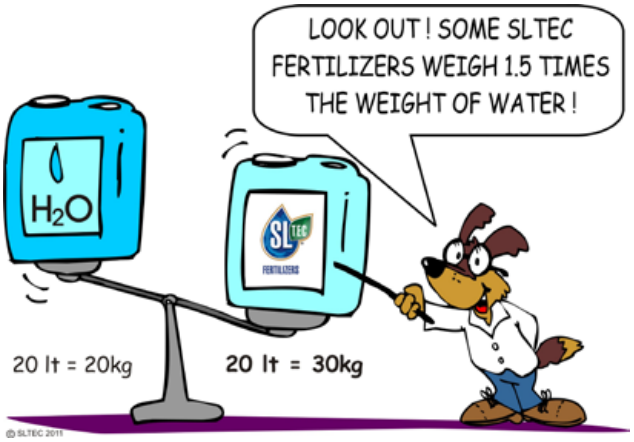
Safety Considerations with SLTEC® IBCs

Use a Forklift rated to lift 2.5 tonnes capacity safely

SLTEC® Fertilizer products weigh much more than water.

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

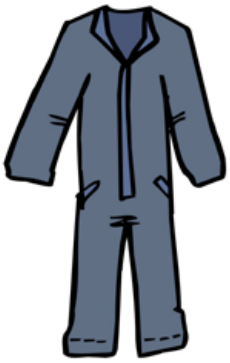




Wearing a seat belt when using a forklift is essential.

Safety Protective Equipment when Handling Liquid Fertilizers

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



Impervious Coat or Apron Trousers / Pants

Safety Glasses

Chemical Resistant Gloves

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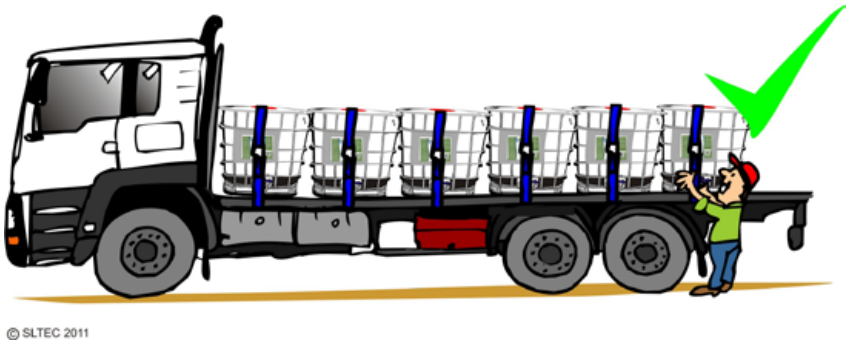
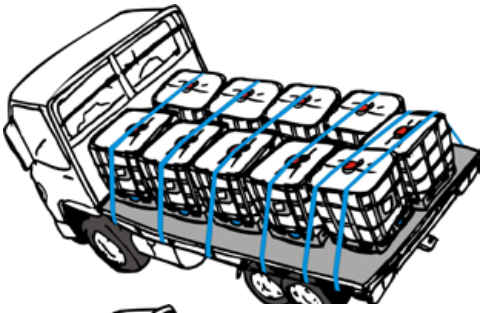
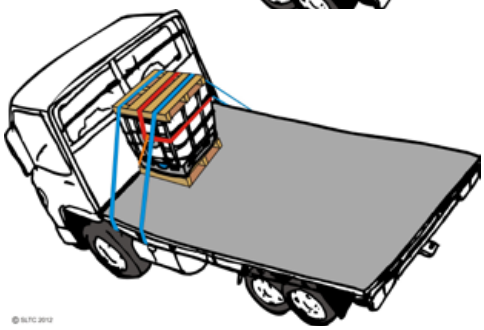
A Summary of Sustainable Practices

Picking up and Transporting IBCs from SLTEC® Depots







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 tonnes, 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 tonnes are considered a minimum requirement.

Key Considerations

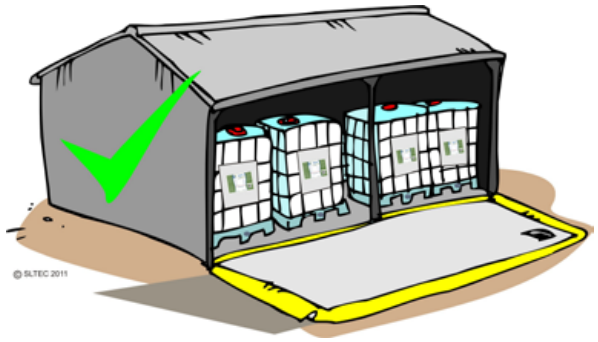
- SLTEC® and our depot service providers will not load trucks that are deemed to be non-compliant with transport regulations.
- SLTEC® and our depot service providers will only load product within the placarded rating for your proposed transport vehicle.
- Load restraint devices must be fit for purpose 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 tonnes load restraint straps.

