



Irish Agricultural Supply Industry Standards

Continuing Professional Education (CPE)

CPE Rules for Pesticide Advisors (Grassland)

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IASIS
Continuing Professional Education (CPE)

Table of Contents

<u>Background</u>	1
<u>Definitions</u>	1
1. Individual CPE credit requirements	2
2. Extension and waiver of CPE requirements	3
3. CPE credit determination	3
4. Certification procedures	4-5
5. IASIS CPE Committee recognition of specific events or courses	6
6. Denial of CPE credits for an event or course	6
7. Audit of Pesticide Advisors (Grassland), approved CPE events, courses and their providers	6
8. IASIS evaluation of CPE requirements	7
9. IASIS CPE Credit Allocation Table for Pesticide Advisors (Grassland)	8
10. IASIS CPE Credit Allocation Table for Grassland Advisors who are also Distributors	10

BACKGROUND

The Continuing Professional Education system operated by the IASIS CPE Committee is overseen by the IASIS Management Committee on behalf of the Board of IASIS.

Achievement of **100 credits** annually is mandatory for re-certification of Pesticide Advisors (Grassland) – PA(G) in January of each year,

Each certified Pesticide Advisor (Grassland) must demonstrate achievement of either: -

- a. a minimum of **100 credits** over the previous calendar year, unless exempted as provided for in section 2, **or**
- b. an average of **100 credits** per annum over the previous two calendar years, to be eligible to be re-certified.

DEFINITIONS

The following definitions apply to the system:

- **Continuing Professional Education (CPE)** is a continuous process by which certified grassland pesticide advisors maintain and develop the skills, knowledge and competencies they had at the time of certification and which are relevant to their current professional positions.
- The **legal basis for CPE** is provided by the S.I. No. 155 of 2012¹ which gives effect to 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 ².
- The **IASIS CPE Committee** is a sub-committee of the IASIS Management Committee appointed to approve, accredit and audit course and event programmes and providers of such further education.
- The **IASIS CPE Appeals Committee** is a sub-committee of the IASIS Management Committee appointed to review, assess, endorse or overturn decisions of the IASIS CPE Committee, as appropriate, having regard to relevant IASIS CPE rules

¹ European Communities (Sustainable Use of Pesticides) Regulations 2012, S.I. No. 155 of 2012

² OJ No L309, 24th November 2009, p71

- A **programme of further education** means a programme of education or training for certified persons that relates to the use and management of pesticides and is intended to maintain and develop the professional knowledge, skills and abilities of grassland pesticide advisors.
- A **provider of education** or **course provider** means a person, organisation or company who provides a programme of education or a programme of further education.
- An **approved programme of further education** is one which is QQI (or equivalent) approved and has satisfied the requirements set by the IASIS CPE Committee.

1. Individual CPE credit requirements

- 1.1 The 'credit year' runs from January 1st until December 31st.

Advisors must accumulate at least **100 credits** in any calendar year or an average of at least **100 credits** per annum in any two-calendar year period, unless exempted as provided for in section 2, to satisfy the IASIS CPE requirement. There is no cap on the number of credits which can be claimed in any year over and above 100 credits. The requirement to accumulate 100 credits can generally be achieved through participation for **one and a half to two days per annum** in relevant courses and events.

The averaging facility cannot be used to bring credits earned above the minimum specified for a particular year forward to the subsequent year *i.e.* excess credits can be applied retrospectively but cannot be carried forward.

- 1.2 **Each individual is responsible for signing the attendance sheet at each event and for checking the return of his or her CPE credit claim.**
- 1.3 **Event organisers are responsible for providing attendance record sheets along with supervised facilities to allow attendees to sign an attendance sheet at each event and for providing signed attendance sheets to IASIS CLG following each event.**
- 1.4 Additional credits to the ones submitted through the attendance record sheets may be claimed by filling in a CPE Record Card and submitting it to IASIS. Record Cards are available for downloading on the IASIS website (www.IASIS.ie). Details of the information and materials to be submitted in support of claims for credits are outlined in section 4 below.

