

Overview

This standard covers preparing and applying pesticides in accordance with instructions and legislation.

This standard covers the work of a skilled operative.

If you are working with chemicals or machinery you need to be appropriately trained or certificated in line with current legislation.

You must carry out your work in a way which will minimise any impact on the natural environment.

Performance criteria

You must be able to:

- P1 carry out all work in accordance with relevant environmental and health and safety legislation, risk assessment requirements, codes of practice and company policies
- P2 confirm that the product is appropriate for the work
- P3 confirm that the application complies with the conditions of approval
- P4 confirm that the necessary procedures have been put in place
- P5 transport and store pesticides and containers according to legislation and specifications
- P6 select, prepare and use tools and equipment that are appropriate for the work safely and effectively
- P7 confirm that personal protective equipment is in good condition, the correct size and suitable for the work
- P8 calculate the minimum application rate to achieve the desired level of control
- P9 select a suitable site for preparation and follow correct procedures in accordance with instructions
- P10 confirm that the environmental conditions are appropriate for the work to be carried out
- P11 apply the pesticide in accordance with instructions and legislative requirements, minimising the risks to non-target species, the environment and surrounding area
- P12 keep the appropriate people fully informed according to instructions
- P13 deal with surplus product and containers according to legislation, instructions and codes of practice
- P14 maintain suitable levels of hygiene and biosecurity
- P15 clean, decontaminate, store and where necessary dispose of application and personal protective equipment correctly
- P16 ensure the site is restored to an appropriate condition following completion of the work
- P17 ensure appropriate records are completed as required by relevant legislation and the organisation

Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

- K1 your responsibilities under relevant environmental and health and safety legislation, codes of practice and company policies
- K2 the relevance of a risk assessment to the application, including the importance of buffer zones
- K3 your responsibilities under legislation and codes of practice
- K4 health and safety risks in controlling pests and diseases
- K5 environmental risks in controlling pests and diseases
- K6 the safe handling and use of pesticides
- K7 the appropriateness of specific pesticide products for the work
- K8 the significance of the product labels and the information included in the product labels
- K9 people that need to be informed of the work plan
- K10 the different equipment used for pesticide application and the appropriate equipment necessary to carry out the work
- K11 how to maintain, set up and appropriately calibrate equipment
- K12 how to calculate the amount of pesticide required and the procedures for preparation
- K13 how to transport and store pesticides and containers according to legislation and specifications
- K14 the use of spill strays and spill kits when handling undiluted chemicals
- K15 the environmental conditions which are required for the work to be carried out and the effect which these conditions have on the operations
- K16 the necessary growth stage of the plants for treatment to take place
- K17 the relevant methods of applying the chosen pesticides and the correct operation of the applicator
- K18 problems which may occur during the work and how to respond to them effectively
- K19 the dangers and emergency treatments associated with the use of pesticides
- K20 the ways in which surplus product and washings must be dealt with
- K21 how to dispose of or clean and decontaminate application and personal protective equipment
- K22 the importance of maintaining hygiene and biosecurity during pesticide application
- K23 the importance of ensuring that work is carried out tidily and safely and that the site is restored following completion of the work
- K24 where and how to store equipment after use

Knowledge and
understanding

K25 appropriate records to be kept and their significance

Glossary

Specifications: drawings, schedules, method statements, Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), manufacturers' guidelines, customer requirements.

Equipment: application, ancillary, personal protective.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE): gloves, face shields, appropriate boots, coveralls and disposable items. It will also include Respiratory Protective Equipment (RPE) for the application of some pesticides/products.

Ancillary equipment applies to mixing and measuring equipment and containers.

Post application: the cleaning and decontamination of equipment and clearing the site.

Respond to the following problems in an effective way: spillage, contamination of equipment and non-target areas, malfunction of equipment, adverse effects on non-target species, changes in conditions which reflect on the relevance of the work plan, emergency.

Deal with surplus material: dispose of or utilise in accordance with legislation.

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