



Amenity Forum Guidance Document

Education, Training Skills and Compliance

10 Key Points

The Amenity sector will grow stronger through the people working within it, when they are trained, qualified and practising Continual Professional Development to improve their skills. These Key Points set out the requirements and guidelines for training, qualifications, CPD and other industry requirements in the Amenity sector and further guidance is available at www.amenityforum.co.uk

Giving Advice on and/or selling Amenity Professional Pesticides

Proper training and qualification is vital for taking the amenity industry forward with adoption of integrated approaches and ensuring optimum use of pesticides.

Amenity is intertwined with the environment. It is therefore imperative that decisions on weed, pest and disease control are fully assessed and planned. This is especially true related to pesticide use. This places big responsibility on those making decisions on product choice and where and when to use it. Those selling and/or advising should be properly trained and qualified. The recognised qualification is the [BASIS Field Sales and Technical Staff certificate](#), which empowers them to comply with legal and codes of practice requirements. There is a choice of six qualifications within the certificate. They are hard surfaces, sports turf and amenity grass, Invasive weeds and pests, shrubs and borders, aquatic weed control and forestry/arboriculture.

Operating Spray Equipment

It is a legal requirement for those applying Amenity Professional Pesticides to have received training and to be qualified.

The recognised qualifications in this area are run by [City & Guilds](#) and [Lantra](#) who offer a suite of courses and qualifications, geared to match the type of spraying/application equipment that the operator is using or intends to use. The so called "Grandfather rights" for owners to be able to spray their own land/area, without PA certification expired in 25 November 2015 and, now, all must hold that qualification.

Storing Pesticides Properly

The Sustainable Use Regulations give clear direction that all persons with responsibility for controlling a professional pesticide store should have the training and attain the appropriate qualification.

Professional Pesticides are usually in concentrated formulations, which mean that a small quantity covers a large area. They must be used and stored in ways that ensure safety for people, water and the environment. The recognised and approved route here is the [BASIS Nominated Storekeeper](#) qualification.

Foundation Award

The need for those people who supervise pest, weed and disease control practices, or have responsibility in any way for specifying work or awarding contracts, to have appropriate knowledge and understanding, has never been greater.

Ensuring all possible control measures are evaluated and understood ensures risks are minimised, vital in such a public facing sector as amenity. All need to understand the principles and key risks not just those who advise or undertake the work. The recommended qualification is the BASIS Foundation Award as either a stepping stone towards the full BASIS Certificate or a qualification in its own right.

Continued Professional Development (CPD)

Whilst initial training is important, keeping updated, and being able to demonstrate this, is vital and a key element in the national action plan for implementing the Sustainable Use Directive. Use of professional pesticides within the amenity sector is dynamic with increased focus upon integrated approaches, emphasis on water issues and so on. It is essential that those giving advice and/or selling professional pesticides in amenity, are up-to-date, have relevant knowledge, and are capable of giving the “industry steer” that is necessary, so as to achieve the desired outcomes. The recognised scheme is the [BASIS Amenity Training Register](#) (BAR). Points are awarded for relevant training, knowledge, and development activities and there is a minimum number of CPD points required to be attained annually. It is equally essential that spray operators, following initial qualification, also keep fully up-to-date with such things as product label changes, nozzle types, equipment requirements and so on.

Amenity Assured Standard

Those who operate to Amenity Assured standards demonstrate their commitment to best practice and compliance with requirements, minimising risk and ensuring optimum use of pesticides and the correct approaches to weed, pest and disease control.

The [Amenity Assured Standard](#) is a way in which organisations can fully demonstrate their professionalism and understanding. The scheme, operated by BASIS, sets standards and independently audits and assesses companies’/organisations’ work performance. There is an annual audit covering staff, qualifications, storage, transport, application equipment, spraying practices, and contract satisfaction. If compliant, the organisation receives an annually renewable certificate. It is important that everyone in the sector operates to Amenity Assured standards.

National Sprayer Testing Scheme - NSTS

All sprayers which require the operator to be mounted on a vehicle or carriage are required to be independently tested. Regular in house testing of all other equipment including knapsacks is highly recommended.

The Sustainable Use Regulations (SUR) requirement is for all non-new sprayers as defined above to be tested. Having all spray equipment properly adjusted in any case makes sense for effective and cost efficient operation. [The National Sprayer Testing Scheme \(NSTS\)](#) is operated by the AEA – Agricultural Engineers Association, and is the recognised independent testing organisation. The regulations set out a cycle for repeat testing of older machines, depending on type and use. Each test is comprehensive and is geared to ensure spraying equipment is calibrated, operating well, correct nozzles, no leaks, etc. A certificate of worthiness is issued when the machine is compliant.

Risk Assessment

A large amount of amenity pesticide use has close proximity to the public and proper and thorough risk assessment is essential.

The safety record of the industry is partly due to contractors/operators conducting individual area Risk Assessments prior to spraying work being undertaken. Such risks and issues as weather, public places, control measures required, choice of treatment, etc., should all be assessed, evaluated, recorded and acted upon with the primary aim of safety for the public and the environment.

COSHH – Control of Substances Hazardous to Health

The Health & Safety at Work Act (and amendments) requires that managers and operatives should fully assess the risks of products intended to be used.

Sometimes, this relates to pesticides and prior to use, safety risks for the operator and the public must be assessed. All options must be considered such as non-pesticide methods of control, operator protection and training, etc., to ensure risk is removed or minimised. Once the COSHH assessment has been made, it must be recorded and acted upon to ensure that operatives are fully aware of what is required

Integrated Approaches

The SUR requires all users to assess the options for control measures needed so that pesticide use is minimised.

Many weed, pest and disease problems have a number of control options, so as to gain effective resolution in an integrated way. This means assessing cultural, mechanical, biological and other solutions alongside pesticide options to decide which will deliver the solution in the least impactful way with regard to people, water, environment, desired outcome and with due recognition of the costs involved. Where the decision is to use pesticides: - they must be the right product, at the right time - and at the right dose.

Amenity Forum

If you are an organisation involved in the amenity sector, consider becoming a member of the Amenity Forum, and help us to drive up standards. For further information, contact the Forum Secretary, admin@amenityforum.net