

RISK ADVISORY NOTICE 06: EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES (SUSTAINABLE USE OF PESTICIDES) REGULATIONS

Introduction

As you may be aware, the European Communities (Sustainable Use of Pesticides) Regulations came into effect in 2012. Under these Regulations, from the 26th of November 2015, only registered professional users can apply pesticides (herbicides, fungicides, insecticides, seed dressings, certain rodenticides etc.) which are supplied for professional use. It is therefore important that your Delegated State Authority (DSA)¹ ensures that any individual who is deemed a professional user is trained and registered with the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM).

What is the purpose of the Regulations?

The Regulations were introduced to reduce the risks and impacts of pesticide use on human health and the environment.

How will the Regulations affect my DSA?

DSAs have to:

- identify all persons who use pesticides in the course of their professional duties;
- ensure that they receive the necessary training and register with the DAFM;
- retain records and implement an 'Integrated Pest Management' (IPM) system.

Which staff within your DSA will the Regulations affect?

The Regulations will affect any person who applies professional products, regardless of the quantity of product used or the method of application employed e.g. Caretakers, Maintenance Staff, Farmers, Landscapers etc.

How do you become a trained professional user?

In order to become a trained professional user, personnel must undergo training in pesticide application. The following is a list of qualifications which are recognised by the DAFM as being appropriate training for the purposes of registration:

- FETAC 5N0731 – Handheld Sprayer or City & Guilds PA1 + PA6 – Handheld Sprayer.

- FETAC 5N1797 – Boom Sprayer or City & Guilds PA1 + PA2a – Boom Sprayer.

Please see the DAFM website for a list of pesticide application training providers.

How much does the training cost?

As the training providers are independent, commercial companies, each has its own pricing structure. However, the average cost is expected to be in the region of €250 - €300.

How does a professional user register with the DAFM?

Once the training is completed, the professional user must register with the DAFM and can do so by clicking on the link below:

<https://publicapps.agriculture.gov.ie/suds/welcome.jsp>

Are there any other implications of the Regulations?

Yes, the Regulations require professional users to implement an 'Integrated Pest Management' (IPM) system which sets out types of pesticides that can be used, requirements for the inspection of pesticide equipment and records that must be kept. Professional users will be provided with guidance on implementing an IPM system as part of the pesticide application training.

Where can I get further guidance on the Regulations?

The DAFM have a designated "Pesticide Registration and Control Division (PRCD)" which is responsible for the control of Pesticides in Ireland. Further guidance is available on their website;

<http://www.pcs.agriculture.gov.ie/sud/>

The PRCD can be contacted at the details below if further information is required.

Phone: 01 6157570

Email: pcs@agriculture.gov.ie

1 - Delegated State Authority (DSA) - refer to all bodies delegated to the SCA it includes: State authorities, State agencies, healthcare enterprises, C&C schools and prisons.

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