

Pesticides

Code of practice for using plant protection products

This code of practice has been prepared jointly by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), the Health and Safety Commission (HSC) and the National Assembly for Wales Environment, Planning and Countryside Department.



Agriculture



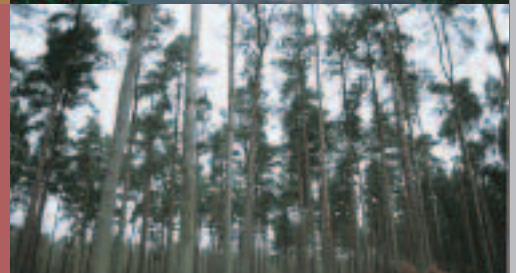
Amenity



Horticulture



Forestry



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government



This code is also available on the PSD website
(www.pesticides.gov.uk/farmers_growers_home.asp#Codes_of_Practice)
and on the Defra website (www.defra.gov.uk/)

A Welsh language version of this code is available on the NAW website ([//www.wales.gov.uk/](http://www.wales.gov.uk/)).
Printed copies of the Welsh language version are available from:

Plant Health and Biotechnology Branch
Animal and Plant Health Division
Welsh Assembly Government
Department for Environment, Planning and
Countryside
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Biotechnoleg a Iechyd Phlanhigion
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As a Scottish version of this code (approved by the Scottish Parliament) is being produced, this code is for
England and Wales only. The Scottish version of the code will be available on the Scottish Executive website.
Printed copies of the Scottish version will be available from:

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Northern Ireland will produce their own updated version of this code in due course.

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Code of practice for using plant
protection products

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Emergency procedures

A1 Action plans

Anyone who uses pesticides professionally (that is, as part of their job) must be trained in emergency procedures and must have, and understand, their own action plans. These emergency action plans should be kept up to date to cover new equipment or new ways of working. Many product labels will have specific advice on what to do if you are contaminated or there is a spillage or fire. This information is always on the manufacturer's material safety data sheet (MSDS), which you can get when you buy the product.

A2 Personal contamination

You can be exposed to pesticides through your skin (usually the main route of exposure) and eyes, by breathing them in or by swallowing them. Your emergency action plan should consider how to protect the environment when you are dealing with any exposure or spillage.

If you, or people you are working with or nearby, feel unwell when you are using pesticides, or after you have used them, you should do the following:

- Stop work and, if necessary, call for medical help immediately.
- Prevent further exposure. Use appropriate personal protective equipment when helping a contaminated person or handling contaminated surfaces.
- Move the casualty away from the source of contamination and remove all their contaminated clothing.
- Wash contaminated skin or hair thoroughly with plenty of clean water.
- If eyes are contaminated, immediately flush them with plenty of clean running water. Then cover the eye with a sterile eye pad or similar lint-free dressing.
- If someone has swallowed a pesticide, do not try to make them vomit (be sick) unless the product label recommends this.
- Make the casualty rest and keep them warm.
- If the casualty is unconscious, check their breathing and pulse and put them in the recovery position. If there are no signs of breathing or a pulse, begin CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation), if necessary, using a method of artificial respiration which will avoid the risk of you swallowing or breathing in the pesticide.
- Give the doctor or hospital a copy of the product labels and material safety data sheets. If this is not possible, give them details of the active ingredients and the product names.
- Make sure you or someone else reports the incident to your nearest Health and Safety Executive (HSE) office. The address and phone number will be in The Phone Book or you can phone the HSE 'Info line' on 08701 545500. For out-of-hours emergencies, phone the HSE on 0151 9229235.

A3 Dealing with spillage

You can keep the negative effect a pesticide spillage has on the environment as low as possible by carrying an appropriate 'spill kit' and knowing how to use it. You must never hose down spilt pesticide or allow it to enter surface water, ditches, drains or soakaways. It is good practice to have a diagram of your drainage systems available for emergencies.