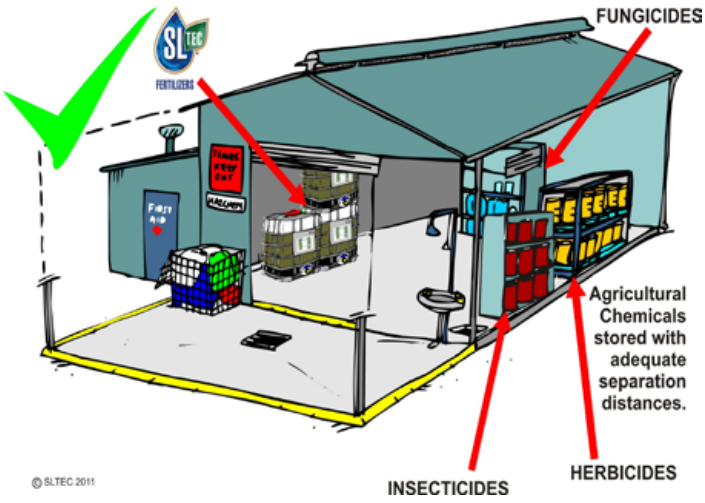
Unrestrained IBCs will move in transit and must be restrained with fit for purpose load restraint devices.

Storing SLTEC Fertilizer IBCs

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

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





Filling IBCs from a Bulk Truck

Occasionally SLTEC is asked to fill IBCs at dealer or farmer premises.

Often there are issues and risks associated with providing this service and these include;

- Dealer or Grower IBCs are not properly cleaned, resulting in contamination of the product delivered and complaints.
- IBCs change in shape over time. The same volume of fertilizer can display as varying levels on different IBCs, depending on the condition of the IBC, manufacturer of the IBC, wear and tear etc.
- **Note:** SLTEC accepts no responsibility for the quality of the product once decanted from our delivery trucks into a bulk tank or IBC.

Fertilizer Quality Assurance

To ensure that all products are leaving our factory with an appropriate quality, SLTEC take 3 product samples. The first product sample is taken from our tankers prior to or during pumping into the receiving vessel using a plastic sample bottle complete with batch number and product details. The final two samples are taken upon arriving at the farmer/dealer, one sample is kept by the customer, the other is sent back to SLTEC for Quality Assurance purposes.

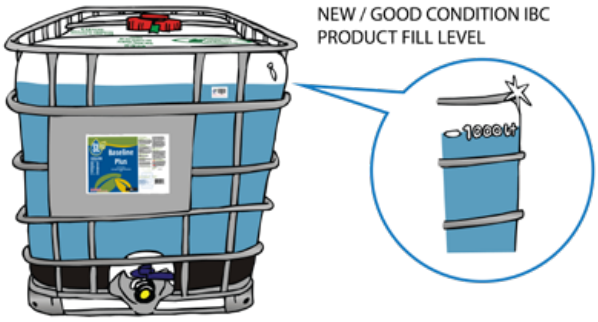
Filling Third-Party IBCs from a Bulk Truck

Please note that SLTEC fills IBCs based on weight, not volume.

SLTEC uses SCHÜTZ Australia IBCs as they are made to international manufacturing standards.

You need to be aware that SCHÜTZ widely states that the 1000 L level on the IBCs is a GUIDE ONLY, and not a legal basis of sale. SCHÜTZ confirm that the actual volume contained in a new IBC will be influenced by the specific gravity of the product and the temperature of the product amongst other factors.

In addition, whilst the mould used to produce the IBC bladders is accurate, cooling temperatures post-moulding can also affect the dimensions of the IBCs. Hence the 1000 L level is nothing more than a guide AT BEST.



IBCs Aging

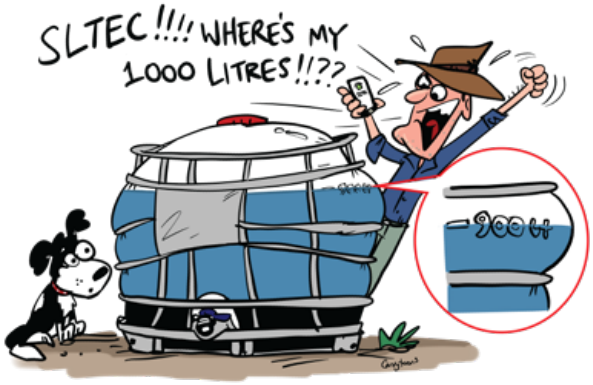
With age we all risk expanding our waistlines! IBCs also have a midlife crisis, resulting in their frames stretching and sagging. The 1000 l mark provides at best a guide and cant be relied on to provide an accurate indicator on volume contained.

