

AMENITY ASSURED™

CONTRACTORS for LEGAL AND EFFECTIVE PESTICIDE APPLICATION

Registered and verified by the combined resources of:



BASIS (Registration) Ltd



Representing Agricultural
and Amenity Contractors



NPTC



AMENITY ASSURED

Contents

| | |
|---|-------------|
| 1. Introduction | 3 |
| 2. Why is Amenity Assured Needed? | 4 |
| 3. What does Amenity Assured mean? | 5 |
| 4. Standards that should be met | 6 |
| 5. What does Amenity Assured mean to me as a specifier? | 7 |
| 6. How is an Amenity Assured Contractor different from those who are not? | 8 |
| 7. The problems weeds cause and how pesticides help | 9-11 |
| 8. So what should I do? | 12 |
| 9. How to contact us | 13 |

1. Introduction

Who is responsible for work undertaken by a contractor?

Answer - the client who appointed them.

This booklet has been designed to help specifiers, managers, contractors and all involved in using pesticides for weed, disease, pest control and related activities in hard surface, permeable surfaces, grass and other amenity areas to achieve effective results.

Compiled by Amenity Assured - a working partnership of three key UK organisations (BASIS, NAAC & NPTC), which, in combination, have the responsibility and the mandate to:

- Set standards
- Examine operators
- Audit contractor performance
- Certificate staff and businesses
- Award on merit the associated qualifications
- Establish codes of good practice

Amenity Assured is endorsed by the:

- Pesticide Safety Directorate
- Environment Agency
- Amenity Forum
- Crop Protection Association
- Local Government Association

2. Why is Amenity Assured Needed?

The Control of weeds, disease and plant related pests is an important part of site hygiene, hazard prevention, aesthetics and avoidance of risk.

The safe and legally approved application of pesticides and biocides is a key part of effective and efficient control.

The application of professional products must be carried out by a qualified contractor (or by an operator who is supervised by a qualified person).

In all walks of life there is variable quality of performance. To remove that variation, between different operators, and to ensure a consistent standard of performance, with reliability of results, value for money and minimisation of risk, it is important to specify that work is carried out by an AMENITY ASSURED CONTRACTOR.

AMENITY ASSURED CONTRACTORS are registered with and verified by the combined resources of :



BASIS (Registration) Ltd



Representing Agriculture
and Amenity Contractors



NPTC

The AMENITY ASSURED standards are also endorsed by the Pesticide Safety Directorate, the Environment Agency, the Amenity Forum and the Crop Protection Association. Also by the Local Government Association where pesticide application is deemed the most appropriate course of action, following deliberation of all options.

3. What does Amenity Assured mean?

It means that the contractors achieving Amenity Assured Certification will give the following assurance; high quality standards of operation and legal compliance, all endorsed by BASIS, NAAC and NPTC. This means all AMENITY ASSURED CONTRACTORS will have:-

Membership of Basis Advanced Contractor Certification Scheme (BACCS)

- Contractors have to attain high operating standards
- Contractors are independently audited on-site, in office and with client each year to ensure ongoing compliance

Membership of NAAC (National Association of Agricultural and Amenity Contractors)

- National Association of quality Contractors
- Code of practice compliance is an essential part of membership to ensure high quality performance

Staff NPTC qualified

- Legal requirement for all operator staff to hold the relevant certificate of competence in the safe use of pesticides
- Standards of operation set and examined to high level and certificates awarded when level achieved
- National Register of Spray Operators membership advised

BASIS Registration

- Storage of pesticides to meet legal requirements
- Managed by a nominated and certificated storekeeper

PSD-listed pesticide products backed by BASIS qualified sales and advisory staff

4. Standards that should be met

Contractors which apply pesticides

- Amenity Assured certificated
- BACCS members
- Standards adhered to
- Audits completed
- Certificates current and up-to-date

Advice and recommendations

- BASIS (FSTS) qualified
- Statutory requirement

Spray Operators

- NPTC - statutory certification required
- National Register of Sprayer Operators recommended

Storage of pesticides

- BASIS registered
- Nominated storekeeper
(statutory certificate required)

Transport of pesticides

- Standards adhered to

Machinery used

- Sprayers calibrated
- National Sprayer Testing Scheme recommended

Code of practice

- NAAC standards complied with

5. What does Amenity Assured mean to me as a specifier?

As a Company, Local Authority or Utility user of contractors for pesticide application it means that

AMENITY ASSURED CONTRACTORS

- Will adopt 'Best Practice' by following the - Code of Practice for using Plant Protection Products
- Give a reliable high standard of work
- Meet all legal requirements and standards
- Comply with environmental requirements standards of safety for
 - The Public
 - Employees
 - The Environment
 - Property and Business Equipment
- Meet all codes of practice
- Apply only pesticides/biocides legally approved by PSD/HSE
- Apply pesticides as per current label recommendations to meet the highest standards of product stewardship

6. How is an Amenity Assured Contractor different from those who are not?

Unfortunately the amenity industry includes some unprofessional contractors which often operate illegally. Their prices for work, on the face of it, can be lower but so are their standards. Protection of the public, safety of your employees and even their own staff is often compromised.