If you spill any pesticide as a concentrate, ready-to-use product or spray solution, no matter how small the spill is, you should do the following:

- Keep people and animals away from the affected area until the situation has been dealt with.
- Avoid becoming contaminated yourself. Wear appropriate personal protective equipment.
- Immediately prevent further spillage using, for example, an emergency folding pool.
- Contain the spilt material. As a priority, keep the contamination away from surface water, ditches and drains.
- Tell the Environment Agency (phone 0800 807060) and warn others at risk if the spill:
 - contaminates any water;
 - could contaminate water later, either directly or through a drainage system; or
 - contaminates a large amount of soil.
- You may need to tell neighbours or people using the water downstream of the spill.
- Tell the local water company if the spill enters a sewage system.
- For spilt liquids, put absorbent material, such as cat litter or dry sand, around the spill and use the same material to soak up the spillage. The material you use must be 'inert'. This means it must not cause any chemical reaction.
- Sweep up any solids and material used to contain liquid spills. Sweep up as gently as possible without raising dust. Then sprinkle the area with inert absorbent material and sweep gently again.
- For leaking containers, do one of the following:
 - Use the contents immediately.
 - Pour the contents of the damaged container into an empty container that originally held the same product. The container should be in good condition and with an undamaged label.
 - Put the leaking container into a suitable larger container clearly labelled with the product name and the hazard classification and risk and safety phrases shown on the product label.
- Never put any pesticides into an empty food or drink container.
- Dispose of all contaminated material safely and legally (for example, through a licensed waste-disposal contractor). This includes getting rid of any equipment which you used to clean up the spillage and which cannot be decontaminated safely.

A4 Suspected animal poisoning

If you find a creature or animal which you suspect has been affected by being exposed to pesticides, or if you find spilt pesticide or unprotected baits, you should do the following (as appropriate):

- Get the animal away from the source of contamination, taking care not to be contaminated yourself. If necessary, wear appropriate personal protective equipment.
- Take the animal to a vet or contact a vet immediately, keeping the animal sheltered and resting.
- If possible, give the vet the product labels. Otherwise, give the name of the products and their active ingredients.
- Phone the Wildlife Incident Investigation Scheme (WIIS) on 0800 321 600 for an incident involving any creature (except fish). This means not only wild mammals, birds and pets but also bees or other insects, worms and other creatures.
- For incidents involving fish, phone the Environment Agency on 0800 807060.
- Do not touch any dead animals, unprotected baits, pesticides or containers, and never try to unblock a badger sett or fox earth which may have been gassed.
- If it is safe to do so, cover any dead animals or pesticides until they can be disposed of or safely removed to be analysed.

A5 Fire

If you discover a fire that involves pesticides, you should do the following:

- **For small fires** which you can deal with quickly, safely and without causing a significant risk of exposure to fumes or other material produced by burning pesticides, use appropriate firefighting equipment.
- **In all other circumstances**, call the fire brigade and the police, and follow your evacuation procedures. Warn other people who may be at risk (for example, if fumes are blowing in their direction).
- Give the fire brigade a complete and accurate list of the products involved and their active ingredients.
- Deal with any spilt pesticides resulting from the fire or firefighting activities as described above.

Foreword

A message from Lord Bach, Minister for Sustainable Farming and Food, and Carwyn Jones AM, National Assembly for Wales Minister for Environment, Planning and Countryside

'We are happy to give our full support to the new Code of Practice for the Safe Use of Plant Protection Products for England and Wales. The 'Green Code' (Code of Practice for the Safe Use of Pesticides on Farms and Holdings) has been an important source of practical advice for farmers and growers on how to use pesticides safely and, by doing so, to meet the legal obligations which cover the use of pesticides. However, a revision has been needed for some time.

The new Code reflects Government policy to reduce to the lowest possible level the effect of pesticide use on people, wildlife, plants and the environment while making sure that pests, diseases and weeds are effectively controlled. Many of the environmental protection schemes launched under the Voluntary Initiative represent current best practice and the benefits of these and other measures are explained in the Code.

As well as bringing the advice in the 'Green Code' up to date, we have taken this opportunity to widen the scope of the Code to cover all plant protection uses of pesticides. By doing this, we have aimed to produce a single publication which will be relevant and of practical value to all professional users of pesticides in agriculture, horticulture, amenity situations and forestry.

We would like to thank everyone who has contributed ideas and comments both before and during the public consultation period. Together, we believe, we have produced an up to date and readable document which will encourage best practice whenever plant protection products are used.'

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Notices

C1 General notice under Food and Environment Protection Act 1985 and the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974

This code comes into effect on 15 December 2005. On that date it will replace all previous editions of the Code of Practice for the Safe Use of Pesticides on Farms and Holdings.

