

How the Sustainable Use (Pesticides) Directive will impact on the Retailer

Background

The SUD – Sustainable Use Directive – is a European Directive (Directive 2009/128/EC) that seeks to establish a framework to achieve a sustainable use of Pesticides by reducing the risks and impacts of pesticide use on human health and the environment. It introduces new requirements surrounding the advice on sale, storage, supply and use of Plant Protection Products (PPPs).

Professional Use or Amateur Use Products

PPPs are categorized as either **Professional Use** or **non-Professional/ Amateur Use products**.

Professional use products are products that **may only be applied by Professional Users (PUs)** who **must be registered with the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) from 26th November 2015**.

Non-Professional/Amateur use products are products that may be **used in a home garden situation by any person**. There are **no restrictions on the use of such products** and there is **no requirement for such users to be trained or registered with DAFM**.

Labels generally indicate whether a product is for Professional use or non-Professional/Amateur but the status of all registered products can be checked at

<http://www.pcs.agriculture.gov.ie/pest.asp?searchType=prod>

The impacts of the implementation of the SUD on the wholesale and retail trade in PPPs can be divided into four key areas, namely, **Training & Registration, Storage & Display, Advice and Record keeping** requirements.

Training & Registration

From **26th November 2015**, a registered distributor must be available at all times at the point of sale to ensure that adequate information is provided to customers as regards pesticide use and health and environmental risk and safety.

In order to register as a Pesticide Distributor (PD), you must first be appropriately trained. To be eligible **to register as a PD (Professional Use Products)**, you must first successfully complete the FETAC Level 5 Handling and Distribution of Pesticides (Code 5N2466) or equivalent. A list of training providers for the Pesticide Handling and Distribution course is available at <http://www.pcs.agriculture.gov.ie/sud/pesticidedistributors/training/> You can then apply to register as a Pesticide Distributor online at <http://www.pcs.agriculture.gov.ie/sud/pesticidedistributors/> To maintain registration, trained distributors (Professional Use Products) will be required to maintain Continuous Professional Education (CPE) www.iasis.ie

In order to be eligible **to register as a Pesticide Distributor (Amateur/Home garden products ONLY)**, you must first successfully complete the online course for Pesticide Distributors of non-professional/amateur products. This course is being facilitated by IASIS and can be accessed at www.iasis.ie You can then apply to register as a Pesticide Distributor online at <http://www.pcs.agriculture.gov.ie/sud/pesticidedistributors/>

N.B. Completion of the non-Professional/Amateur distribution course does not allow a Pesticide Distributor to distribute professional use pesticide products.

Storage and Display

Wholesale and retail premises involved in the storage and distribution of PPPs must comply with specific requirements depending on the category of PPP being handled.

N.B. All premises storing or distributing PPPs must register with the DAFM before the 26th November 2015.

The application form for the registration of a pesticide distribution premises is available at <http://www.pcs.agriculture.gov.ie/sud/pesticidedistributors/distributionstoresandsalesdisplayareas/>

From this date, only a registered premises can be used for storage of pesticides for the purposes of sale or supply and the premises must comply with a standard determined by the DAFM. Minimum storage standards have been established and details of these are also available at the above link on the DAFM website. In registering, the owner of the premises commits to ensuring that the store will comply with these standards.

Distribution stores will be inspected on an on-going basis by officers of the DAFM. If the store is found not to comply with the required standard, the necessary remedial actions will be identified in

a compliance notice. These must be undertaken within a specified time limit. If the necessary remedial actions are not undertaken, the premises will not be included or may be removed from the register and cannot be used as a pesticide store until it has been re-inspected and found to be in compliance with the required standard.

A maximum of 500 litres professional use plant protection products may be stored in a retail/display area. Volumes of PPPs in excess of this amount must be stored in a specially constructed pesticide store that fulfils the requirements for the design and construction of pesticide stores. The requirements for retail/display areas and for pesticide stores can be found at <http://www.pcs.agriculture.gov.ie/sud/pesticidedistributors/distributionstoresandsalesdisplayareas/> It should also be noted that **any PPPs classified as very toxic or toxic may not be stored in an area to which the public has access** i.e. retail area. A list of such products is available at <http://www.pcs.agriculture.gov.ie/products/>

Advice

Advice given by a Pesticide Distributor is limited to general information regarding the risks posed by pesticides to human health and the environment, on storage requirements and on handling and safe disposal.

N.B. Since 26th November 2013, advice or recommendations in relation to product selection or the use of a PPP for any purpose may only be given by a registered Pesticide Advisor.

Record keeping

Details of record keeping requirements for retailers of professional use plant protection products can be accessed at <http://www.pcs.agriculture.gov.ie/sud/pesticidedistributors/>

N.B. Since 1st January 2014, records must be maintained of all sales of professional use PPPs made at retail level. These records must include a herd number or professional user number, where appropriate, and must be **maintained for a period of 5 years** from date of sale.

Record keeping requirements for retailers of amateur use PPPs is limited to details of records of purchases, i.e. goods in documentation.