

### **IS MEMBERSHIP A LEGAL REQUIREMENT UNDER FEPA 1985?**

No. However since The Food and Environment Protection Act 1985 is enabling legislation, the requirements for basic qualifications could quite easily be extended to include regular technical updating. The industry is committed to maintaining a higher level of competence in staff, especially in relation to advice on the environmental impact of crop protection.

### **IS THE MEMBERSHIP LIST PUBLISHED?**

Yes. A list of names of Register Members is available at £30.00 to cover printing, postage and packing. However no address or employment details are included.

### **IS MEMBERSHIP IDENTIFIED BY DESIGNATORY LETTERS?**

Yes. Members are entitled to use the designatory letters MBPR (Member of the BASIS Professional Register) after their name followed by the category of membership shown in brackets. Members also carry an identity card and are issued with an annual certificate for display.

### **WHO ARE THE POLICY MAKERS FOR THE REGISTER?**

The Professional Matters Committee is chaired by an independent Chairman and is made up of practitioners elected by the membership along with some co-opted members.

### **CAN A MEMBER BE WITHDRAWN FROM THE REGISTER FOR MISCONDUCT?**

Yes. Failure to abide by the Code of Ethics could lead to membership being withdrawn by the Disciplinary Committee.

### **NEWLY QUALIFIED PEOPLE**

The renewal date for the BASIS Professional Register is 1st June each year. For the first year (or part year) those people who achieve either (or both) the BASIS Field Sales and Technical Staff Certificate or the FACTS qualification, will be entered onto the BASIS Professional Register. In that 1st year, or part year, they will be allocated a Professional Register number but will not be issued with a Professional Register Certificate or a badge unless they have paid the

Register fee and shown commitment to Continuing Professional Development, with recorded training activity and points attainment.

### **HOW DO I APPLY FOR MEMBERSHIP?**

You can apply online at [http://www.basis-reg.com/profreg/members/profreg\\_app.asp](http://www.basis-reg.com/profreg/members/profreg_app.asp) or contact Michele Williams for further details:

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**BASIS®** is an independent, self-regulatory registration scheme for the plant protection industry. It works with Government to set high standards and check that they are being met. It was one of the world's first standard-setting organisations for pesticide suppliers and has also been called on to assist in establishing similar systems in other parts of the world.

Other activities of **BASIS** include the annual assessment of pesticide supply stores under The Food & Environment Protection Act 1985 and the running of training courses for industry staff. It also administers a certification scheme for sales and advisory staff in the fertiliser industry.

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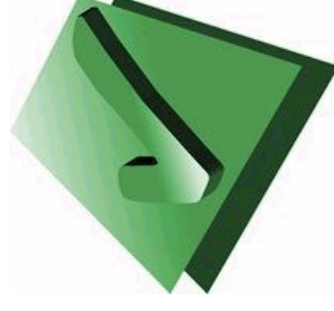
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# Joining the BASIS® Professional Register



Your Questions Answered

### WHAT IS THE BASIS PROFESSIONAL REGISTER?

The Register consists of advisers qualified to give advice on Pesticide and Fertilisers who:

- hold the legal qualifications of a BASIS Certificate and /or a FACTS Certificate
- have agreed to abide by a written Code of Professional Ethics
- and most importantly of all, can prove that their technical knowledge is kept right up to date.

### WHY JOIN THE REGISTER?

Membership underlines your professional standing. It demonstrates that you have met any legal requirements for qualifications and that you are committed to keeping technically abreast of developments in the industry.

It also gives a clear signal to the general public that those in the pesticide and fertiliser industries are responsible, professional and competent. It provides evidence to your employer, clients and crop assurance organisations that you are qualified to provide advice in your specialist activity.

### WHAT QUALIFICATIONS ARE REQUIRED?

In the agricultural, commercial horticultural and amenity sectors, membership is open to individuals with any BASIS Field Sales and Technical Staff qualification, including Letters of Exemption.

Fertiliser advisers need to hold the FACTS qualification, again including Letters of Exemption.

### WHAT DOES IT COST TO BECOME A MEMBER?

There is an initial registration fee of £15 plus VAT, and an annual membership fee which is currently £35.25 by Direct Debit or £39.95 by cheque. These fees can be set against income tax.

### CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

To remain on the Register, Members must demonstrate that they maintain up to date knowledge of their activity through Continuing Professional Development (CPD).

### WHAT IS CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT?

CPD is the structured maintenance, improvement and broadening of knowledge and skill and the development of those personal qualities necessary for the successful execution of professional and technical duties throughout the practitioner's working life.

### HOW DO MEMBERS DEMONSTRATE CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (CPD)?

Members undertake approved training and participate in other events by attending activities allocated CPD points by BASIS (Registration) Limited. The annual requirement of CPD points depends upon the category of specialist activity, eg:

AGRICULTURE	40
HORTICULTURE	40
AMENITY	30
FERTILISER	20

On joining the Register, you advise details of your activity and thus establish your annual point requirement.

### WHAT TYPE OF TRAINING/EVENT IS APPROVED BY THE BASIS PROFESSIONAL REGISTER?

A very wide range of events are approved, from internal company training programmes, through specialist courses to technical conferences and demonstrations. The full range of approved events is posted on the BASIS Website ([www.basis-reg.com](http://www.basis-reg.com)).

### ARE ALL CATEGORIES OF PESTICIDES AND FERTILISERS COVERED?

Yes – any adviser dealing with any pesticide covered by The Food and Environment Protection Act 1985 and the Control of Pesticides (Amendment) Regulations 1997, and/or fertilisers in accordance with Section A-E, Schedule 1 of the Fertiliser Regulations 1991, can be included.

### Code of Ethics - WHAT IS THE CODE OF ETHICS?

The Code of Ethics sets the standard of professional conduct expected of all Register members. In general it places an obligation on all members to order their affairs such that they always uphold the dignity of the pesticide and fertiliser industries. The rules set out

below are designed to help members achieve the appropriate level of professional conduct.

1. At all times, a member must ensure that the advice given, and any sales of product or service resulting therefrom, is in accordance with current legislation and in particular:
  - Has due regard to any environmental impact
  - Gives priority to the health and safety of those that purchase/use the products or services concerned.
2. Members shall respect the confidentiality of information relating to a customer/client/employer.
3. Members shall maintain awareness of progress and knowledge in their roles as pesticide practitioners in order to maintain a high standard of professional competence relative to their sphere of activity and in line with Continuing Professional Development (CPD) requirement for their sector of the Register.
4. Members shall publicise their professional service with dignity and not create an invidious distinction between other members, nor bring the profession into disrepute.
5. Members shall co-operate with professional colleagues so that customers/clients, the public and the environment may benefit.
6. A member shall carry out his/her professional work with a proper regard for the technical and professional standards expected of him/her. A member should not undertake professional work which he/she is not competent to perform.
7. Members should note that failure to comply with the Code may lead to disciplinary action including suspension or removal from the Register, in accordance with the Disciplinary Code of the Register

*"Pesticide" means any substance, preparation or organism prepared or used for destroying any pest. "Fertiliser" means any substance providing nutrition for crop production*  
April 2007