2. Extension and waiver of CPE requirements

- 2.1 The IASIS CPE Committee may grant, in part or in total, on application made, an extension or waiver of CPE requirements, upon proof that circumstances beyond the applicant's control prevented completion of the requirements.
- 2.2 The IASIS CPE Committee may, in individual cases involving medical disability or protracted illness of the grassland pesticide advisor or of a member of the applicant's immediate family, grant waivers of the CPE requirements or extensions of time within which to fulfil the requirements. In such instances a written request for waiver or extension of time, with supporting documentary evidence, must be submitted.
- 2.3 The yearly IASIS CPE credit requirement may be satisfied in the following circumstances, where suitable supporting evidence is provided to the CPE Committee showing that:
- the grassland pesticide advisor practises and maintains a PRCD-approved CPE certification in another jurisdiction.*
- Evidence to support all such claims made must be provided to the IASIS CPE Committee.
- 2.4. The CPE requirement of an individual commences on 1 January in the year immediately following the year of his/her approval by DAFM as a Pesticide Advisor (Grassland).
- 2.5 Where the IASIS CPE Committee grants an extension or waiver of CPE requirements, the applicant will be notified within thirty (30) days of the decision made.
- 2.6 When the IASIS CPE Committee refuses an application for extension or waiver of CPE requirements, it shall send to the applicant within thirty (30) days of the decision made, a notice setting out the reason(s) for refusal.
- 2.7 The applicant shall have fifteen (15) days from the date of receipt of the refusal notice to make a written request to the IASIS Management Committee, appealing the decision made.
- 2.8 The IASIS Management Committee shall refer requests received to the IASIS CPE Appeals Committee.
- 2.9 The IASIS CPE Appeals Committee will issue, at the conclusion of each appeal made, a final order setting out the results of the appeal. The decision of the Appeals Committee shall be binding on both parties.

3. CPE credit determination

- 3.1 Credits for Pesticide Advisors (Grassland) can be achieved in areas such as: -
- a. **Topics relating to integrated pest management (IPM) and the sustainable use of pesticides (SUD)**, as specified in Annexes I and III to Directive 2009/128/EEC ¹ (e.g. selection and application of plant protection measures based upon an integrated pest and crop management approach; risk reduction; calibration, maintenance and operation of application equipment; environmental protection; human and animal safety; transport; storage; record keeping and legislation),
 - b. **Other topics presented at general agricultural events and courses** e.g. *crop economics*, novel grassland practices, biotechnology etc.),
 - c. **Machinery - shows and demonstrations,**

- d. **Other meetings and events** relevant to the work of a grassland pesticide advisor,
 - e. Reading of scientific and professional society journals or by being members of scientific or professional organisations,
 - f. Receiving subscription-based relevant publications.
- 3.2 Credits may be obtained in a number of ways, for example, through attendance at courses, seminars, demonstrations, lectures, field days or conferences. The IASIS CPE Credit Allocation Table provides further detail on the credits to be allocated to specific types of activities and events.
- 3.3 Credit for attendance at events will be given only for the actual number of hours of creditable CPE segments. To facilitate the credit certification procedure, organisers / providers of events should provide as much information as possible to the IASIS CPE Committee regarding the content of the event to assist the Committee in allocating the appropriate number of credits.
- 3.4 In general, CPE credit will be given for each period of not less than 30 minutes of attendance at an approved CPE course or event, in accordance with the IASIS CPE Credit Allocation Table for Pesticide Advisors (Grassland). Relevant presentations provided by independent experts will be awarded more credits than corresponding commercial presentations.
- 3.5 On application made, the same CPE credit will be given to persons that present an event, course or segments thereof as are given to participants in the event or course concerned. Regardless of the number of times a particular course or event is held in a particular year, CPE credit for the presenter can only be awarded once for each such event or course in any particular calendar year.
- 3.6 CPE credits will not be given for the reading of trade papers and magazines. Pesticide Advisors (Grassland) are expected to read relevant trade papers and magazines as a matter of routine. CPE credits will be awarded to Pesticide Advisors (Grassland) for the reading of relevant scientific and professional society journals or for being a member of relevant scientific or professional organisations.
- 4. Certification procedure**
- 4.1 In normal circumstances applicants should for the purposes of accumulating the required CPE credits, choose from the range of events and courses that have been pre-approved and allocated an appropriate number of CPE credits by the IASIS CPE Committee.
- 4.2 In exceptional cases consideration will be given to accrediting events and courses after they have been completed.
- 4.3 ***Certification procedure for attendance at pre-approved events and courses where the course Provider does not submit the required attendance documentation to IASIS***
- 4.3.1 CPE Record Cards may be downloaded from the IASIS website – www.IASIS.ie.
- 4.3.2 Applicants must provide evidence of completion of required CPE credits not already submitted by the course provider, by submitting with the completed Record Card the following information with respect to each CPE event or course:
- a. the name and address of the Provider[s] of the CPE event or course.
 - b. the name of the event or course, and its location.

