



Amenity Forum
Guidance Note

Handling & Storage of Pesticides



Storage

Regulation no longer stipulates that anyone storing more than 200 litres/kilograms of pesticides, for sale or supply, should hold a BASIS Nominated Storekeeper Certificate, as it did in the past. However, it is very much recommended as “Best Practice” that anyone handling pesticides in appreciable quantities (greater than 200litres/kgs) should attend the training for the BASIS NSK certificate and this should then be updated every 5 years. This recommendation is also included in the code of practice that is still applicable. By taking the above approach this shows that you take your responsibilities to protect human health and the environment seriously regarding your storage of professional pesticide products.

Link - [BASIS-NSK-Scheme](#)

Pesticide stores should be built/purchased/converted for the relevant quantities to be held and should follow the guidelines set out in:

HSE16 leaflet – Guidance on Storing Pesticides for Farmers and Other Professional Users. Code of Practice for Suppliers of Pesticides for Agriculture, Horticulture and Forestry (The Yellow Code).

Link - [ais16](#)

Code of Practice for Using Plant Protection Products.

Link - [Complete20code](#)

Handling – Training and Certification

Anyone using professional pesticides should be trained in the safety aspects of such use. Certificates for Use of Professional Pesticides ([City & Guilds replacement for PA1, PA2, PA6, etc](#)) are required by law. This applies to.

- users, operators, and technicians (including contractors)
- managers
- employers
- self-employed people
- people who give instruction to others on how to use pesticides

All previous “grandfather” rights have been rescinded.

Managers/supervisors in charge of certificated users should be trained to a higher level – ideally holding a minimum of the BASIS Foundation Module, or better still, the BASIS Environmental Pesticide Management Certificate or the BASIS Field Sales & Technical Staff Certificate.

Handling – Practicalities

Always wear minimum PPE – a coverall and nitrile gloves – when handling a concentrated PPP containers. Make sure that you read the product label in its entirety – it contains all the information that you require to use the product safely.

Of paramount importance, when handling pesticides, is the avoidance of water contamination - **do not mix pesticides near to any watercourses, ditches and similar water sources.**

With this in mind, it is very important to think about where pesticides are measured, mixed and the spray tank filled. “Best Practice” is to avoid hard standing areas, particularly concrete yards, and similar areas, unless these are bunded to avoid any spill entering the environment.

Mixing and filling areas should ideally be bunded, so that any spillages can be directed into storage tanks and then disposed of safely. Bunds can be either temporary or permanent. Construction of these areas needs to be well planned, to avoid too much rain water entering the area, with possible inundation of the storage facilities.

Other Information

- ⦿ Avoid transportation of mixed pesticides in spray tanks, particularly knapsacks and other hand held equipment that are prone to overbalancing.
- ⦿ Pesticide containers should be stored in a locked and leak-proof transit bin during transportation.
- ⦿ Pesticides should be transported in a separate compartment in the vehicle – physically separate from the cab or using a sealed bulkhead.
- ⦿ Carry a suitable spill kit at all times – see the Code of Practice for details.
- ⦿ Vehicles carrying pesticide products should display suitable warning signs and an “Instructions in Writing” notice in the cab.