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Protection of Water, the Environment and Recommendations

Background

Over recent years the management of pesticide use on-farm and in amenity horticulture has undergone a number of changes. Society is becoming even more aware of Environmental issues with particular regard to the impact of pesticides on Food, Water and Wildlife.

To improve the quality of these 3 important components of life needs action if the targeted outcomes are to be achieved. Many of these actions have been coordinated through the Voluntary Initiative (VI).

The responsible and safe use of pesticides on-farm and in amenity, horticulture, ground care and sports turf situations is an essential part of achieving the desired quality improvements.

At the same time as the focus on food, water and environmental quality is increasing, there is a progressive reduction in the manpower involved in pesticide application and contract management. Managers and operators are being asked to do more which is increasing time pressure and personal responsibility.

It is, therefore, very important that those responsibilities are performed to a high standard of competence. Good progress has been made with the National Register of Spray Operators, (NRoSO) which is run by NPTC to improve operator efficiency and for advisers / consultants / agronomists who make pesticide recommendations, the BASIS Certificate in Crop Protection (which can include horticultural subjects) and the BASIS Professional Register are both well established.

Target candidate

This new course and certificate of competence is suitable for contract specifiers, managers, foremen and supervisors of amenity or farm situations where pesticides are used. It is not designed for those specifying which products are to be used, but is for those who have responsibility for pesticide application whilst not actually applying the products used themselves.

The Qualification

The Protection of Water, the Environment and Recommendations (POWER) Certificate has been put together by BASIS (Registration) Ltd. and NPTC for the benefit of industry managers and supervisors. This syllabus follows similar lines for both agriculture and amenity except that module 5 is written expressly for people in agriculture and module six is for people working in the amenity industry.

The syllabus of the course comprises six modules but candidates will study only 5. Please see below. Modules 1 to 4 are common to both agriculture and amenity. Candidates will then choose module 5 or 6 depending on their interest or occupation.

1. Control of Weeds, Pests and Diseases
2. Recommendations for Pesticide use
3. Safe Application of Pesticides
4. Protection of Surface and Ground Water
5. Environmental Impact and Best Practice Targets for Agriculture or
6. Environmental Impact and Best Practice Targets for Amenity

The course framework and syllabus content is to prepare contract specifiers, managers and supervisors of spray operators to be aware of what is involved in pesticide use and the issues of control needed for safe and environmentally caring outcomes. Managers and foremen involved in agriculture will receive tuition for modules 1 to 5 inclusive. Contact specifiers, supervisors and managers involved in the Amenity industry will receive tuition for modules 1 to 4 inclusive and module 6.

NOTE:

Time must be set aside on day 1 for some administration and form filling with candidates. Forms which must be completed on the first day of the course are:

1. Candidate Registration Form (Yellow)
2. Candidate Access to Complaints / Appeals Process Form
3. Risk Assessment Form (Trainers)

Other forms supplied for candidates when necessary

4. Appeals Procedure Form
5. Complaints Procedure Form
6. Exit Interview Form

In addition you should set aside 15 – 20 minutes to explain candidates' rights with regard to:

- Sexual Discrimination Act
- Disability Discrimination Act
- Racial Discrimination Act
- Human Rights Act
- Data Protection Act

The two and a half day course does not cover the depth of knowledge required to enable the candidate to make pesticide recommendations but it will prepare those responsible with the capability to implement safely, recommendations made by an individual holding the BASIS Certificate in Crop Protection.

Equally, the certificate, once attained, will not qualify the holder to be a certificated spray operator. Those applying pesticides must be NPTC qualified (PA1, PA2 etc), (or exempt by age if born before 31 December 1964, unless providing a commercial service) and should be a member of NRoSO. The POWER course and qualification covers the knowledge required to properly supervise and understand pesticide use and application. It is recognised that some candidates may well be PA certificated by NPTC prior to attending the POWER course.

The POWER qualification and certificate is conducted jointly by BASIS and NPTC with NPTC as the awarding body accredited with QCA and BASIS setting the standards for assessment. The Certificate of Competence awarded to those who pass will carry both the BASIS and NPTC marks of recognition for attainment.