IBC Field Wear and Tear

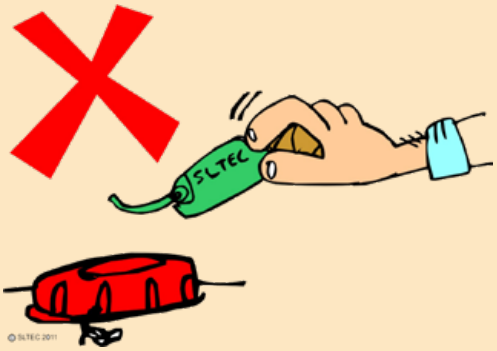
IBCs and their contents can contract and expand.

Therefore, while 1000 L of a fertilizer product may have reached the 1000 L level of a brand new SCHÜTZ IBC, with time and age, the exact same volume will often register as a lower level on the IBC due to stretching and fatigue of the IBC.

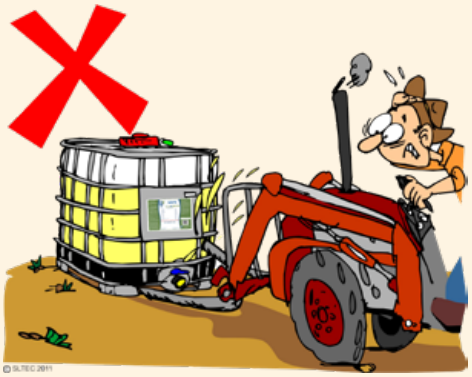
While SLTEC does offer to fill third-party IBCs for dealer and grower customers, the basis of sale is measured and reported only via a weighbridge docket. Rarely will the volume delivered measure up with the volumetric scale on IBCS (new or old).



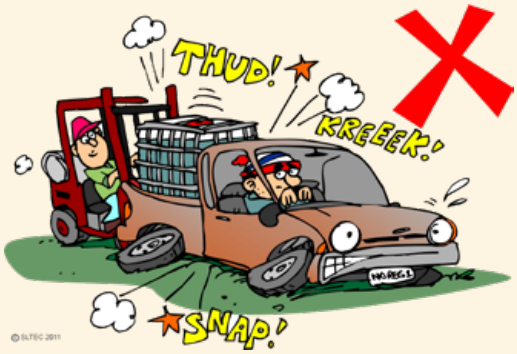
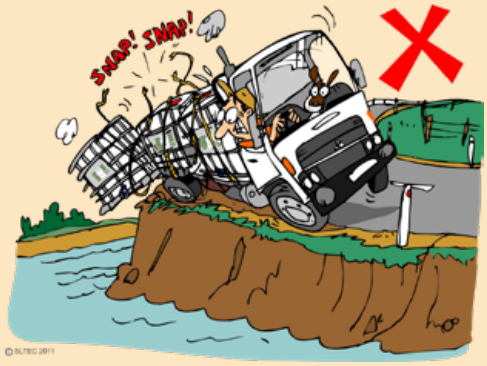
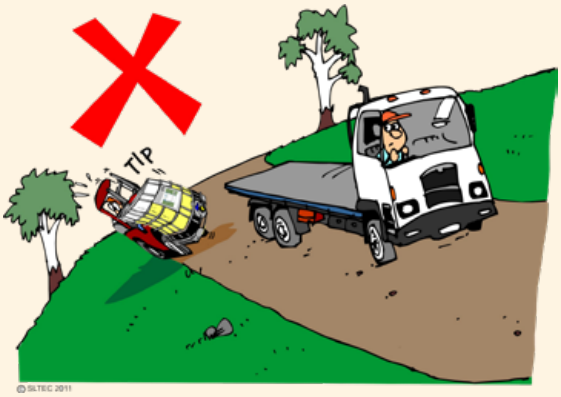
Summary of Inadequate Practices Associated with Handling SLTEC® IBCs

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. **Action/Alternative;** • 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;** • 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. **Action/Alternative;** • 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. **Action/Alternative;** • If further mixing is required of SLTEC® fertilizer products with other additives use an external mixing tank system

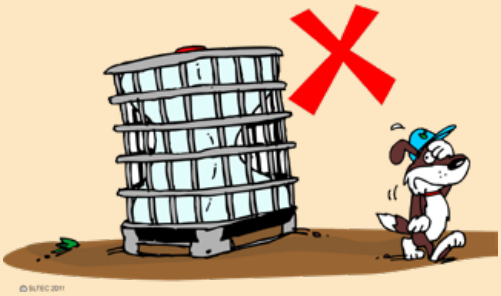
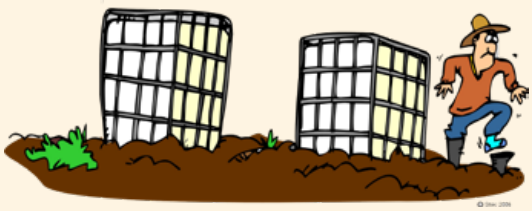
Summary of Inadequate Practices Associated with Handling SLTEC® IBCs

