

Guidance for Professional Users under the Sustainable Use of Pesticides Directive (SUD)

PROFESSIONAL PESTICIDE USERS

What is a Professional Pesticide User?

A professional user is any person who uses pesticides in the course of their professional activities, including operators, technicians, employees and self-employed people, both in the farming and other sectors.

All professional users must be registered by 26th November 2015. From this date, only a registered professional user can apply pesticides authorised for professional use.

How does a Professional Pesticide User register?

Existing clients of the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (e.g. farmers) who are registered to use the DAFM agfood.ie online facilities should apply to register as a Professional User by logging onto www.agfood.ie and select the Sustainable Use Directive System from the menu of options that are available. The application can then be made by completing a short form.

In order to streamline and simplify future interactions with DAFM, it is recommended that other existing DAFM clients who are not currently registered to use the DAFM online facilities should do so at www.agfood.ie as follows:

- Click on agfood.ie on the DAFM homepage
- Click on 'Register' for Online Services
- Fill out details and 'Submit Registration'

The applicant will be sent their 'PAC' by return of post. They can then log on immediately to www.agfood.ie and register as a Professional User by selecting the Sustainable Use Directive System from the menu of options that are available. The application can then be made by completing a short form and the user will also be able to avail of all other relevant DAFM online facilities.

Other individuals who are not existing clients of the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine or do not wish to use the DAFM agfood.ie online facilities should register using the online registration facility available for Professional Users on the PCS website (www.pcs.agriculture.gov.ie/SUD.htm).

Alternatively, a hard copy form will be available for download from the PCS website in 2015, which can be completed and returned to Sustainable Use Directive Section, Pesticide Controls Division, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Backweston Campus, Young's Cross, Celbridge, Co. Kildare. Hard copy applications **must** be accompanied by a copy of the relevant educational qualification certificate of the applicant.

Note: You may be asked for proof of qualification at registration or subsequently at on-farm inspection.

How do you become a trained Professional User?

People who have completed the Pesticide Application module as part of a Teagasc (FETAC level 5 or 6) course will meet the requirements for professional user training. Similarly, anyone who has completed the Teagasc standalone Pesticide Application short course (Level 5) or the City and Guilds Pesticide Application courses – PA series, will also be deemed appropriately trained. PA1 is the foundation module and different modules specific to particular equipment can be chosen to suit the individual user e.g. PA2 for tractor-mounted sprayers, PA6 for hand-held applicators. Equivalent qualifications may also be recognised as meeting requirements to register as a professional user. The Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine will determine if alternative qualifications meet requirements on a case by case basis.

Can an individual who is not registered as a Professional User buy pesticides authorised for professional use?

Individuals who are not registered as a professional user can buy pesticides authorised for professional use but these pesticides **must** be applied by a registered professional user. There is a requirement to keep appropriate records with details of the registered professional user who applied the pesticides.

PESTICIDE APPLICATION EQUIPMENT

By what date must Pesticide Application Equipment be inspected?

All boom sprayers greater than 3m and all blast and orchard sprayers must be tested at least once by 26th November 2016 by a registered Inspector of Pesticide Application Equipment. The interval between inspections must not exceed 5 years until 2020 and must not exceed 3 years thereafter. A list of registered Inspectors of Pesticide Application Equipment is available on the PCS website (www.pcs.agriculture.gov.ie/SUD.htm).

When must other Pesticide Application Equipment (e.g. boom sprayers less than 3 metres, weed wipers, etc.) be inspected?

The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, in consultation with relevant stakeholders, will determine appropriate timetables and inspection intervals for other types of pesticide application equipment in 2014. It is anticipated that all types of application equipment, with the exception of knapsack sprayers, will be required to be tested at least once before 2020.

What checks should a Professional User complete on their Pesticide Application Equipment?

Professional users should conduct regular calibrations and technical checks of their pesticide application equipment.

How much will it cost to have Pesticide Application Equipment inspected?

The cost of inspection is agreed between the Inspector and the owner of the equipment.

INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT

How will the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) requirements of the SUD impact on the professional user?

All professional users shall apply the general principles of IPM and maintain records to demonstrate the application of these principles.

What are the general principles of IPM?

The general principles of IPM are listed in the Sustainable Use of Pesticides Directive which is available on the PCS website (www.pcs.agriculture.gov.ie). They include the following practices:

- prevention and/or suppression of harmful organisms,
- monitoring of harmful organisms,
- application of appropriate plant protection measures,
- use of sustainable biological, physical or other non-chemical methods,
- use of pesticides that are as specific as possible for the target pest,
- use of pesticides to the necessary levels,
- use of anti-resistance strategies to maintain the effectiveness of products,
- recording of the success of the applied crop protection measure.

What IPM records will professional users be required to maintain?

Compliance with IPM requirements will be recorded in the user's Plant Protection Product Use Record sheet which is available on the PCS website (www.pcs.agriculture.gov.ie). A worksheet has also been developed that will record on a whole enterprise level (farm or non-agricultural business e.g. amenity, forestry) how the general principles of IPM are being applied. **All** individuals who apply plant protection products are required to maintain these records. There are no exemptions from the requirement to maintain these records.

Questions regarding the requirements of the Sustainable Use of Pesticides Directive, that have not been addressed above, may be forwarded to the following email address pesticideregisters@agriculture.gov.ie