

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 applies/sprays professional use products, regardless of quantity or method of application, including operators, technicians, employees or self-employed people both in the farming and other sectors.

From the 26th November 2015, 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/sudreg/).

Note: You may be asked for proof of qualification at registration but you will be required to produce proof of appropriate training in the event of an inspection by DAFM at any stage in the future.

How do you become a trained Professional User?

People who have completed any of the following courses (or equivalent);

- FETAC 5N0731 – Hand Held Pesticide Application
- FETAC 5N1797 – Boom Sprayer Pesticide Application
- City & Guilds PA1 – Safe Use of Pesticides + PA2a – Boom Sprayer

- City & Guilds PA1 – Safe Use of Pesticides + PA6 – Hand Held Applicator
- Lantra Awards - Level 2 Award in the Safe Use of Pesticides with Level 2 Award in the Safe Application of Pesticides using Hand Held Equipment.
- Lantra Awards - Level 2 Award in the Safe Use of Pesticides with Level 2 Award in the Safe Application of Pesticides using Vehicle mounted Boom sprayer equipment.
- Registered Pesticide Advisor (PA)
- Teagasc Pesticide Application module as included in 1-year cert or 2-year diploma courses
- Teagasc Pesticide Application module – standalone course

will meet the requirements for professional user training and will be deemed to be appropriately trained.

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.

Can an individual who is not registered as a professional user use any pesticides?

Products approved for amateur use can be purchased and used without restriction by anybody, and without the need for any training or DAFM registration.

How do I know if a product is for professional use or amateur use?

Restrictions as to the category of user of a pesticide can generally be found on the product label but the status of all products is available in the product details which are available on PCS website at (<http://www.pcs.agriculture.gov.ie/pest.asp?searchType=prod>)

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. New equipment shall be inspected at least once within a period of five years after purchase. *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 (<http://www.pcs.agriculture.gov.ie/sud/equipmentinspectors/>).

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 due course. 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