



Irish Agricultural Supply Industry Standards

Guidelines on the Management & Operation of Pesticides Stores

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1 Introduction

- 1.1 Irish Agricultural Supply Industry Standards (IASIS Ltd) ¹ (formerly known as BASIS²) is an independent company established jointly in 1993 by the Animal and Plant Health Association (APHA) representing manufacturers of plant protection products and veterinary medicines, and the Federation of Agrochemical Retail Merchants (FARM) representing retailers of plant protection products. It is run by a Committee with representatives from the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM), the Health and Safety Authority (HSA), Teagasc, the Agricultural Science Association (ASA), Professional Agricultural Contractors (PAC), the Agricultural Consultants Association (ACA), the Irish Pest Control Association (IPCA), APHA and FARM. In practice a representative of the Irish Tillage Consultants Association (ITCA) represents its parent organization the ACA.
- 1.2 IASIS has a two-fold mission:-
- a) the achievement of excellence in the training of advisors and retail distributors, thereby facilitating the sustainable distribution and use of pesticides and animal health products, and
 - b) ensuring that storage, display and sales facilities are designed and constructed in compliance with relevant statutory requirements and are managed and operated to achieve a high level of protection for workers and for the environment.
- 1.3 These guidelines were prepared and issued by IASIS Ltd., to facilitate compliance by pesticide store operators, whether wholesale or retail distributors, with the provisions of legislation introduced to give effect to the package of European legislation on pesticides adopted in 2009 ^{3,4,5}.
- 1.4 These guidelines may also be of interest to end-users such as contractors, forest enterprises, golfing organizations, local authorities, farmers, pest control service providers and others.**
- 1.5 The guidance provided in this document, together with the requirements specified in the IASIS Requirements for the Design and Construction of Pesticide Stores, and the IASIS Requirements for the Fitting Out and Guidelines for the Management and Operation of Pesticide Display and Sales Areas have been deemed to be the standard

¹ www.iasis.ie

² Basis (Registration ROI) Limited

³ European Communities (Sustainable Use of Pesticides) Regulations 2012 (S.I. No. 155 of 2012)

⁴ European Communities (Plant Protection Products) Regulations 2012 (S.I. No. 159 of 2012)

⁵ Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 October 2009 concerning the placing of plant protection products on the market and repealing Council Directives 79/117/EEC and 91/414/EEC, OJ No L309, 24 November 2009, p1; Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 October 2009 establishing a framework for Community action to achieve the sustainable use of pesticides, OJ No L309, 24 November 2009, p71; Directive 2009/127/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 October 2009 amending Directive 2006/42/EC with regard to machinery for pesticide application, OJ No L310, 25 November 2009, p29; Regulation (EC) No 1185/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 November 2009 concerning statistics on pesticides, OJ No L324, 10 December 2009, p1

determined by the Minister of Agriculture, Food and the Marine in accordance with Regulation 13(3) of SI No 155 of 2012 for premises used for storage, sale or supply of pesticides.

- 1.6 In accordance with the provisions of S.I. No 155 of 2012³, pesticides may only be sold or supplied whether by wholesale or retail, from stores that comply with the standard determined by the Minister and the store is entered on the register of stores maintained by him.

2 Security Precautions

- 2.1 Premises must be securely locked outside of business hours or when not manned. Unauthorised access must be prevented.
- 2.2 Pesticides that are classified as being toxic (T) or very toxic (T+) in accordance with the provisions of Regulation (EC) No 1272 of 2008⁶ or that in accordance with relevant national legislation are deemed to be poisons⁷ must be secure from the public at all times. A list of the pesticides classified as T or T+ or that are deemed to be poisons that are currently approved for use may be obtained on the DAFM website - <http://www.pcs.agriculture.gov.ie/products/>.
- 2.3 The local emergency services (*i.e.* local fire authority, local environmental health office, and local Gardai) must be informed of the existence of Category A and B pesticide stores⁸. They must be provided with emergency telephone numbers and the names and addresses of key holders. Any specific recommendations made by them must be complied with.