Issues that have been recorded include:

- Using non-certificated and illegal operators
- Use of non-registered pesticide stores
- Incomplete insurance for liabilities, risks, damage
- Use of non-approved products or approved products applied illegally
- Water contamination and environmental damage
- Public safety issues

These issues all lead to inconsistent job performance, risk of contamination of water and the environment and dissatisfaction with the results, leaving the employer of poor contractor services with exposure to claims and liability.

“Appointment of any contractor does not absolve the client of responsibility”

7. The problems weeds cause - and how pesticides help

Weed problems

- Types
 - Annuals
 - Perennials
 - Invasive e.g. Japanese Knotweed
- Issues caused
 - Unsightly
 - Harmful thistles, nettles, brambles, giant hogweed
 - Spread to other areas
 - Damage surfaces
 - Tarmac/Paving
 - Railways
 - Turf, sports pitches, golf greens
 - Fire risk
 - Encourage litter and can harbour vermin
 - Reduced access
 - Poor public perception
 - Untidy = 'not bothered'
 - Image/aesthetics

7. The problems weeds cause - and how pesticides help (cont).

How pesticides help

- Types (herbicides)
 - Total Residual, Systemic, Contact
 - Selective
 - Aquatic

Benefits

- Efficiency of performance (longer lasting)
- Reliable and cost effective
- Energy efficient - lower carbon footprint
- More environmentally friendly than alternatives (when used correctly)
- Less weather dependent

Alternative options

- Burners
 - High energy (use high amounts of fossil fuel)
 - CO2 Emissions
 - Low productivity
 - No residual effect on weeds
 - Access difficult with large equipment
 - Operator, public and property safety issues from burners

7. The problems weeds cause - and how pesticides help (cont).

Other options

- Steam
 - Much the same as burners - poor efficacy and safety
- Gels
 - Poor control of perennial weeds
 - Messy residue for a time
 - Work needs doing more often
 - Much lower efficacy of performance
- Machinery (e.g. sweepers, mowers, strimmers)
 - Less efficient
 - Costly in manpower and machinery
 - Higher use of fossil fuel
 - More frequent work requirement
 - Slow
- Hand labour
 - Very costly
 - Very inefficient

8. So what should I do?

- Specify an AMENITY ASSURED CONTRACTOR for all work requiring pesticide application, herbicides for weeds, fungicides for disease etc.
- **Don't rely** on contractors 'tick-box' assurances of their credibility - state on the tender that you will ask to see all current certificates.
- **Do rely** on the proven assurances of AMENITY ASSURED CONTRACTORS - ask to see their currently dated certificate of compliance to the AMENITY ASSURED standards

Therefore

- **Do** have the
 - High quality work you need
 - Safety for your site/location
 - Safety and respect for the public and the environment
 - Avoidance of liability problems
 - Value for money for all work undertaken

AMENITY ASSURED = 'PEACE OF MIND'

9. How to contact us

BASIS (Registration) Ltd

34 St John Street, Ashbourne,
Derbyshire DE6 1GH
Telephone: 01335 343945
Website: www.basis-reg.com

Contact

Paul Singleton
BACCS Chairman
Tel: 01629 534692
Mob: 07836 584028

NAAC

(National Association of Agricultural and Amenity Contractors)

Samuelson House,
62 Forder Way
Hampton
Peterborough PE7 8JB
Telephone: 0845 448750
Website: www.naac.co.uk

Contact

Richard Minton
NAAC Chairman
Tel: 01386 861165
Mob: 07807 008678

NPTC

National Agricultural Centre, Stonleigh
Kenilworth, Warwickshire CV8 2LG
Telephone: 024 7685 7300
Website: www.nptc.org.uk

Other useful contact numbers

Pesticide Safety Directorate: 01904 455775
Environment Agency: 08708 506506
Crop Protection Association: 01733 367213

"The Government believes it is important that those who use, or employ others to use, pesticides understand and adopt best practice measures to help minimise the risk of pollution. There is some evidence to suggest that the understanding of best practice within the amenity sector may not be as great as that in other situations. The Government has sought to address this, firstly, by incorporating the old voluntary code of amenity use into the revised statutory Code of Practice; and secondly, in our pesticide national strategy by creating an amenity action plan. This plan highlights the importance of stakeholders working collaboratively. We welcome, therefore, the creation of AMENITY ASSURED which is consistent with, and will help support the work of, the national pesticide strategy. It is an important step in helping to improve standards in the Amenity Sector."

Source: Pesticide Safety Directorate