Aims and Objectives

The course will help contract specifiers, managers and supervisors involved in the use of pesticides to:-

- Be aware of different weed & pest control techniques, the environmental aspects of each and knowledge of realistic control levels achievable
- Understand how pesticides are regulated and how they work
- Understand the requirements for different application techniques and where to use them
- Know the controls to implement that ensure water and environmental safety
- Be capable of assessing risks when pesticides are being used
- Know the essence of economic and environmental thresholds and other criteria
- Be able to identify further training needs
- Know where to obtain more information about pesticides

THE EXAMINATION

The examination will be conducted at the end of a training period. Candidates can choose to receive tuition either as a two and a half day full time course or 5 evening sessions (1 per module) plus a final afternoon or evening for the examination. For the full time course the examination will be on the afternoon of the third day. The timing of the examination will depend on the tuition provided by each training organisation. The examination will take 1½ hours and each candidate will be asked to undertake:-

- 30 multiple choice questions
- 3 short answer questions (out of 6)
- 2 scenario questions

The short answer questions will allow choice to give relevance to the candidates' field of work.

The pass mark is 70%

At each examination session a BASIS nominated person will adjudicate and mark the exam papers. The examination questions will be structured to give options and choice such that managers / supervisors of either farming situations or amenity horticulture businesses can be equally covered.

There will be a minimum charge for 10 candidates regardless of the number entered for each exam.

Maximum numbers will be dependent on the suitability of the examination venue.

It is strongly recommended that ALL candidates should obtain a copy of the 'POWER Handbook for Candidates' (via their training provider / trainer) prior to the course commencing. There will be a charge of £10 + VAT.

Within the modules the knowledge required is highlighted according to its importance, some information is an absolute requirement and candidates will be expected to know about it and understand the practical application of that knowledge.

There will be some topics which are interesting and may be covered when / if there is time. It may be suitable background knowledge and enable candidates to understand "the wider picture".

There is a limited amount of information which would be suitable background knowledge but which is not a requirement for candidates and will not be tested in the examination.

- 1. Important – knowledge which candidates 'need to know'**
- 2. Useful Information – Interesting / nice to know which may help candidates understanding of some 'core' topics.**
- 3. Background information only**

OBJECTIVE SYLLABUS

The six modules of the POWER course will cover the same headline areas of importance to attain the qualification but the tuition will be focused differently in modules 5 and 6 which deal with the Environmental impact of pesticides. For those in the farming industry module 5 will address food production and care of the countryside whereas for those working in amenity, horticulture, ground care and sports turf module 6 will concentrate on urban, amenity and ground care environmental issues.

The outline of the syllabus content is as below.

MODULE 1 – CONTROL OF WEEDS, PESTS & DISEASES

1.1 Important – knowledge which candidates ‘need to know’

- Why is Weed, Pest and Disease Control needed?
- What problems are caused by
 - Weeds?
 - Pests?
 - Diseases?
- Disorders (**such as nutrient deficiency and weather damage**)
- Some of the problems caused are specific to agricultural situations or to amenity situations but others are common to both sectors

- Recognising potential damage.
Candidates should be able to recognize the types of damage caused by weeds, pests and diseases

- Diagnostic & recognition features.
Candidates should have a basic knowledge of key features and attributes used in the recognition and diagnosis of specific weed, pest and disease problems

- Weed, pest and disease biology relevant to species importance and control
Candidates should have a level of knowledge of weed, pest and disease biology which allows some understanding of how they cause problems, and of how the effective control techniques and products work.

- Integrated Control and it’s importance
It is important that candidates understand the concept of integrated pest control and its importance for its overall cost effective control (of weeds, diseases and insect pests) environmental protection, biodiversity and anti-resistance strategy.

- Components of Integrated Pest Control (chemical, physical, biological, rotational and cultural).
Ability to specify key components of the integrated control of weeds, pests and diseases, including specific examples relevant to the candidates sector (agriculture or amenity), is required.

- Design – prevention is better than control.

- Threshold levels requiring control.
Awareness of the importance and use of thresholds is required. Agricultural candidates should be able to give a few key examples of published pest treatment thresholds.

- The options and their economics.
An awareness of the relative (rather than specific) costs of different control methods is appropriate

- Environmental considerations.
It is vital that candidates are aware that different control measures have different environment effects and hazards and that these should always be assessed.

MODULE 2 – INTERPRETATION OF PESTICIDE LEGISLATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 Important – knowledge which candidates ‘need to know’

- Legislative framework
What is a pesticide?
- The practical implications of Key Legislation
 - FEPA/COPR/HSW Act/COSHH
 - Codes of Practice

Other legislation

- LERAPS, Buffer Zones, Footpaths

Candidates will need to know what to do and what they need to know to comply with legislation and codes of practice. Also the reasonable obligations of the work force and the organisation needed to ensure compliance.