- c. a description of the subject matter covered, the number of hours and, if appropriate, days involved.
- d. the names of the instructors.
- e. the dates on which the applicant attended the event or course.
- f. the number of CPE credits earned; and
- g. evidence of attendance.

The applicant must sign the declaration at the bottom of the Record Card requesting accreditation for the number of CPE credits listed on the Record Card. The completed CPE Record Card and supporting documentation must be returned to IASIS by **31st October** for that CPE credit year.

- 4.3.3 The IASIS CPE Committee reserves the right to require a Pesticide Advisor (Grassland) to submit additional supporting evidence in respect of any claim for credits within 30 days of receipt of an application made. It is the responsibility of each applicant to maintain records, certificates or other evidence of compliance with the CPE requirements. Pesticide Advisors (Grassland) must retain such receipts, vouchers, certificates, or other papers, as may be necessary to verify completion of the CPE credit requirements for a period of not less than two years from the date the course / programme was taken.

4.4 ***Certification procedure for attendance at events and courses that were not pre-approved***

- 4.4.1 Individual applicants may petition the IASIS CPE Committee to review events or courses or specific segments of events or courses that they wish to attend, or have attended, to determine relevance to their role. In such cases, the onus is on the applicant to satisfy the IASIS CPE Committee of the relevance of the activity for which credits are requested and the applicant must provide details of the objectives of the event or course, its content, contact hours and proof of attendance or participation in the event or course. For guidance purposes a form for use in petitioning for such a review is provided on the IASIS website - www.IASIS.ie.

- 4.4.2 Such petitions or request may also be made for: -

- a. conferences held by recognised professional associations or other recognised providers in other jurisdictions; or
- b. participation in postgraduate courses, workshops and seminars held whether within the jurisdiction or in other jurisdictions, by recognised providers.

- 4.5 In addition to the requirements specified in the two preceding sub-paragraphs for the approval of courses or events that were not pre-approved, the documentation specified under section 4.3 must also be submitted by applicants.

4.6 ***Certification procedure for membership of scientific and professional organisations and for purchase and reading of scientific journals and specialist periodicals***

- 4.6.1 CPE credits for membership of relevant scientific and professional organisations, and for the purchase and reading of relevant scientific journals and specialist periodicals, may be granted to Pesticide Advisors (Grassland) on application and on production of relevant documentation confirming membership / purchase as appropriate. Provision of the official circulation list by the publisher of particular specialist periodicals will be accepted as confirmation that those listed, purchased the periodical concerned.

- 4.6.2 The IASIS CPE Committee reserves the right to approve, or not, particular scientific and professional organisations and particular scientific journals and specialist periodicals for the purpose of the awarding of CPE points.

4.7 The IASIS CPE Appeals Committee is the final determining authority as to the acceptability of submitted CPE documentation.

4.8 If a Pesticide Advisor (Grassland) reports false or misleading information, the IASIS CPE Committee, or the IASIS CPE Appeals Committee, as appropriate, shall deny the Pesticide Advisors (Grassland) credit.

5. IASIS CPE Committee recognition of specific events or courses

5.1 The IASIS CPE Committee reserves the right to recognise specific single programmes or segments of single programmes approved or provided by for example, Teagasc, ACA, ASA, UCD, *etc.*

5.2 Single programmes may include CPE Courses conducted in sessions over a number of days.

6. Denial of CPE credits for an event or course

6.1 The IASIS CPE Committee may deny an application for approval of a CPE event or course programmes or may suspend or revoke such approval on the following grounds: -

a. The event or course fails to meet or no longer meets the requirements laid down in this document; or

b. Insufficient or incorrect information was supplied when approval was requested.