It will also replace:

- parts of the approved code of practice for the safe use of pesticides for non-agricultural purposes that relate to using pesticides in amenity and forestry situations; and
- the voluntary code of practice for the use of pesticides in amenity and industrial areas



C2 Notice of issuing this code under section 17 of the Food and Environment Protection Act 1985

This code of practice has been prepared for professionals who use plant protection products. It gives practical guidance on part III of the Food and Environment Protection Act 1985 (FEPA) and, in particular, the regulations under that part of the act controlling how plant protection products are used in England and Wales.

As required by Section 17 of FEPA, Ministers have consulted organisations which represent the interests of everyone concerned.

C3 Notice of this code being approved by the Health and Safety Commission under section 16 of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974

Under Section 16(1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 (HSWA), and with the Parliamentary Secretary (Lords) permission, the Health and Safety Commission has approved the paragraphs of this code as listed below which relate to the health and safety of people at work, or people who may be affected by the activities of people at work.

The following paragraphs of this code are approved to provide practical guidance on controlling exposure to pesticides at work under the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002 (COSHH) (SI 2002 Number 2677).

Annex C, glossary 1	the meaning of 'approval', 'consent' and 'user'
Paragraph 1.4	The official status of the code
Paragraphs 3.4.1, 3.4.2, 3.4.3 (except 3rd clause and its bullet points), 3.4.4, 3.4.5, 3.4.6 and 3.4.7	Regulation 6: assessment
Paragraphs 3.5.1, 3.5.2 (except 3rd clause), 3.5.5 (except from 5th clause onwards end), 3.5.6 (1st clause) 3.5.6 (3rd clause onwards), 3.5.8 and 3.7.4	Regulation 7: controlling exposure
Paragraphs 3.5.6 (last clause) and 3.5.7 (1st clause)	Regulation 8: using control measures
Paragraphs 3.5.7 (2nd clause to 5th clause)	Regulation 9: maintenance responsibilities
Paragraphs 3.6.1 and 6.6	Regulation 10: monitoring exposure
Paragraphs 3.6.2 (except 2nd clause and its bullet points), 3.6.3 (except last clause), 3.6.4, 3.6.5 (except last clause) and 6.8 (1st clause and its bullet points)	Regulation 11: health surveillance
Paragraphs 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3	Regulation 12: information, instructions and training

The definitions in this code are also approved where they are defining words or phrases used in the paragraphs above. This code takes effect on 15 December 2005.

Signed:



Secretary to the Health and Safety Commission

22 December 2005.

C4 Notice of this code being approved under regulation 21 of the Groundwater Regulations 1998

On 19 July 2005, Defra's Secretary of State approved the paragraphs of this code listed below, under regulation 21 of the Groundwater Regulations 1998. The following paragraphs have been approved to give professionals who use pesticides (except disposing of them) practical guidance on how to prevent substances in list I of the regulations from entering 'groundwater', and prevent substances in list II of the regulations from polluting groundwater.

Annex C, glossary 1	The meaning of 'groundwater'
Paragraph 1.4	The official status of the code
Paragraphs 2.2, 2.3 and 2.4 (except last clause)	Training
Paragraph 3.1.1 (1st and 2nd clauses)	Considering the need to use pesticides
Paragraph 3.1.2 (except last clause)	Considering how to keep the negative effect of using pesticides as low as possible
Paragraph 3.1.3	Choice of pesticide
Paragraphs 3.2.1, 3.2.3, 3.2.4 and 3.2.5	Understanding and following the product label
Paragraphs 3.3.2 (1st and 3rd clauses), 3.3.3 (6th clause) and 3.3.4	Storage
Paragraph 3.8.10 (except 3rd, 12th, 15th, 16th, 17th and 19th clauses)	Preventing contamination of surface water and groundwater
Paragraph 4.2.1	Procedures before applying pesticides
Paragraph 4.3 (4th and 5th clauses and warning box)	Handling damaged containers
Paragraphs 4.4.2 (2nd, 3rd, 4th, 7th and 8th clauses)	Transporting pesticides
Paragraphs 4.5.1 and 4.5.2 (last clause)	Filling equipment used to apply pesticides
Paragraphs 4.6.1 (1st clause), 4.6.7 (1st and 6th clauses), 4.6.9 (1st clause), 4.6.11 (3rd clause), 4.6.13, and 4.7.3 (1st clause)	Procedures while applying pesticides
Paragraph 4.8	Procedures after applying pesticides
Paragraphs 6.3 (1st, 2nd and 8th clauses) and 6.5	Keeping records