- Pesticide Safety - *The Approval Process – required knowledge should be:*
 - Pesticides must be approved
 - Outline criteria for approval
 - Independent expert assessment
 - How to check product approval
- Label & Advice - *required knowledge should be:*
 - How to interpret and use label information
 - Approval (MAPP/ HSE No.)
 - Hazard signs (Risk Classification symbols)
 - Product label (statutory conditions of use and HSW Act etc)
 - Precautionary phrases
- Off Label Approval – *required knowledge should be:*
 - SOLA – what is it?
 - Legality/responsibility when using a SOLA
 - Legislation (SOLA’s, etc)
 - Potential dangers

2.2 Useful Information – Interesting / nice to know which may help candidates understanding of some ‘core’ topics.

- Legislation
 - Poisons Rules
 - Disposal of Controlled Waste Regulations
- EU Legislation
 - Drinking Water Directive
 - Ground Water Directive
 - Plant Protection Products Directive
 - Biocides Directive

- Waste Framework Directive
 - Agricultural Waste
 - Non-agricultural Waste
- Other pertinent legislation – Environment Act 1995, Weeds Act 1959, Ragwort Control Act 2003, etc.
 - Pesticide Safety
 - The role of Pesticide Safety Directorate (PSD)
 - The role of the Advisory Committee on Pesticides (ACP)
- Testing
 - Toxicological testing
 - Environmental risk
 - Efficacy
- Label & Advice
 - Environmental Information Sheets (EIS)
- Formulation – *emphasis on the practical implications for Operators/Managers:*
 - Types of formulation
 - Ingredients and their hazards
 - Safety effects
 - Active ingredients & product names
 - Strength of product
 - Compatibility of products
 - Legal aspects of tank mixing
- Understanding how Pesticides work– *emphasis on the practical implications for Operators/Managers:*
 - Pesticide types – eg. herbicides
 - Adjuvants – what they do, and what types are available
 - Modes of Action – Soil acting, contact, residual, systemic, translocated
 - Persistent / non persistent
 - Protectant / eradicant
 - Selective /non-selective
 - Control of aquatic weeds
- Resistance – *emphasis on the practical implications for Operators/Managers*
- Symptoms of Pesticide Activity– *emphasis on the practical implications for Operators/Managers*
 - Damage / Action
 - Overdosing and underdosing
- Sources of Advice, Recommendations and Help– *emphasis on the practical implications for Operators/Managers*
 - BASIS Qualification
 - Statutory requirements
 - Emergency procedures

2.3 Background information only

- Organisations
 - ADAS
 - Aquatic Weeds Research Unit
 - Association of Independent Crop Consultants (AICC) and members
 - BASIS (Registration) Ltd
 - Countryside Council for Wales (CCW)
 - Crop Protection Association (CPA)
 - Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) (Northern Ireland)
 - Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs (Defra)
 - Department of the Environment (Northern Ireland) (DoE NI)
 - Distributor companies
 - English Heritage
 - Natural England
 - Environment Agency (EA) / Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA)
 - Environment & Heritage Service for Northern Ireland (EHSNI)
 - Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG)
 - Food Standards Agency (FSA)
 - Health & Safety Executive (HSE)
 - Institute of Greenkeepers (IOG)
 - Lantra Awards
 - Linking Environment and Farming (LEAF)
 - Manufacturer companies
 - National Association of Agricultural Contractors (NAAC)
 - National Trust
 - NPTC
 - Pesticide Safety Directorate (PSD)
 - Scottish Executive
 - Scottish National Heritage (SNH)
 - Sports Turf Research Institute (STRI)

MODULE 3 – SAFE APPLICATION OF PESTICIDES

3.1 Important – knowledge which candidates ‘need to know’

- Staff training, certification and National Register of Spray Operators (NRoSO)
- Recommendations – *required knowledge should be:*
 - Interpretation and understanding of recommendations and label instructions
 - Adviser
 - Contractor
 - Product Label
 - Environmental Information Sheets
 - Product Choice
- Safety and Equipment
 - COSHH and Risk Assessments
 - *Personal Protective Equipment*
 - Poisons Requirements
 - Engineering Controls
 - Staff Health
- Storage and Transport of Products
 - Safety and Security
 - Codes of Practice
 - Records and Stock Control
- Types of Equipment
 - Application equipment – hand held – conventional – controlled droplet application (cda) – granule – via planter - fogging
 - Mounted / self propelled applicators
 - Trailed applicators
 - National Sprayer Testing Scheme (NSTS)
- Nozzles – types and actions of each and selection
- Mixing and Filling
 - Correct procedure
 - Water source
 - Cleaning down
 - Dilution / rate of use
 - Spillages
- When to apply
 - Weather
 - wind
 - rain
 - temperature
 - Soil conditions
 - Growth stage of target

