

Do you spray?

Key changes to spray legislation at a glance

Three dates that matter for any one that uses professional pesticides:

During 2014

Demonstrate Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is followed on your farm.

26 Nov 2015

The sprayer operator on your farm or nursery must hold a Recognised Certificate.

26 Nov 2016

Working application equipment must have an NSTS Certificate.

Why does this matter?

These measures will be legal requirements for the UK and its farmers. Non-compliance could lead to prosecution and threaten your Single Farm Payment.

Why do you have to do this?

All countries in the European Union are implementing the **Sustainable Use Directive***. The Directive applies in every EU country and sets minimum standards for the safe use of professional plant protection products (pesticides). Due to existing legislation and the VI, many UK farmers and growers already meet most of the requirements of the Directive. However, some farmers and sprayer operators currently operating under 'grandfather rights' will need to get a Recognised Certificate if they wish to continue using professional pesticides. In addition, most spray application equipment will need to be tested and farmers need to demonstrate they are following an integrated approach to crop protection.

For more detailed advice see over.

* The legal requirements are contained in the Plant Protection Products Sustainable Use Regulations 2012.

Spraying: what do I have to do?

Check first if you are using professional pesticides.

If you are using any pesticides or plant protection products such as weedkillers/ herbicides, fungicides, insecticides, slug pellets / molluscicides, plant growth regulators, grain store or grain insecticides or soil sterilants.

You need to take three steps

1 Demonstrate IPM practices are being followed from 2014

This can be done by completing an IPM plan. Links to a range of plans can be found at www.voluntaryinitiative.org.uk. Completing a plan will help you make the most of IPM and shows you are considering different ways of controlling weeds, pests and diseases. The plan may also be useful evidence for farm assurance schemes and cross compliance inspections.

2 Ensure operators hold a Recognised Certificate from 26 Nov 2015

Existing certificates e.g. PA1+PA2 meet the requirements of the Directive. A new Grandfather certificate will be available from City & Guilds from 26th Nov 2013 (www.nptc.org.uk). Professional pesticide products must not be purchased or used after 26th Nov 2015 unless the operator who is applying that product is certificated.

3 Have application equipment tested by NSTS before 26 Nov 2016

Find an approved National Sprayer Testing Scheme examiner at www.nsts.org.uk. Subsequent testing will be required every five years from 26th Nov 2016; and every 3 years from 26th November 2020. Granule applicators and boom sprayers less than 3m wide need to be tested every 6 years, while handheld equipment should be regularly checked against a checklist and a record kept.

Are there any other options?

You have two other options

1. Use a contractor or neighbouring farmer who holds an appropriate Recognised Certificate and has a tested sprayer. (It is your responsibility to check this). Your BASIS Registered Crop Protection adviser may be able to help with your IPM plan.
2. Some amateur pesticides, available from garden centres, country and DIY stores, may be used without a recognised operator certificate. Check the label first; appropriate training and a CoSHH assessment is still required when these pesticides are used at work.

www.voluntaryinitiative.org.uk



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Promoting responsible pesticide use