3 Safety Precautions

- 3.1 A Safety Statement in compliance with relevant safety, health and welfare at work legislation⁹, prepared by a competent person, must be circulated to all staff and be exhibited on the staff notice board of pesticide stores. Guidelines for employers and

⁶ Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 2008 on the classification, labelling and packaging of substances and mixtures, amending and repealing Directives 67/548/EEC and 1999/45/EC and amending Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006. OJ No 353, 31.12.2008, p1

⁷ Poisons Act 1961 (No 12 of 1961) as last amended by the Pharmacy Act 2007 (No 20 of 2007); Poisons Regulations 2008 (SI No 511 of 2008)

⁸ Category A and B pesticide stores as described in the IASIS Requirements for the Design and Construction of Pesticide Stores and that consequently are deemed compliant with the standard determined by the Minister in accordance with S.I. No 155 of 2012

⁹ The Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (Chemical Agents) Regulations 2001 (S.I. No 619 of 2001); Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act 2005 (No 10 of 2005); Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act 2005 (Commencement) Order 2005 (S.I. No. 328 of 2005); Safety Health and Welfare at Work Act 2005 (Appeals Forms) Rules 2005 (S.I. No. 548 of 2005); Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (Exposure to Asbestos) Regulations 2006 (S.I. No. 386 of 2006); The Chemicals Act 2008 (S.I. No 13 of 2008), Chemicals (Amendment) Act 2010 (S.I. No 32 of 2010); Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (Construction) Regulations 2013 (S.I. No. 291 of 2013)

self-employed persons for use in conducting risk assessments and in preparing safety statements have been published by the Health and Safety Authority ¹⁰.

3.2 Safety Statements prepared must: -

- a) include a description of an appropriate health and safety policy,
- b) assign specific health and safety responsibilities,
- c) identify specific hazards and attendant risks that arise,
- d) specify the procedures to be followed to minimise degree of risk,
- e) specify the first-aid training and facilities to be provided,
- f) specify the contingency / emergency procedures to be followed,
- g) specify the fire fighting equipment to be provided and the maintenance schedule to be followed,
- h) identify the protective equipment and clothing to be made available, to be maintained and to be used,
- i) specify the health and safety records to be maintained,
- j) establish appropriate safety consultation arrangements,
- k) specify the precautions to be taken and the documentation to be provided on transport facilities used for delivery of goods to customers, and
- l) provide for measurement of the effectiveness of the health and safety arrangements in place.

3.3 Smoking must be prohibited around as well as in pesticide stores. “No Smoking or Naked Flame/Lights” notices should be prominently displayed, particularly at all entrances to stores.

3.4 Where doubts arise concerning any Health and Safety matter, the Health and Safety Authority should be consulted and be asked for his or her opinion on the matter at issue (LoCall 1890 289 389; Email wcu@hsa.ie).

3.5 A folder (hardcopy or electronic) containing the material safety data sheets (MSDS) for each product sold or supplied must be compiled, be kept separate from the pesticide store, and be available for consultation by all pesticide store staff at all times.

4 Poisons Rules

2.4 Pesticide stores from which pesticides that are poisons are supplied, must comply with the relevant provisions of national poisons legislation ⁷. The particular pesticides that are poisons listed in Part 2 of the First Schedule to the Poisons Regulations and that may be placed on the market and used in accordance with legislation on the marketing

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http://www.hsa.ie/eng/Publications_and_Forms/Publications/Safety_and_Health_Management/Guidelines_on_Risk_Assessments_and_Safety_Statements.pdf

and use of plant protection products ⁴, and biocidal products ¹¹, that are currently approved for use may be obtained on the DAFM website - <http://www.pcs.agriculture.gov.ie/products/>. In accordance with the Poisons Regulations the sale of any pesticide that is a poison is restricted as set out hereunder.

