



Promoting Professional Standards



Our aim

“To promote and encourage professional standards in the pesticide, fertiliser and allied industries.”

Global population is forecast to grow by 50% to around 9 billion by 2050. By that year official estimates suggest there will be a UK population of 77 million. And yet, already the world fails to feed its poor adequately, whilst in the UK we are only 60% self-sufficient in food.

Whilst there will always be a niche organic market, it is clear that the required increase in world food production will continue to rely on the responsible application of crop protection products and fertilisers.

BASIS exists to promote professional standards in the use of these products, both in food production and in the amenity and public health sectors.



Our pedigree

BASIS was established by the pesticide industry in 1978 to develop standards for the safe storage and transport of agricultural and horticultural pesticides and to provide a recognised means of assessing the competence of staff working in the sector.

Over the past 30 years, the BASIS remit has been extended. Today it includes activities in the amenity, industrial and public health pesticide sectors as well as in the increasingly important plant nutrition sector with the FACTS Annual Scheme.

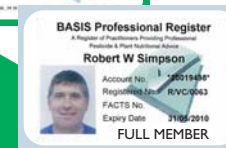


What is BASIS?

BASIS is an independent standards setting and auditing organisation for the pesticide, fertiliser and allied industries.

In practice this means that BASIS:

- Offers a range of examinations and recognised qualifications for people working in the pesticide, fertiliser and related sectors;
- Operates an annual inspection scheme to audit pesticide stores and ensure their operation presents minimal risk to people and the environment;
- Manages the Professional Registers for qualified pesticide and fertiliser advisers and for public health pest control professionals;
- Operates the BASIS Advanced Contractor Certification Scheme (BACCS) and the new Amenity Assured standard to raise and maintain good practice standards in the amenity and industrial pesticide sectors;
- Provides a forum for industry trade associations and other stakeholders to discuss how professional standards can be maintained, improved and promoted;
- Works closely with industry, the regulatory authorities and government to promote and develop professional standards.





Stores inspection schemes

Through its network of trained, independent assessors, BASIS annually audits every BASIS-registered pesticide store in the UK (Great Britain and Northern Ireland) to ensure that:

- The store
- The people who operate it and
- The staff who provide advice on professional pesticides

meet their legal obligations and are taking all reasonable precautions to protect people and the environment.

Stores which successfully pass the annual Store Inspection are issued with a certificate which confirms that they meet the standards laid down in the Statutory Code of Code of Practice for Suppliers of Pesticides to Agriculture, Horticulture and Forestry. This certificate is recognised by the Chemicals Regulation Directorate, the Health and Safety Executive, Environment Agencies and Local Authorities.

Premises which store professional seed treatment products are also required to undergo an annual inspection. Mobile seed treatment contractors are treated in the same way as spray application contractors and, where chemicals are kept on board a vehicle overnight, it must be assessed as if it were a pesticide store.



Similar inspection schemes are operated in the amenity pesticide sector as part of the BASIS Advanced Contractor Certification Scheme (BACCS) and the Amenity Assured

standard. Under the latter, contractors are independently audited three times a year.

In addition, BASIS is recognised by the Home Office as a competent authority for RAMPS, a regulatory scheme for stockists of metallic phosphide products.

RAMPS is the Register of Authorised Metallic Phosphide stockists.



Examinations and training



BASIS plays a key role in the training and certification of people who work in the pesticide and fertiliser sectors. It sets the syllabuses and examination standards and maintains a list of Approved Trainers, Colleges and Training Providers who offer suitable training modules.

BASIS administers two of the three statutory certificates of competence for the pesticide industry:

- The BASIS Certificate in Crop Protection, which is the recognised statutory qualification for pesticide sellers, suppliers and advisers. It is available in a range of specialisms: agriculture, amenity horticulture, commercial horticulture, aquatics, grassland & forage crops, seed treatments and others;
- The BASIS Nominated Storekeeper qualification (NSK) which is the statutory requirement for anyone who stores over 200 kgs/litres of professional products for the purpose of sale or supply.

BASIS also administers the certification scheme for plant nutrition advisers and sellers in the fertiliser industry. This was set up in 1993 in recognition of the increasing technical and environmental knowledge requirements associated with the provision of fertiliser and plant nutrient advice. It includes the FACTS Annual Scheme which allows industry professionals to keep up-to-date with information and a technical helpline.

In recent years the scope and number of qualifications offered has been extended to include:

- Environmental qualifications such as BETA (Biodiversity and Environmental Training for Advisers) and POWER;
- Soil and Water Management, Conservation Management and the Plant Protection Award;
- Advanced qualifications such as the BASIS Diploma in Agronomy and Advanced Crop Modules;

- Specialist training such as in the handling and transport of dangerous goods.





The BASIS professional registers

Passing an exam is one thing, but staying up-to-date in subjects which are rapidly changing and technically demanding, is quite another. This is the purpose of the two BASIS professional registers.

These are:

- The BASIS Professional Register for the agriculture, horticulture, and amenity pesticide sectors;
- BASIS PROMPT for the public health pest control sector.

Both registers require members to:

- Hold a recognised qualification;
- Agree to a written Code of Professional Ethics;
- And, most importantly, to commit to a programme of Continuing Professional Development (CPD) so that they stay up-to-date with all the latest developments.

CPD is the structured maintenance, improvement and broadening of the knowledge and skills required as a professional working in the crop protection, amenity, fertiliser or public health pest control business sectors. It also includes development of the personal qualities required to succeed in these sectors.

Organisers of CPD training events must submit details of their programmes to BASIS ahead of the event for assessment and allocation of CPD points. Points are awarded to a range of activities from reading technical publications to in-depth training seminars and attendance at conferences and exhibitions. To stay on the register members must accrue a specified number of points every year. Members of the Professional Registers are issued with a new Identity Card annually enabling them to show proof of their competence and allowing others to confirm that their adviser is both qualified and keeping up-to-date.



BASIS – making a difference

Since it was established in 1978, BASIS has proved to be a rigorous and highly effective industry self-regulation scheme.

- The majority of distributors of professional pesticides are registered with BASIS and most consistently reach the required standard, year after year.
- Being registered provides company directors, local authorities and contractors with peace of mind. The annual independent assessment of staff and stores is a comprehensive check that legal obligations on storage, transport and advice are being met so minimising the risk of possible prosecution.
- The registration scheme also clearly demonstrates to regulators and other stakeholders, as well as the wider public, that the pesticide industry takes its responsibilities to people and the environment very seriously.
- The growing range of BASIS qualifications has allowed people in the industry to develop their skills and demonstrate their professionalism.
- BASIS standards have been adopted by key organisations such as the Environment Agencies, County Councils, supermarkets, crop assurance schemes and farmers.
- Over 4,000 people have become members of the BASIS Professional Register and BASIS PROMPT. All these individuals have made a commitment to Continuing Professional Development so helping to raise professional standards further.



BASIS promotes professional standards through:

- the annual pesticide store inspection programme
- the BASIS Professional Register
- the FACTS Annual Scheme
- the BASIS PROMPT Pest Control Register
- the BASIS Advanced Contractors Certification Scheme (BACCS)
- the Amenity Assured Standard



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