



Higher National Unit specification

General information for centres

Unit title: Pesticide Application

Unit code: F2B2 34

Unit purpose: This Unit identifies and develops the knowledge required for the safe use, handling, transport, storage and application of professional pesticides within the UK. It addresses key issues in health, safety and environmental legislation and good practice relevant to many other Units. In addition to contributing towards a Higher National qualification, the Unit prepares the candidate for the NPTC Certificates of Competence in the Safe Use of Pesticides (0213) Foundation Module PA1 and Hand Held Applicator Module PA6.

On completion of the Unit the candidate should be able to:

- 1 Demonstrate knowledge of the key aspects of legislation and procedures that apply to pesticide use, storage, transport and disposal.
- 2 Identify the means by which environmental risks associated with pesticide use can be minimised.
- 3 Demonstrate knowledge of the function and maintenance of a hand held pesticide applicator and associated flow control devices.
- 4 Interpret an approved pesticide label and prepare a hand held applicator for work by accurate calibration within a safe system of work.
- 5 Prepare an accurate record sheet pertaining to a given pesticide application.

Credit points and level: 1 HN credit at SCQF level 7: (8 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 7*)

**SCQF credit points are used to allocate credit to qualifications in the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF). Each qualification in the Framework is allocated a number of SCQF credit points at an SCQF level. There are 12 SCQF levels, ranging from Access 1 to Doctorates.*

Recommended prior knowledge and skills: Access to this Unit is at the discretion of the delivering centre.

Core Skills: There are opportunities to develop the Core Skill(s) of Numeracy and Communication at SCQF level 6 in this Unit, although there is no automatic certification of Core Skills or Core Skills components.

Context for delivery: If this Unit is delivered as part of a Group Award, it is recommended that it should be taught and assessed within the subject area of the Group Award to which it contributes.

General information for centres (cont)

Assessment: The assessments of Outcomes 1 & 2 should be conducted in a single assessment. Multichoice assessment is recommended as this equates to NPTC Foundation Unit PA1. Candidates must have a mark of 80% from 35 questions covering both Outcomes in order to gain a Pass. The assessment of Outcome 3 should be conducted as a single practical assessment using suitable materials to simulate pesticides. This equates to NPTC Foundation Unit PA6. Candidates must avoid critical faults where risk may be posed to themselves, the assessor, others or the environment in order to gain a Pass.

The assessments of Outcome 5 could be carried out as a practical exercise after completion of Outcome 3/4 or as a take home assignment based on in-class presented information.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards

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The sections of the Unit stating the Outcomes, Knowledge and/or Skills, and Evidence Requirements are mandatory.

Where evidence for Outcomes is assessed on a sample basis, the whole of the content listed in the Knowledge and/or Skills section must be taught and available for assessment. Candidates should not know in advance the items on which they will be assessed and different items should be sampled on each assessment occasion.

Outcome 1

Demonstrate knowledge of the key aspects of legislation and procedures that apply to pesticide use, storage, transport and disposal

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Current legislative and good practice requirements
- ◆ Relevant Approved Codes of Practice
- ◆ Approval and statutory conditions
- ◆ Label interpretation

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills by showing that they can identify the correct answers from a series of multichoice questions pertaining to Outcome 1 and the associated knowledge requirements in a closed-book assessment.

Assessment Guidelines

The assessment of this Outcome could be combined with other Outcomes as part of a single assessment for the Unit. The assessment could be conducted by closed-book, in class, timed assessment.

Outcome 2

Identify the means by which environmental risks associated with pesticide use can be minimised

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Current legislative and good practice requirements
- ◆ Environmental Assessments
- ◆ Equipment controls and settings
- ◆ Voluntary Initiative

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Pesticide Application

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills by showing that they can identify the correct answers from a series of multichoice questions pertaining to Outcome 2 and the associated knowledge requirements in a closed-book assessment. Candidates must have an overall mark of 80% in the combined assessment of Outcomes 1 and 2 order to gain a Pass.

Assessment Guidelines

The assessment of this Outcome could be combined with other Outcomes as part of a single assessment for the Unit. The assessment could be conducted by closed-book, in class, timed assessment.

