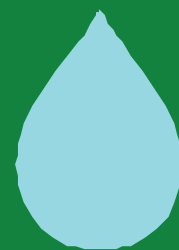


Before Spraying

Spray Operator Training



Why is training needed for spray operators?

Pesticides are hazardous and must be handled responsibly. It is important for safety, as well as being a legal requirement, that pesticides are applied by trained competent staff.

When using pesticides, the aim should be to maximise the benefit and minimise risks to operators, bystanders and the environment. To make sure this happens, pesticide legislation regulates not just the products themselves but also the people who handle and use them.



What are the legal requirements for spray operator training & certification?

- Under the Health and Safety legislation anyone who uses pesticides in a work situation must be adequately trained, no matter what their age or what product they are using. The training should give them the same skills needed to obtain a Certificate of Competence.
- The law requires that all those born after 31 December 1964 who apply professional (agricultural, horticultural, amenity, industrial and forestry) pesticides commercially must hold a certificate of competence. *
- All contractors who apply professional pesticides must hold a certificate of competence.
- The requirement for a certificate of competence also applies to anyone "supervising" an untrained operator in the previous two groups.
- Holders are required to produce on demand their Certificate(s) of Competence for inspection to any person authorised to enforce pesticide legislation.
- The **National Register of Sprayer Operators (NRoSO)** was established as part of the Voluntary Initiative. Membership of the register is open to all operators legally applying professional pesticides. Membership of NRoSO demonstrates a commitment to best practice and further training through continuing professional development. NRoSO membership is also a requirement of many farm assurance schemes.

*Grandfather Rights

This is jargon used to refer to those who do not need to hold a certificate of competence because they were born before 31 December 1964 and are spraying on land under their control. "Grandfathers" still need to be trained and competent. This exemption may be removed or replaced by alternative arrangements when the UK implements the Sustainable Use Directive (in the next 3-5 years).

Supervision

The definition of supervision will depend on circumstance and legal interpretation. Ideally the supervisor should be within sight and sound of the operator and close enough to see and stop any inappropriate activity.

What training is needed?

In order to gain a Certificate of Competence, spray operators must be able to demonstrate competence and understanding in the following areas:-

- Legislation and Code of Practice relevant to the use of pesticides
- How to read product labels in order to ensure correct use. This includes being able to identify the human and environmental hazards and risks associated with the use of the product and the precautions to take to minimise them
- Identification of the features of application equipment that minimise operator contamination
- Identification and selection of the correct personal protective equipment to use with a particular product
- Knowledge of correct procedures for mixing and applying pesticides, to protect the operator, the public and the environment
- How to dispose of surplus diluted product and the empty containers after finishing work
- What to do in an emergency and how to get help
- What records are required and how long to keep them
- Knowledge of the role of health surveillance and health monitoring
- Skills appropriate to the safe use of the equipment they normally use

How do I obtain a Certificate of Competence?

- All candidates must first complete a Foundation Module (PA1), for which a certificate is not issued, before taking one of the specialist modules (see table over leaf).
- Candidates must pass a practical assessment (including under pinning knowledge) offered by City & Guilds NPTC. Details of local assessment centres can be found at www.nptc.org.uk
- Because the required skills vary widely among the various types of activity, candidates are assessed under one (or more) modules that are most appropriate to their work. Where practical it is possible to take two or more application units back to back.
- Assessments are carried out by an approved City & Guilds NPTC Assessor.
- Certificate holders, who change their work and use different application equipment, may need to obtain a new certificate in a more relevant additional module.

💧 Sprayer Operator Certificates of Competence

PA1	Foundation Module.
PA2	Ground Crop Sprayers - mounted or trailed
PA3	Broadcast Air - Blast Sprayer. Variable Geometry Boom Air Assisted Sprayer
PA4	Granule Applicator - mounted or trailed
PA5	Boat Mounted Applicators
PA6	Hand Held Applicators
PA7	Aerial Application
PA8	Mixer / Loader
PA9	Fogging, Misting and Smokes
PA10	Dipping Bulbs, Corms, Plant Material or Containers
PA11	Seed treating equipment
PA12	Application of Pesticides to Material as a Continuous or Batch Process
PA13	Sub-surface application (soil sterilisation)

When did you get your certificate?

Certificate holders who obtained their certificate before July 1994 may find that it covers a number of other application modules, for example knapsack sprayers and granule/pellet applicators. To confirm what equipment the certificate covers check on the back of the certificate for an explanation or contact City & Guilds NPTC. However if using new equipment training is usually beneficial and is often required under COPR.

Slug Pellet Training

Additional training and certification is now recommended for everyone applying slug pellets. A new short Slug Pelleting course with a classroom based test is available.

- Operators and "grandfathers" who have PA4 or obtained their PA2 before July 1994 are **recommended** to attend the Slug Pelleting training and take the test
- Operators who obtained PA2 after July 1994 **must** have the training and the test
- All uncertificated operators that require a certificate **must** take PA1 and the new PA4S slug pellet application module which will be available early in 2010.

For further details check with City & Guilds NPTC who can be contacted on tel: 024 7685 7300, fax: 024 7669 6128, e-mail: information@nptc.org.uk or web: www.nptc.org.uk.

Rodenticides and Vertebrate Control

Currently there is no need for a certificate of competence when using rodenticides but training is recommended and under health and safety legislation employees must be trained and competent. Additional training or qualifications are available through rodenticide manufacturers, BPCA, Royal Society for Public Health and City & Guilds NPTC.

Aluminium phosphide

Operators must be specially trained and familiar with the precautionary measures to be observed. See HSE Guidance Note CS22: Fumigation suppliers will not supply to untrained individuals.

💧 Who provides the training?

Lantra Awards, agricultural and horticultural colleges and freelance trainers provide training. Training providers can be identified through the web or yellow pages. In particular visit:

www.nroso.org.uk
www.basis-reg.co.uk
www.lantra-awards.co.uk

Lantra Awards also offer the 'Advanced Certificate in Pesticide Spray Applications and additional one-day courses on ~ Environmental Safety for Pesticides Use (Advanced) and Effective Application of Pesticides (Advanced).

💧 What other training do spray operators need?

Regular refresher training is recommended to stay up to date with new regulations and the latest thinking on best practice. Induction training on new equipment is also suggested and operators should receive training in elementary first aid to give added competence in handling emergencies. The best way to stay up to date is to join a continuing professional development scheme such as NRoSo.

💧 What is BASIS?

BASIS is an independent officially recognised Registration Scheme for the pesticide industry. It is responsible for ensuring competence in areas of pesticide storage and advice. It does this by organising training courses and examinations for people such as advisors and storekeepers, leading to relevant Certificates of Competence.

In addition, BASIS undertakes annual assessments of pesticide supply stores, enabling distributors, contractors and seeds men to meet their obligations under the Code of Practice for Suppliers of Pesticides.

BASIS can be contacted on: Tel: 01335 343945 Fax: 01335 346488 e-mail: registrar@basis-reg.co.uk



The advice in this Guide has been prepared after consultation with City & Guilds NPTC, Lantra Awards and BASIS.

This Guide was produced by the Crop Protection Association as part of The Voluntary Initiative.

The Voluntary Initiative is a programme of measure agreed by Government to minimise the environmental impact of pesticides.

www.cropprotection.org.uk

www.voluntaryinitiative.org.uk

