

LANCS31 SQA Unit Code H59C 04

Prepare and apply chemicals to control pests and diseases

Overview

This standard covers preparing and applying chemicals to control pests and diseases in accordance with instructions and legislation.

If you are working with chemicals or machinery you need to be appropriately trained in line with current legislation, and hold a relevant award where appropriate.

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

This standard is suitable for a skilled spray operative, responsible for the preparation and application of chemicals to control pests and diseases.

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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 to be carried out and in accordance with instructions provided
 - 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 chemicals 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 chemical 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 and stored as required by relevant legislation and the organisation

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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 health and safety risks when using chemicals in the control of pests and diseases
- K4 environmental risks in when using chemicals in the control of pests and diseases
- K5 the safe handling and use of chemicals
- K6 the appropriateness of specific chemicals for the work
- K7 the significance of the product labels and the information included in the product labels
- K8 people that need to be informed of the work plan
- K9 the specific equipment used for different chemical applications and the correct operator training required to carry out the work
- K10 how to maintain, set up and appropriately calibrate equipment
- K11 how to calculate the amount of chemical required and the procedures for preparation
- K12 how to transport and store chemicals and containers according to legislation and specifications
- K13 the use of spill strays and spill kits when handling undiluted chemicals
- K14 the environmental conditions which are required for the work to be carried out and the effect which these conditions have on the operations
- K15 the necessary growth stage of the plants for application of the chemical to deliver optimum results
- K16 problems which may occur during the work and how to respond to them effectively
- K17 the dangers and emergency treatments associated with the use of chemicals
- K18 the ways in which surplus product and washings must be dealt with
- K19 how to dispose of or clean and decontaminate application and personal protective equipment
- K20 the importance of maintaining hygiene and biosecurity during chemical application
- K21 the importance of ensuring that the site is left clean and tidy following completion of the work
- K22 where and how to store equipment after use
- K23 appropriate records to be kept and how long they should be retained

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Glossary

Specifications:

- schedules
- method statements
- Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)
- manufacturers' guidelines
- customer requirements
- crop requirements

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):

- gloves
- face shields
- appropriate boots
- coveralls and disposable items
- Respiratory Protective Equipment (RPE) for the application of some pesticides/products

Ancillary equipment applies to mixing and measuring equipment and containers.

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

Problems which may occur:

- 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 by disposal of or utilisation in accordance with legislation.

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Relevant occupations	Arboriculture and forestry; Farmer; General Farm Worker; Tractor Driver; Gardener; Nursery Worker; Park Ranger; Ranger
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Suite	Treework; Horticulture; Environmental Conservation; Agricultural Crop Production; Agricultural Livestock Production
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