



National Unit specification: general information

Unit title: Pesticide Application

Unit code: H1JW 12

Superclass: SE

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Summary

This Unit is designed to develop a candidate's knowledge of safe application of pesticides using hand held applicators. It covers storage, transport, safe handling and application of pesticides. Key issues such as operator safety, environmental safety and health and safety issues are addressed. On completion of this Unit, candidates will be ready to sit the National Proficiency Test Council modules in Safe Use of Pesticides (PA1 and PA6).

Outcomes

- 1 Identify the key legislation and procedures that apply to pesticide use, storage, transport and disposal.
- 2 Describe the function and maintenance of a hand held pesticide applicator and associated flow control devices.
- 3 Interpret an approved pesticide label and prepare a hand held applicator for work by accurate calibration within a safe system of work.

Recommended entry

Entry is at the discretion of the centre.

Credit points and level

1 credit(s) at SCQF Level 6 (6 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 6*)

**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.*

National Unit specification: general information (cont)

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Core Skills

Achievement of this Unit gives automatic certification of the following Core Skills component:

Complete Core Skill None

Core Skill component Critical Thinking at SCQF level 5

There are also opportunities to develop aspects of Core Skills which are highlighted in the Support Notes of this Unit specification.

National Unit specification: statement of standards

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Acceptable performance in this Unit will be the satisfactory achievement of the standards set out in this part of the Unit specification. All sections of the statement of standards are mandatory and cannot be altered without reference to SQA.

Outcome 1

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

Performance Criteria

- (a) Identify those key aspects of legislation which apply to the use of pesticides.
- (b) Identify the precautions necessary to use a product safely, using product label information.
- (c) Identify, select and understand the maintenance and storage of the correct personal protective equipment for use with a particular product as determined by a label and/or COSHH risk assessment.
- (d) Describe appropriate personal hygiene procedures to prevent personal contamination.
- (e) Describe the appropriate procedures for dealing with accidental personal contamination.
- (f) Identify the correct procedures for the storage of pesticides.
- (g) Identify the correct procedures for the disposal of empty pesticide containers, surplus pesticide and washings.
- (h) Identify the records that must be kept.
- (i) Identify the situations where pesticide application may pose a risk to people or the environment.

Outcome 2

Describe the function and maintenance of a hand held pesticide applicator and associated flow control devices.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Identify and describe the function of the different parts of a hand held pesticide applicator.
- (b) Describe the maintenance procedures required for a hand held applicator.
- (c) Identify and describe the use of nozzles and other flow control devices.

National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

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Outcome 3

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

Performance Criteria

- (a) Accurately interpret information from pesticide labels.
- (b) Accurately calibrate a hand held applicator.
- (c) Determine the appropriate amount of pesticide required.
- (d) Describe the correct usage of a hand held applicator.
- (e) Describe the relevant decontamination and storage procedures for a hand held applicator.

Evidence Requirements for this Unit

Evidence is required to demonstrate that candidates have achieved all Outcomes and Performance Criteria.

Outcomes 1 and 2 could be assessed by a single written and or recorded oral assessment which covers all the Performance Criteria.

Evidence for Outcome 3 could be generated through the assessor completing an observation checklist, supported by oral questioning of the candidate to ensure their understanding of the critical aspects relating to the safe calibration and use of a hand held applicator.

National Unit specification: support notes

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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

On completion of this Unit candidates should be competent in the theory and practical aspects of pesticide application via a hand held applicator. The combination of theory and practical learning is essential for progression to the NPTC tests.

Guidance on learning and teaching approaches for this Unit

Candidates should have to opportunity to view various sources of information such as current Codes of Practice, The UK Pesticide Guide, manufacturers' information, and sample product labels.

Hands on experience using hand held applicators, handling different Personal Protective Equipment and practically calibrating an applicator are essential parts of the learning and teaching of this Unit.

Centres should provide equipment which is up to date and meets current legislative and Health and Safety Standards.

A mixture of lecturers, workshops, illustrated lessons and hand on practical experience would be a good mix for learning.

Guidance on approaches to assessment for this Unit

The assessments of Outcome 1 and 2 could be conducted in a single assessment. Multichoice assessment is recommended as this equates to NPTC Foundation Unit PA1, in which candidates must have a mark of 80% from 35 questions covering both Outcomes in order to gain a pass.

Specific subject areas which must be covered for Outcomes 1 and 2 include the following:

- 1 Identify those key aspects of legislation which apply to the use of pesticides.
- 2 Identify the precautions necessary to use a product safely, using product label information.
- 3 Identify, select and understand the maintenance and storage of the correct personal protective equipment for use with a particular product as determined by a label and/or COSHH risk assessment.
- 4 Follow appropriate personal hygiene procedures to prevent personal contamination.
- 5 Follow the appropriate procedures for dealing with accidental personal contamination.
- 6 Understand the correct procedures for the storage of pesticides.
- 7 Understand the correct procedures for the disposal of empty pesticide containers, surplus pesticide and washings.
- 8 Understand the records that must be kept.

National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

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- 9 Understand the situations where pesticide application may pose a risk to people or the environment.

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.

Demonstrate knowledge of the following:

- 1 Check the applicator prior to work.
- 2 How the applicator works.
- 3 Nozzles and flow control devices.
- 4 Dose rate and volume of application from label.
- 5 Calibration procedure.
- 6 Measurement, mixing and filling of container.
- 7 Correct operation of applicator.
- 8 Ways of minimising spray drift.
- 9 Personal hygiene.
- 10 Procedures for cleaning, maintaining and storing the applicator.

Evidence for Outcome 3 can be recorded by way of an observational checklist.

Opportunities for the use of e-assessment

Outcomes 1 and 2 may be assessed by e-assessment.

Outcome 3 of this Unit is not suitable for e-assessment as this is a practical assessment.

E-assessment may be appropriate for some assessments in this Unit. By e-assessment we mean assessment which is supported by Information and Communication Technology (ICT), such as e-testing or the use of e-portfolios or social software. Centres which wish to use e-assessment must ensure that the national standard is applied to all candidate evidence and that conditions of assessment as specified in the Evidence Requirements are met, regardless of the mode of gathering evidence. Further advice is available in *SQA Guidelines on Online Assessment for Further Education (AA1641, March 2003)*, *SQA Guidelines on e-assessment for Schools (BD2625, June 2005)*.

Opportunities for developing Core Skills

Although there is no automatic certification of Core Skills or Core Skill component in this Unit there may be opportunities to develop the following Core Skills at SCQF Level 5:

Numeracy — the successful completion of Outcome 3 required the calibration of a piece of equipment. The candidate must measure distance, time and volume and calculate the accurate calibration and use of the sprayer.

National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

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This Unit has the Critical Thinking component of Problem Solving embedded in it. This means that when candidates achieve the Unit, their Core Skills profile will also be updated to show they have achieved Critical Thinking at SCQF level 5.

Disabled candidates and/or those with additional support needs

The additional support needs of individual candidates should be taken into account when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment instruments, or considering whether any reasonable adjustments may be required. Further advice can be found on our website www.sqa.org.uk/assessmentarrangements

History of changes to Unit

Version	Description of change	Date
02	Core Skills Component Critical Thinking at SCQF level 5 embedded.	06/08/2012

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