- 4.1 Subject to the conditions specified in the Poisons Regulations, the sale of pesticides that are poisons by wholesale is prohibited unless the sale is to a person: -
- a) lawfully conducting a retail pharmacy business, or
 - b) lawfully keeping open shop for the sale of poisons and the shop is personally managed by a registered druggist or pharmacist, or
 - c) licensed by the Health Service Executive in respect of premises on which poisons are sold, or
 - d) that requires the poison for the purposes of his or her trade, business or profession and is not for resale.
- 4.2 Licensed sellers may only sell pesticides that are poisons subject to the conditions specified in the Poisons Regulation. Those conditions include restrictions as to: -
- a) the persons to whom poisons may be sold,
 - b) storage conditions,
 - c) labelling requirements, and
 - d) the keeping of books and records.

5 Operating Procedures

- 5.1 All operating procedures used must reflect best practice taking account of all risks identified in the context of the Safety Statement prepared for the premises (*cf* point 4).
- 5.2 As a general principle, systems of storage should be flexible and adaptable.
- 5.3 Stock should be arranged to facilitate use of oldest stock first ("first in first out" principle) and to prevent obsolete stock from accumulating.
- 5.4 Where stock is returned by customers, it must be checked to ensure that seals are intact, that the product may still be legally sold or supplied, that the product label is current, and that its shelf-life has not expired. The batch number(s) of the returned product should be recorded. **Care should be taken to avoid such returned product being treated as new stock.**
- 5.5 Stock should be arranged to minimize handling and thus avoid mechanical damage that can give rise to leaks.

¹¹ Regulation (EU) No 528/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 May 2013 concerning the making available on the market and use of biocidal products. OJ No L167, 27.6.2012 p1

- 5.6 Floor spaces should be uncluttered, with marked gangways of sufficient width between shelves or stacks, to permit easy access and, where relevant safe fork lift operation, to facilitate inspection and allow free air flow. This also enables immediate clean-up in the event of any leakage or spills, which can be seen quickly. Stored products should never obscure exits or access to equipment such as fire extinguishers.
- 5.7 Unless for supply to customers in other jurisdictions, only products included either on the Register of plant protection products that may be placed on the market and used ¹² or on the Register of biocidal products ¹³, which are maintained by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine may be stocked and supplied or sold to end-users and contractors. Products not included on either Register that are intended for supply or sale to customers in other jurisdictions must be segregated from other stock and be clearly marked accordingly.
- 5.8 Plant protection and biocidal products must only be stored in their original containers, taking care that the approved labelling does not become detached. Repacking or decanting of product from the original pack is not permitted unless the packaging has been damaged and repackaging using a salvage container for return to supplier or for disposal is necessary (*cf* point 9).
- 5.9 Stock must be segregated to achieve isolation of flammable materials and of toxic materials. Liquid products must never be stored above powder or granular products. The HSE publication *Chemical warehousing* ¹⁴ contains practical advice that should be adhered to on the segregation of chemicals within stores.
- 5.10 Obsolete and damaged stock must be segregated and be clearly identified (labelled) as such. An up-to-date inventory of such stock, including batch numbers, must be maintained.
- 5.11 Containers / packages must never be placed directly on floors. They can be placed on pallets or other materials that facilitate air circulation under the containers or packages.
- 5.12 In the case of palletised material, stacking heights used must respect manufacturer's recommendation as indicated on the wrapping of palletised material. In the absence of a manufacturer's recommendation, stacking height must be restricted to a single pallet high.

6 Staff Training and Certification

- 6.1 Persons trained as distributors (as defined in Regulation 3 of SI No 155 of 2012 ³), must be certified as having completed the QQI Special Purpose Award on Pesticide

¹² <http://www.pcs.agriculture.gov.ie/products/>

¹³ <http://www.pcs.agriculture.gov.ie/biocides/>

¹⁴ Health and Safety Executive, *Chemical warehousing, The storage of packaged dangerous substances*, 4th Edition 2009, published by HSE Books, ISBN 978 0 7176 6237 1,

Distribution [QQI level 5], have accumulated the required continuous professional education (CPE) points and be included on the register of trained distributors maintained by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine. IASIS maintains a register of the CPE points accumulated by relevant individuals in accordance with IASIS CPE Rules for Pesticide Advisors and Pesticide Distributors.

