

What's the next step?

In the first instance you need to contact an NPTC registered Assessment Centre who offers this qualification. To find you nearest Assessment Centre, go to NPTC's website www.nptc.org.uk and follow the link to 'Assessment Centres'.

The Assessment Centre will be able to advise on the training and assessment of the qualification.

We strongly advise that all candidates attend a course of instruction before the assessment to ensure that they are properly equipped with the knowledge, skills and resources for a successful assessment. Training can be provided through independent training providers/instructors, local training groups or colleges.

Candidates will be assessed 'competent' or 'not yet competent'.

When all of your assessments have been completed your local assessment centre will forward the results to NPTC so that the certificate and ID cards can be issued, a process which normally takes about four weeks.

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January 2007.

Safe Use of Pesticides



About the Qualification

This is a legally required qualification by the control of Pesticide Regulations for anyone applying pesticides on a commercial basis. It is divided into 13 units. Unit PA1 is the foundation unit covering legislation through the approved code of practice. Units PA2- PA13 are specific to type of applicator being used such as knapsack sprayer, boom sprayer, seed treatment etc.

Key Points

It is a legal requirement that any person

- born after 31 December 1964, unless working under the direct and personal supervision of a certificate holder
- wishing to apply pesticides to land or property not owned or occupied by them or their immediate employer
- who is required to supervise a person who does not hold a certificate but is required to use pesticides

Must have a Certificate of Competence

Benefits of the Qualification

- Satisfies the legal requirements of the Control of Pesticides Regulations
- Enables the holder to apply pesticides safely
- Minimises the risk of environmental pollution
- Meets Farm assurance Scheme criteria
- Promotes a professional image
- Contributes CPD points towards NRoSO membership.

Assessment

The assessment is in two parts and candidates must successfully complete the PA1 Foundation module before they can take the second part.

PA1- this module is assessed by computer based multiple choice questions

PA2-13- are specific to the type of applicator being used (i.e. knapsack sprayer, boom sprayer, seed treatment, etc.) The assessment requires a practical demonstration of the candidate's competence for the application module being taken. Underpinning knowledge and understanding will be assessed orally. Candidates need PA1 plus at least one application module to be awarded a certificate of competence.

Candidates may provide his/her own equipment. Any equipment provided by the candidate must comply with legal regulations.

Skills to be assessed

- select and wear correct PPE
- calibrate equipment correctly
- interpret product information
- calculate and mix correct quantity of pesticide
- apply correct amount of pesticide safely
- assess prevailing weather conditions
- undertake operational adjustments as required
- dispose of surplus diluted pesticides correctly and safely
- clean out and store pesticides application equipment correctly and safely
- take action as appropriate to deal with contaminated PPE.

Units

PA1 Foundation Module

PA2 Ground Crop Sprayer- mounted or trailed

PA3 Broadcast or variable geometry boom sprayer- mounted or trailed

PA4 Pesticide granular application- mounted or trailed

PA5 Boated mounted applicators

PA6 Handheld applicator

PA7 Aerial applicator- pilot

PA8 Mixer loader

PA9 Fogging, misting and smokes

PA10 Batch dipping

PA11 Seed treating equipment

PA12 Application of pesticides to material as a continuous process via conveyer, roller tables and other moving equipment

PA13 Sub-surface liquid applicator

Copies of the schedules detailing the assessment criteria for all of the above units can be downloaded from our website at:-

www.nptc.org.uk/assessments-schedules.

