



Best Practice Guidance Note: Handling & Storage of Pesticides.

1. Storage:

Regulations stipulate that anyone storing more than 200 litres/kilograms of pesticides, for sale or supply, should hold a BASIS Nominated Storekeeper Certificate – which should be updated every 5 years.

“Best Practice” would be that anyone storing any quantity of professional pesticides for sale, supply or use should hold the Nominated Storekeepers Certificate. Details can be found here: <http://www.basis-reg.co.uk/agriculture/basistraining.aspx>

Pesticide stores should be built/purchased/converted for the relevant quantities to be held and should follow the guidelines set out in:

HSE16 leaflet – Guidance on Storing Pesticides for Farmers and Other Professional Users. Code of Practice for Suppliers of Pesticides for Agriculture, Horticulture and Forestry (The Yellow Code).

Code of Practice for Using Plant Protection Products.

These can all be downloaded from the Amenity Forum website: www.amenityforum.co.uk

2. Handling - Training & Certification:

Anyone handling pesticides for use should be trained in the safety aspects of such use. Certificates of Competence for use (NPTC PA1, etc) are stipulated for certain users in law, but “Best Practice” dictates that ALL users should be certificated to the relevant NPTC level. Managers/supervisors in charge of certificated users should be trained to a higher level – ideally holding a minimum of the BASIS Foundation Module, or better still, the BASIS POWER Certificate or the BASIS Field Sales & Technical Staff Certificate.

3. Handling – Practicalities:

Of paramount importance, when handling pesticides, is the avoidance of water contamination .

With this in mind, it is very important to think about where pesticides are mixed and the spray tank filled. “Best Practice” is to avoid hard standing areas, particularly concrete yards and similar areas.

Mixing and filling areas should ideally be bunded, so that any spillages can be directed into storage tanks and then disposed of safely. Bunds can be either temporary or permanent. Construction of these areas needs to be well planned, to avoid too much rain water entering the area, with possible inundation of the storage facilities.

4. Other points:

- Avoid transportation of mixed pesticides in spray tanks, particularly knapsacks and other hand held equipment that are prone to overbalancing.
- Pesticide containers should be stored in a locked and leak-proof transit bin during transportation.
- Pesticides should be transported in a separate compartment in the vehicle – physically separate from the cab or using a sealed bulkhead.
- Carry a suitable spill kit at all times – see the Code of Practice for details.
- Vehicles carrying pesticide products should display an “Instructions in Writing” notice in the cab.