- Thresholds
 - importance of spray thresholds
 - key examples of spray thresholds
- *Management of surplus dilute pesticide waste, including disposal*
- *Management of empty pesticide containers, including disposal*
- *Records of activity*

3.2 Useful Information – Interesting / nice to know which may help candidates understanding of some ‘core’ topics.

- Storage and Transport of Products
 - Transport Regulations

MODULE 4 – PROTECTION OF SURFACE AND GROUND WATER

4.1 Important – knowledge which candidates ‘need to know’

- *How pesticides get in to water*
- Types of water pollution and their effects
- Identifying risk activities regarding pesticides:
 - i) prior to application of pesticides; *Environmental Risk Assessment*
 - Recommendation (BASIS qualified person)
 - Weather forecast
 - Timing
 - Location and area relativity
 - Product choice and dose
 - Site for product storage
 - Site for applicator filling
 - Water source and storage
 - Location of drains, water courses and vulnerable groundwater
 - Topography
 - Equipment calibration and correct set up
 - Communication and notification eg. Bees
 - ii) during application
 - Weather
 - wind
 - rain
 - temperature
 - Mixing and filling procedure
 - Drift risks
 - Buffer zones, LERAPS, Conservation areas
 - Hard surface run-off risk
 - Avoiding water drainage areas
 - Accuracy of coverage
 - iii) following application
 - Monitoring weather
 - Recording activity
 - Safe practice of
 - surplus dilute pesticide disposal
 - empty container disposal
 - cleaning of equipment
 - security of products and equipment

Candidates will study either Module 5 for Agriculture or Module 6 for Amenity

MODULE 5 – ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT AND BEST PRACTICE TARGETS FOR AGRICULTURE

5.1 Important – knowledge which candidates ‘need to know’

Identification of habitats which should be protected or enhanced on a farm or site map

Required knowledge should be:

- Assessment of existing flora/fauna
- Forming a plan for wildlife habitats and safety

Key point is identifying the habitats which should be protected / enhanced on a farm/site map

- Setting realistic objectives relative to
 - Weed / pest / disease problem
 - Options for control
 - Thresholds and decision criteria
 - Impact of decision
 - Ways to remove or minimise environmental impact
 - Preserving biodiversity and balance
 - Safety of non-target species
 - Awareness of domestic and farm animals
 - Improving biodiversity
- Risk assessment and forming a plan of action for
 - Location
 - Products to be used
 - Timeliness
 - Staff
 - Passers-by / walkers
 - Other resources
 - *Biodiversity and water risk management*
 - Benefits
 - Cost effectiveness
- Best Practice Targets
 - Relevant Codes of Practice
 - Risk avoidance
 - Proper planning
 - Efficient recording
 - Monitoring performance
 - staff
 - product
 - location / situation
 - crop
 - financial
 - Communication & notification eg. *Bee keepers*
- How to interpret and use label information to reduce the risk to consumer safety:

- Outcomes from Crop Protection Management Plan (CPMP)
- The role of Integrated Crop Management (ICM) and how to implement
- Timing of pesticide application
- Harvest interval

The infield risk to food production and consumer safety may be affected by:

5.2 Useful Information – Interesting / nice to know which may help candidates understanding of some ‘core’ topics.

- The in-field risk to food production *and consumers*
 - Dose and LD50
 - Residues (MRL)

MODULE 6 – ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT AND BEST PRACTICE TARGETS FOR AMENITY

6.1 Important – knowledge which candidates ‘need to know’

Identification of the habitats which should be protected and/or enhanced on a site map

- Assessment of existing flora/fauna
- Forming a plan for wildlife habitats and safety

- Setting realistic objectives relative to
 - Weed / pest / disease problem
 - Options for control
 - Thresholds and decision criteria
 - Impact of decision
 - Ways to remove or minimise environmental impact
 - Preserving biodiversity and balance
 - Safety of non-target species
 - Awareness of domestic animals
 - Improving biodiversity

