

Christmas Tree Growers

Guidance to achieve compliance under the Sustainable Use (Pesticides) Directive



Achieve compliance as a Christmas Tree Grower in 4 simple steps;

1. Professional user (PU) training and registration
2. Sprayer certification/testing and calibration
3. Maintenance of records;
 - Usage, IPM, Risk Assessment, Purchases and Disposal
4. Adhere to storage requirements

Further information:

pesticideregisters@agriculture.gov.ie



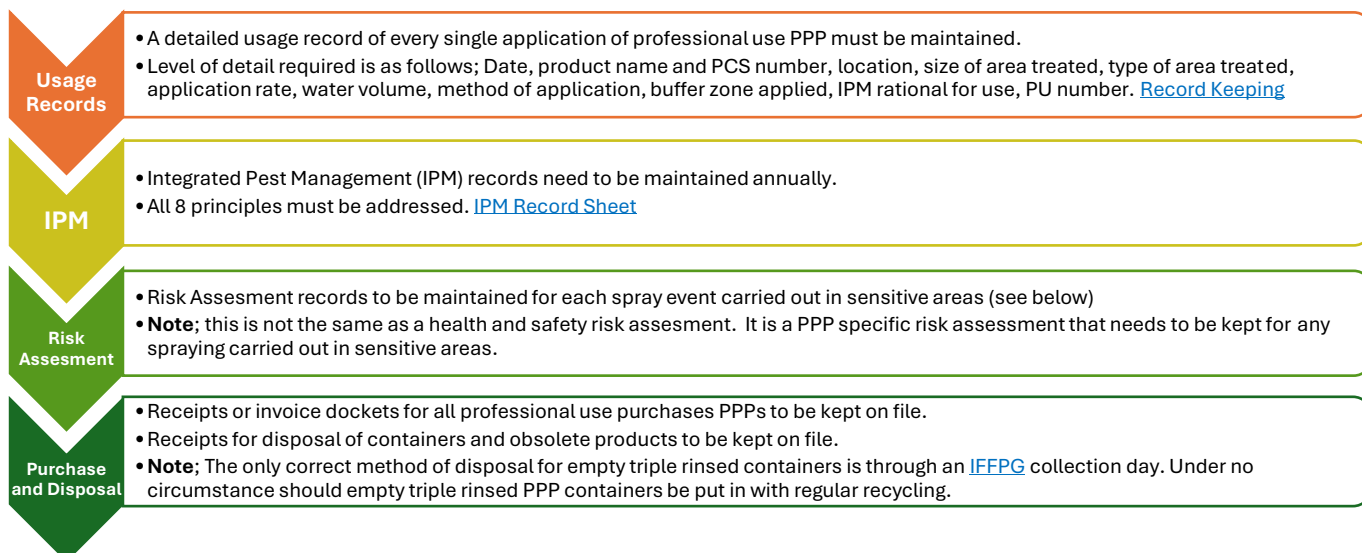
1. Professional User (PU) training and registration

- Any person who applies Plant Protection Products (PPPs) designated as 'Professional Use' on the label, irrespective of method of application or quantity applied, must be registered as a Professional User (PU) with the DAFM.
- To register as a PU you must have completed an approved pesticide application course using: [Training Course Providers](#).
- Register separately with DAFM to receive a unique Professional User (PU) number through: [PU Registration Link](#). To purchase PPPs, a PU number must be produced. **Do not** purchase or use a PPP unless it is listed on the national register of authorised products [here](#) with a valid PCS number.
- Only use the product as directed on the product label, be aware of closed spray dates where product use is not permitted.
- Training certificates and PU numbers must be made available to DAFM inspecting officers if requested.

2. Sprayer Testing and Calibration

- Sprayer testing and calibration are not the same.
- All sprayers (except knapsack/handheld sprayers) must be tested by a DAFM-registered Equipment Inspector (EI) at three-year intervals from the: [Registered EI List](#).
- Sprayers must be calibrated regularly by a PU – at least once per year. A record of the date of sprayer calibration should be noted in your records.

3. Record Keeping



4. Storage, handling, and disposal of remnants

- PPPs must only be stored in a bunded, ventilated, well lit, locked and clearly signed chemical store.
- Operators must ensure they always wear appropriate PPE for the job.
- Care must be taken when filling/washing/etc the sprayer to avoid contamination of nearby waterways. More details at: [Safeguard zones](#)
- Determine the correct amount of spray solution required for the target area to avoid tank remnants. Where remnants occur spray out on a suitable area ensuring that the maximum allowed dose for that area is not exceeded.
- Triple rinse empty containers into the sprayer. Never use an empty pesticide container for another use.

Restrictions on use in sensitive areas and Risk Assessments

The SUD provides for restricted use of PPPs in certain areas:

- a) Areas used by the general public or vulnerable groups (public parks, hospitals, public schools, public playgrounds etc.),
- b) Areas designated as “Special Protection Areas” under the Birds Directive, and
- c) Areas designated as “Special Areas of Conservation” under the Habitats Directive.

Pesticides should not be used in these areas, unless

- (i) a risk assessment has clearly shown that their use is necessary, and
- (ii) appropriate risk management measures have been put in place.

Alternative methods such as cultural control measures should always be considered in the first place. In cases where a risk assessment has shown that PPP use is necessary, low-risk or biological PPPs should be used where possible. If there are no suitable low-risk or biological PPPs, other PPPs may be used but the use of PPPs classified as an acute hazard to the aquatic environment (Hazard class: Aquatic Acute, Category 1) should be avoided where possible.

In all cases involving the use of PPPs in sensitive areas, the onus of proof will be on the user to show, in a documented [risk assessment](#) that there were no viable alternatives and that appropriate risk management measures were put in place. Risk assessment records can be requested during DAFM inspections.

Guidance on best practice measures and responsible pesticide use in public areas is available on our website here under IPM: [Responsible Pesticide Use in Public, Amenity and Garden Areas](#)

Using a Contractor

The use of contractors to conduct the application of PPPs does not waive the Christmas Tree Growers’ (CTG’s) responsibility in terms of compliance with the SUD. If the CTG employs a contractor, the CTG must only use trained and registered PUs. In addition, pesticide application, IPM and risk assessment records should be available for inspection. The contact details of the contractor must also be provided.

The Legal Bit

Directive 2009/128/EC¹ establishes a framework to achieve the sustainable use of pesticides (“the SUD”) by reducing the risks and impacts of pesticide use on human health and the environment. Statutory Instrument (S.I.) 155 of 2012² gives effect to Directive 2009/128/EC by way of regulating the training and registration requirements for advisors, distributors, equipment inspectors and users of Plant Protection Products (PPPs) in Ireland. Since the 26th November 2015, only a DAFM-registered professional user (PU) can apply PPPs that are authorised for professional use regardless of the quantity or the method of application. PPPs are registered in Ireland in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009.

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