- 6.2 All persons providing advice to end-users on the selection and use of plant protection measures must be certified advisors having accumulated the required continuous professional education (CPE) points and be included on the register of advisors on plant protection maintained by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (<http://www.pcs.agriculture.gov.ie/sud/>).
- 6.3 Persons included on the register of advisors on plant protection maintained by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, that are assigned store operative or management duties, are not required to undertake the course for distributors of pesticides [QQI level 5], to be included on the register of trained distributors maintained by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine. However such advisors must, in addition to satisfying the CPE requirements for advisors, also satisfy the CPE requirements for distributors, to maintain inclusion on both registers.
- 6.4 To the extent feasible, store owners and managers must ensure that appropriate store operatives are trained, certified and included on the relevant registers referred to in points 6.1 and 6.2. A sufficient number of pesticide store operatives must be trained and certified as specified in point 6.1, such that at least one such certified distributor is on duty and available at all times that the premises are open for business.

7 Records to be Maintained

- 7.1 Records must be maintained and be made available for inspection by relevant authorities, in relation to all movements of stock in and out of the store, and include the following details for each consignment received from suppliers and dispatched to customers:-
- a) Wholesale Pesticide Stores

Purchases and returns from customers <i>i.e.</i> Goods In	Sales <i>i.e.</i> Goods Out
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supplier name and address • Name of the product • PCS No. of the product • Pack size • Quantity purchased / returned • Date purchased / returned • Batch number(s) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The name and address of each business supplied • Name of the product(s) • PCS No. of the product(s) • Pack size(s) • The volume(s) supplied • The date purchased • Batch numbers for professional use products (not required for products for non-professional use)

b) Retail Pesticide Stores – professional use products only

Purchases and returns from customers <i>i.e.</i> Goods In	Sales <i>i.e.</i> Goods Out
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supplier name and address • Name of the product • PCS No. of the product • Pack size • Quantity purchased / returned • Date purchased / returned • Batch number(s) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The name and address of each individual purchasing plant protection products • Herd No. / Flock No. / Professional User No. of the purchaser • Name of the product(s) • Pack size(s) • Volume(s) supplied • Date purchased

7.2 An up-to-date inventory of the contents of the store, including obsolete and damaged stock, must be maintained **and be kept separate from the store** for presentation on request made by the authorities *e.g.* PCD Authorized Officer, HSA Inspector, Gardai, Fire Officer, etc.

7.3 Records must also be maintained that show the dates and times at which all inspections for damaged containers and “leakers” (*cf* point 9.1) were conducted and must include the identity of the person that conducted the inspections.

8 Transport of Pesticides

8.1 Transport facilities used for the delivery of plant protection and biocidal products to customers must comply with and be operated in compliance with the carriage of dangerous goods legislation ¹⁵.

8.2 Where doubts arise concerning the carriage of dangerous goods, the Health and Safety Authority should be consulted for advice on the matter at issue (LoCall 1890 289 389; email wcu@hsa.ie).

¹⁵ Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road Act, 1998 (S.I. No. 43 of 1998); Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road Regulations (S.I. No. 288 of 2007); Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road (ADR Miscellaneous Provisions) Regulations 2007 (S.I. No. 289 of 2007); Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road Act 1998 (Appointment of Competent Authorities) Order (S.I. No. 290 of 2007); Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road Act 1998 (Fees) Regulations (S.I. No. 291 of 2007)

9 Damaged Product and Disposal Arrangements

- 9.1 Regular inspections, as a minimum on a weekly basis must be carried out to check for damaged containers and “leakers”.
 - 9.2 Old stock that no longer may be sold or used must be disposed of at the earliest opportunity to preclude deterioration of the packaging and consequent leakage of contents. Where necessary, replacement labels should be attached to containers and other contaminated materials.
 - 9.3 Pesticide waste, including obsolete or damaged pesticide containers, and contaminated pallets or parts thereof, must be disposed of in a safe manner (disposed of by a person or company licensed for the disposal of hazardous waste).
 - 9.4 Pending disposal by an EPA licensed disposal company, obsolete stock and pesticide waste must be isolated within the bunded area, as specified in point 5.10. Disposal companies licensed to handle hazardous waste can be located using the National Waste Collection Permit Office website (www.nwcpo.ie).
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