

In order to manage the wide range of surfaces looked after by our members, we need to have access to a wide range of nutritional, chemical, biological, cultural and physical solutions for weed, disease and pest control.

To obtain the surface expected by stakeholders, we have to employ an integrated approach using the most sustainable solutions available. The use of integrated pest management (IPM) practices will be a key pillar of the NAP.

OCR REGULATIONS

The EU Official Controls Regulations (OCR) were established to provide an integrated and uniform approach to official controls across all aspects of the agrifood supply chain. The regulations, following Brexit, were retained in UK law.

The OCR for plant protection products (PPP), set up in 2020, apply

TO OBTAIN THE SURFACE EXPECTED BY STAKEHOLDERS, WE HAVE TO EMPLOY AN INTEGRATED APPROACH USING SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS

to the whole of the UK and supplement existing regulations that govern the sale and use of PPP.

The government's Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) is the nominated competent authority to coordinate registration for England, Scotland and Wales. It will coordinate the collection on behalf of the devolved governments. The exception



Organisations using plant protection products will need to be registered with DEFRA under the new regulations

being Northern Ireland, which will manage its own registration.

Any organisation or individual selling registered PPP, and organisations using or having professional PPP applied, now have a legal requirement to be registered with DEFRA under these regulations.

Amenity users are those who undertake professional work in gardening, landscaping or grounds maintenance – or another role in an amenity setting such as in schools, parks, sports grounds (including golf courses), public or private property, infrastructure (roads, railways, waterways and so on), and utilities such as transport and water companies.

If your organisation is not registered with DEFRA, you need to complete either a seller form at bit.ly/3Mys2Ta or a user form at bit.ly/43loxS3

PESTICIDE ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

DEFRA has provided the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) with funding for the training and employment of 18

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pesticide enforcement officers (PEOs) and their support team. To date, 14 PEOs are active, with four nearing completion of specialist training. The full role of the PEO will be explained at our Updating Events.

The primary role of the PEO is to ensure compliance with PPP legislation relating to use, storage and handling. This will be achieved through inspection, guidance, partnership working and leadership to raise awareness and promote behaviour change to help improve the control of hazardous substances in the workplace.

The UK's implementation of the EU OCR 2017/625 requires the establishment of a new inspection and enforcement capability within the HSE to put into effect official controls on the manufacture, supply, storage and use of PPP.

The PEOs will also undertake a combination of proactive and reactive duties, including involvement

in investigations.

In June this year, the Amenity Forum intends to host a virtual meeting for its members, by which time hopefully the NAP will have been published and we can interpret the potential impact of this five-year plan. We will also present best practice solutions in order to help with compliance.

UPDATING EVENTS

This year, we are holding five in-person events at various venues. See the programme at bit.ly/3MQvYht

Some of the events will include lunch and sponsor presentations, and post-lunch venue tours. Due to the generosity of our sponsors, all events are free of charge for delegates.

Registration is essential. Please book for the events by sending an email to: admin@amenityforum.net



Policy, compliance and enforcement

The Amenity Forum's calendar of Updating Events is helping to educate the amenity sector on issues around UK pesticide regulations and how to comply with them to avoid DEFRA's policy enforcement

BY PETER CORBETT, EXECUTIVE OFFICER, AMENITY FORUM

The theme for this year's Amenity Forum Updating Events is policy, compliance and enforcement. These three areas cover the working environment for many organisations and projects in the amenity sector. Policy and legislation set the framework to work within. Compliance ensures organisations work within the envelope of legislation and good practice. Enforcement ensures those who do not comply and take shortcuts are caught and either closed down or are made to comply to produce

a safe working environment and an even playing field for all organisations.

REVISED NATIONAL ACTION PLAN

We are awaiting publication of the Revised Pesticide National Action Plan (NAP), a five-year plan that aims to minimise the risks and impacts of pesticides to



human health and the environment, while ensuring that pests and pesticide resistance are managed effectively. The Amenity Forum is at the forefront of lobbying for the development of sustainable solutions that fulfil the requirements of the NAP.

Unfortunately, the NAP is unlikely to be published until later this year. We were hoping to be able to present to members our interpretation of the NAP and what the sector needs to achieve in order to comply with this five-year plan.