



Amenity Forum

Guidance Note

Application of herbicide using quads and compact tractors



Introduction

Application of herbicides to hard and porous surfaces using quads and compact tractors is a frequent occurrence, within amenity areas, due to the efficiency they offer in spraying large areas. The Amenity Forum would urge all operators to comply with the following rules of best practice:

- All machines should be constructed to comply with UK regulations.
- All machines should be subject to a NSTS sprayer test –The Sustainable Use Directive defines the requirements for testing.

Boom sprayers 3 metres and under and other types of PAE to include slug pellet applicators, micro-granular applicators, weed wipers, seed treatment and other specialist application equipment must be supplied with a NSTS certificate

1. First test due before the machine is 5 years old
2. Re-test every 6 years

Boom sprayers over 3 metres wide, air blast sprayers, train and aircraft sprayers (includes Livestock Assurance Schemes)

1. First test due before the sprayer is 5 years old
 2. All sprayers over 5 years old must have been tested within the last 3 years
 3. Re-test every 3 years
- All machines must be able to be controlled with both hands on the handlebars/steering wheel whilst spraying.
 - Constant forward speed should be maintained to enable accurate calibration.
 - Forward speed, whilst spraying on footpaths, should not exceed 8kph. Slower speeds may well be required after analysis by a dynamic risk assessment, in order to better protect bystanders. Even when working on roads, whilst spraying, forward speed should not exceed 12kph, to counteract any drift that can occur at higher speeds.
 - A warning beacon should be fitted and, ideally, forward and rear facing hi-visibility LED type flashers.
 - Low drift technology must be incorporated – e.g.: air inclusion nozzles, shrouded booms and adjustable nozzles – to minimise operator and bystander exposure.
 - Machines must be able to undertake targeted spraying. Blanket spraying is NOT acceptable, apart from areas where weed growth is significant, for example: brick set areas with a high degree of weed growth in cracks.
 - Hand-lance should preferably be used when the machine is stationary, but may be used in certain situations where a local risk assessment shows that it is safe to use the hand-lance whilst in motion.