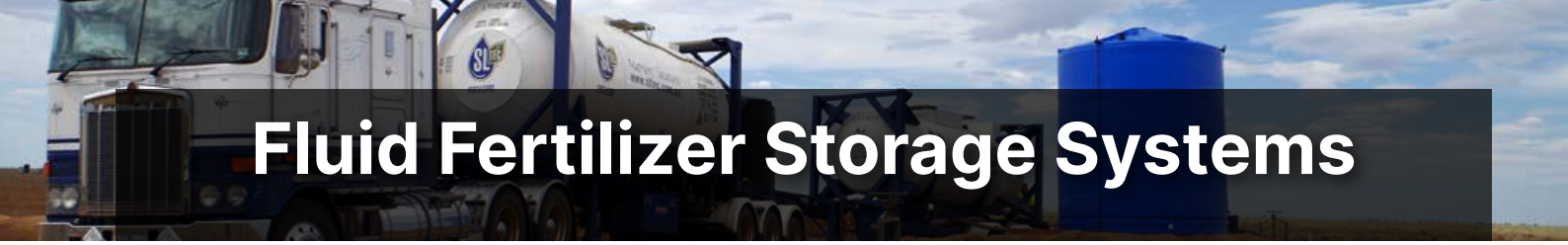
Principle Risk Area	Inadequate Practice Example	Description
Bottom Filling IBCs with Any Product		Bottom filling IBCs is strictly prohibited. Caution also needs to be taken to ensure that product cannot be sucked back (pumped or by gravity) from other storage or mixing systems. **Action/Alternative;** • 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;** • Use forklift forks • Use a pallet and tractor forks • Drive slowly and safely • Ensure the tractor has at least 3 tonne ballast
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;** • 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;** • Store SLTEC® fertilizer IBCs in a bunded area away from other chemicals and products.

Summary of Inadequate Practices Associated with Handling SLTEC® IBCs

Principle Risk Area	Inadequate Practice Example	Description
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;** • 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;** • 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;** • Use 2.5 tonne Nylon Ratchet Straps • Keep in mind that IBCs can weight more than 1.5 tonnes each and check the product's specific gravity to restrain adequately.
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 strand traffic surfaces. **Action/Alternative;** • 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		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. **Action/Alternative;** • Check that the pump isn't drawing liquid to 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		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. **Action/Alternative;** • IBCs need to be returned to SLTEC® in the SAME condition as they are received by you.
Heroes and Back Strain		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. **Action/Alternative;** • Only EVER use forklifts and approved handling equipment to move, load, unload chemical drums >20 L.
Storing IBCs in Mud or on Unsealed Areas		Storing IBCs on muddy areas increase risks of damage to the IBC and loss of product. **Action/Alternative;** • SLTEC® IBCs are heavy and need to be stored on compacted gravel, hard stand, cement or bitumen areas.
IBCs stored on Drums for Decanting		Raising IBCs with pallets and drums to enable gravity decanting presents substantial safety risks. **Action/Alternative;** • 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).



Fluid Fertilizer Storage Systems

The team at SLTEC® have conducted extensive research into storage and handling systems and can assist you in designing and implementing your liquid nutritional program.

Well designed fluid fertiliser storage and injection systems are essential to ensuring your fluid inputs are effectively utilised, to maintain your workforce safety, and to minimise environmental impacts.

SLTEC® Fluid Fertiliser Tanks

Free Standing 32,000 L Tank

Poly Tank complete with:

- Manhole & safety lid
- Banjo fertiliser resistant fittings
- 3” camlock infill / outlet and air vent assemblies
- Stainless steel sight gauge assembly
- Bottom sump & 1” drain valve enabling 100% drainage
- Strong poly base to support and fittings

Tank available for purchase or rental.

Free Standing 10,000 L Tank

Poly Tank complete with:

- Manhole & safety lid
- Banjo fertiliser resistant fittings
- Sight gauge ¾”
- Tank height is designed to fit under Centre Pivot centre

Tank available for purchase only.

Header Tanks for Liquid Run Fertiliser

- Made from a recycled 220 L drum
- Stainless steel float assembly with poly ball float
- 1” fertiliser resistant camlock fittings with hose supplied

Sale only, or ask for blueprint to make your own.

1800 768 224
enquiries@sltec.com.au

@Sltecfert

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sltec.com.au

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