Outcome 3

Demonstrate knowledge of the function and maintenance of a hand held pesticide applicator and associated flow control devices

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Manufacturers guidance
- ◆ Form and function
- ◆ Maintenance
- ◆ Nozzles or other flow control devices

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills by showing that they can correctly describe the operation and periodical maintenance of a typical hand held applicator.

Assessment Guidelines

The assessment of this Outcome could be combined with Outcome 4 as part of a single assessment for the Unit. The assessment could be conducted by practical assessment.

Outcome 4

Interpret an approved pesticide label and prepare a hand held applicator for work by accurate calibration within a safe system of work

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Label interpretation
- ◆ Accurate calibration
- ◆ Accurate quantities
- ◆ Correct usage

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Pesticide Application

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills by showing that they can accurately calibrate a hand held applicator for use with a specific pesticidal product and describe or demonstrate the method of correct usage on a suitable test area.

Assessment guidelines

The assessment of this Outcome could be combined with Outcome 3 as part of a single assessment for the Unit. The assessment could be conducted by practical assessment.

Outcome 5

Prepare an accurate record sheet pertaining to a given pesticide application

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Application records
- ◆ Incorporation of Environmental Assessment

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills by showing that they can identify, interpret and record relevant information.

Assessment guidelines

The assessments of this Outcome could be carried out as a practical exercise after completion of Outcomes 3 and 4 or as a take home assignment based on in-class presented information.

Administrative Information

Unit code: F2B2 34
Unit title: Pesticide Application
Superclass category: SC
Original date of publication: August 2007
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History of changes:

Version	Description of change	Date

Source: SQA

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Higher National Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Pesticide Application

This part of the Unit specification is offered as guidance. The support notes are not mandatory.

While the exact time allocated to this Unit is at the discretion of the centre, the notional design length is 40 hours.

Guidance on the content and context for this Unit

The NPTC vocational Certificate of Competence upon which this SQA Unit is based is, in most cases, a mandatory requirement and therefore relevant for anyone considering professional pesticide use in the UK. This SQA Unit is therefore relevant to any candidate considering future employment in Horticulture, Amenity Horticulture, Agriculture or Forestry. After completion of this Unit and continuing maintenance of the knowledge base, success in undertaking and completing the NPTC Certificate of Competence in the Safe Use of Pesticides (0213) Foundation Unit PA1 and Hand Held Applicator Unit PA6 should be high.

Guidance on the delivery and assessment of this Unit

This Unit is both knowledge and skills based. Emphasis should be placed upon following the principles of Integrated Pest Management and the management decisions required to ensure safe working practices.

Candidates should at least have a visual awareness of typical pesticide application equipment such as hand held hydraulic and granule applicators, fogging and misting equipment and pyrotechnic devices for contained environment use.

The Unit should be delivered by Outcomes whilst using examples to demonstrate how they combine together to form a safe system of work for operators together with protection of the environment.

Throughout delivery, short in class multichoice tests should be conducted in order to ensure that all candidates are familiar and comfortable with this method of assessment and to ensure that ongoing satisfactory progress is being made by all candidates.

Opportunities for developing Core Skills

There are opportunities to develop the Core Skills of Communication (Written and Oral) and Numeracy (Using Numbers) both at SCQF level 6 in this Unit although there is no automatic certification of Core Skills or Core Skills components.

Open learning

This Unit is not suited to delivery by distance learning because it requires candidates to be observed and questioned by a qualified practitioner to meet health, safety and environmental requirements.

For information on open learning please refer to the SQA guide entitled *Assessment and Quality Assurance of Open and Distance Learning* (SQA, 2001).

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Pesticide Application

Candidates with disabilities and/or additional support needs

The additional support needs of individual candidates should be taken into account when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment instruments, or considering alternative Outcomes for Units. Further advice can be found in the SQA document *Guidance on Assessment Arrangements for Candidates with Disabilities and/or Additional Support Needs* (www.sqa.org.uk).

General information for candidates

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Anyone using professional pesticides approved for Agricultural use (including Horticulture, Amenity Horticulture, Forestry) must be trained, must be competent and must hold the required *Certificates of Competence* if born after 31/12/1964 or if offering a commercial service or supervising staff requiring but holding relevant *Certificates of Competence*.