6.2 Should an application for a CPE event or course be denied, the applicant shall be sent a notice setting out the reasons for the determination.

6.3 Denial of an application submitted by a Provider will become final fifteen (15) days after the mailing of the notice unless the Provider, within such fifteen (15) day period, gives written notice to the IASIS CPE Committee of an appeal.

6.4 The IASIS CPE Appeals Committee will issue, at the conclusion of each appeal made, a final order setting out the results of the appeal. The decision of the Appeals Committee shall be binding on both parties.

7. Audit of Pesticide Advisors (Grassland), approved CPE events, courses and their providers

7.1 The IASIS CPE Committee shall periodically select in a random manner, at a minimum, a five per cent sample of record cards for audit of CPE credits.

7.2 **Each Pesticide Advisor (Grassland) shall be responsible for maintaining his / her personal files** containing certificates and records of credit for accredited CPE activities undertaken.

7.3 Each **Pesticide Advisor (Grassland)** selected for audit shall be required to produce documentation of his /her attendance at the CPE courses or events listed on his / her Record Card.

7.4 Upon IASIS CPE Committee request, as part of a routine audit, a **Pesticide Advisor (Grassland)** must furnish, within 30 days, proof to the IASIS CPE Committee of having

satisfactorily met the required number of CPE credits established by the Committee or of qualifying for a waiver.

- 7.5 The proof required shall be in the form of attendance certificates, diplomas, and proof of course fee payment or class timetables accompanied by an event or course brochure or other documentation acceptable to the Committee.
- 7.6 Except for good cause, *e.g.* serious and protracted illness of the applicant or of a member of the applicant's immediate family, failure to comply with audit requirements shall be grounds for cancellation of CPE credits.
- 7.7 The IASIS CPE Committee from time to time shall carry out audits of events and courses and their providers), that attract CPE credits. All documentation listed as being a requirement for approval of courses run by Providers, along with evaluation forms completed by participants, shall be examined during such audits.

8. IASIS evaluation of CPE requirements

- 8.1 The Board of IASIS shall, from time to time, evaluate and review the CPE system to ensure that all requirements are being met and that the accredited events or courses are of a form, content and impact to contribute to the advancement, extension or enhancement of relevant professional skills or knowledge.

CPE Credit Allocation Table for Pesticide Advisors (Grassland)		
Courses and Events/ Conferences *	Credits	Required / Permitted Credits
<u>All topics relating to IPM and the sustainable use of pesticides as listed in Annexes I and III of the SUD Directive 2009/128/EC.</u> (Non-Commercial presentations) **	5 A credits / 30 minutes	} Minimum of 65 / year
<u>All topics relating to IPM and the sustainable use of pesticides as listed in Annexes I and III of the SUD Directive 2009/128/EC.</u> (Commercial presentations)	3.5 A credits / 30 minutes	
<u>Other agronomy topics, agricultural meetings & courses</u> (includes crop economics, bio- energy crops, novel crops, biotechnology etc.)	3.5 A credits / 30 minutes	
<u>Other relevant meetings & courses not covered in any of above</u> CPE credits allowed on a case by case basis	3.5 A credits / 30 minutes but Max 30 A credits / year	
<u>Machinery shows and demonstrations & other events</u> relevant to the work of a pesticide advisor.	10 B credits / half day	Maximum of 20 / year
<u>Home Study</u> (a) Membership of relevant scientific or professional organizations	2 B credits / organization / year	Maximum of 10 / year
(b) Specific subscription based focused publications relevant to PPPs, IPM <i>etc.</i> .	20 B credits / series	Maximum of 20 / year
(c) In receipt of technical material deemed credit worthy by IASIS for which you are on a registered contact list	2 B credits/ list	Maximum of 10 / year

Minimum Credits Required for PA(G)s = 100 credits with a minimum of 65 A credits / year