- Risk assessment and forming a plan of action for
 - Location
 - Products to be used
 - Timeliness
 - Staff
 - Contractor
 - Local authority contact
 - Other work on-site
 - Passers-by / public access
 - Other resources
 - *Biodiversity and water risk management*
 - Benefits
 - Cost effectiveness

- Best Practice Targets
 - Relevant Codes of Practice
 - Risk avoidance
 - Proper planning
 - Efficient recording
 - Monitoring performance
 - staff
 - contractor
 - site manager
 - location / situation
 - financial

- Issues to consider in Amenity Site Management
 - Outcomes from Amenity Horticulture Management Plan (AHMP) for pesticides.
 - Amenity Integrated Management (AIM)
 - Timing of work to be done
 - Exclusion time
 - Product choice (BASIS qualified person)
 - Public related issues
 - Communication and notification

GLOSSARY OF ACRONYMS / TERMS

POWER Certificate	- Protection of Water, the Environment and Recommendations qualification
BASIS	- BASIS (Registration) Ltd
NPTC	- <i>National Proficiency Tests Council</i> – Part of City & Guilds Group
NRoSO	- National Register of Spray Operators
FEPA	- Food and Environment Protection Act 1985
COPR	- Control of Pesticides Regulations 1986
HSW Act	- Health & Safety at Work Act 1974
COSHH	- Control of Substances Hazardous to Health
EU	- European Union
LERAP	- Local Environmental Risk Assessment for Pesticides
PSD	- Pesticide Safety Directorate
ACP	- Advisory Committee on Pesticides
SOLA	- Specific Off-Label Approvals

BASIS Approved Trainer

The following Colleges, Trainers and Training Providers are successfully running POWER examinations and have been accepted as BASIS Approved Trainers for POWER.

Brian Poulson

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Contact: Brian Poulson
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Ian Gower Associates Ltd

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Kent, ME14 5QU

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email: ian@pesticides-safety-training.co.uk
Web: www.pesticides-safety-training.co.uk

The Training Association (East)

57 Low Road
Grimston
KINGS LYNN
Norfolk
PE32 1AF

Contact: Jayne Parsey
Tel: 01485 600225
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Web: www.traineast.co.uk
Trainer: Brian Poulson

The Training Company

Clare Cottage
Peasenhall
SAXMUNDHAM
Suffolk
IP17 2HF

Contact: Charles Parker
Tel: 01728 660264
email: charles@ttccharlie.force9.co.uk

The following Colleges, Trainers and Training Organisations have expressed an interest in running some, or all, of the training modules and / or the POWER examination.

Alan Knight Training

The Lawns
Mill Bank
Holbeach Fen
SPALDING
Lincolnshire
PE12 8QW

Contact: Alan Knight
Tel: 01406 424778
email: ajknight@tiscali.co.uk

CAFRE Greenmount Campus

22 Greenmount Road
ANTRIM
Co Antrim
Northern Ireland
BT41 4PU

Contact: Kevin O'Donnell
Tel: 02894 426631
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Web: www.cafre.ac.uk

Cambridge Area Training Ltd

1 Lodge Cottages
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WOODBIDGE
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Contact: Christopher Gage

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Web: www.cambridgeareatraining.co.uk

Chelmsford & West Essex Training Group

2 Salisbury Cottages
Maldon Road
Hatfield Peverel
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CM3 2HS

Contact: Debbie Wedge

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email: debbiewedge@aol.com

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Fulstow
LOUTH
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Web: www.djlag.co.uk

East Riding Training Group

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East Yorkshire
HU17 7RU

Contact: Michelle Brumfield

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Web: www.harper-adams.ac.uk/shortcourses/

Holbeach Marsh Training Group

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Station Road
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Lincolnshire
PE20 3NZ

Contact: Lynne Richardson
Tel: 01205 821628
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Parkhill Training

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The Training Association (pdfw)

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PETERBOROUGH
PE6 0AD

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The Training Association (West)

Northfield
The Row
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KINGS LYNN
Norfolk
PE33 9AY

Contact: Jo Bruce
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The Vale Training Group

Marsh Hill Farm
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HP17 8ST

Contact: Kate Mason
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Web: www.valetraining.co.uk

University of Lincoln

Short Course Unit
Riseholme Park
LINCOLN
Lincolnshire, LN2 2LG
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