* Credits are not granted for discussion periods

** In cases where a relevant course or event is developed by an independent non-commercial expert, and is subsequently delivered by a representative of a commercial organisation, the course or event may nevertheless attract 5 credits / 30 minutes, subject to the course or event content being preserved

Typical examples of topics that attract credits from Annexes I and III

- Selection and use of plant protection measures based upon an IPM and/or ICM approach
- Label Information
- Risk reduction
- Calibration, maintenance and operation of application equipment
- Environmental protection
- Human and animal safety
- Symptoms of Poisoning and First Aid
- Transport
- Storage
- Record Keeping
- Emergency Procedures
- Pesticide Legislation
- Soil nutrition
- Water & Environment
- Biodiversity
- Biologicals
- Biostimulants
- Upland/extensive grassland management
- Intensive grassland management

IASIS CPE Credit Allocation Table for Grassland Advisors who are also Distributors		
Courses*** and Events	Credits*	Required / Permitted Credits
<u>All topics relating to IPM and the sustainable use of pesticides as listed in Annex I and III of the SUD Directive 2009/128/EC</u> (Non-Commercial presentations) **	5A credits / 30 minutes	} Minimum of 65 / year
<u>All topics relating to IPM and the sustainable use of pesticides as listed in Annex I and III of the SUD Directive 2009/128/EC</u> (Commercial presentations)	3.5 A credits / 30 minutes	
<u>Other agronomy topics, general agricultural meetings & courses</u> (includes crop economics, bio-energy crops, novel crops, biotechnology etc.)	3.5 A credits / 30 minutes but Max 30 A credits / annum	
<u>Other relevant meetings & courses in any of the above CPE credits allowed on a case by case basis</u>	3.5 A credits / 30 minutes but Max 30 A credits / annum	
<u>All topics relating to IPM and the sustainable use of pesticides as listed in Annex I & III of the SUD Directive 2009/128/EC</u> <u>relevant to the role and responsibilities of a Pesticide Distributor</u> (Non-Commercial presentations) **	5 C credits / 30 minutes	} Minimum of 15 / annum for PA(G)/PDs
<u>All topics relating to IPM and the sustainable use of pesticides as listed in Annex I & III of the SUD Directive 2009/128/EC</u> <u>relevant to the role and responsibilities of a Pesticide Distributor</u> (Commercial presentations)	3.5 C credits / 30 minutes	
<u>Machinery shows, demonstrations & other events</u> relevant to the work of a pesticide advisor.	10 B credits / half day	Maximum of 20 / year
<u>Home Study</u> (a) Membership of relevant scientific or professional organizations	2 B credits / organization / annum	Maximum of 10 / year
(b) Specific subscription based focused publications relevant to PPPs, IPM <i>etc.</i>	20B credits / series	Maximum of 20 / year
(c) In receipt of technical material deemed credit worthy by IASIS for which you are on a registered contact list	2 B credits / list / annum	Maximum of 10 / year
Minimum Credits Required for PA(G)s that are also PDs = 100 credits with a minimum of 65 A credits / annum <u>and</u> a minimum of 15 C credits / annum		

* Credits are not granted for discussion periods

** In cases where a relevant course or event is developed by an independent non-commercial expert, and is subsequently delivered by a representative of a commercial organisation, the course or event may nevertheless attract 5 credits / 30 minutes, subject to the course or event content being preserved

*** Including Online Courses

Typical examples of topics that attract credits from Annexes I and III

- **Selection and use of plant protection measures based upon an IPM and/or ICM approach**
- Label Information
- Risk reduction
- Calibration, maintenance and operation of application equipment
- Environmental protection
- Human and animal safety
- Symptoms of Poisoning and First Aid
- Transport
- Storage
- Record Keeping
- Emergency Procedures
- Pesticide Legislation
- Soil nutrition
- Water & Environment
- Biodiversity
- Biologicals
- Bio-stimulants
- **Upland/extensive grassland management**
- **Intensive grassland management**

NOTE

- **Those underlined and in bold are specific to PA(G)s only**
- **All other topics are relevant to either PA(G)s or joint PA(G)/PDs**