**Information Note**

**Grandfather Rights for Pesticide Users, changes to current legislation**

**Background**

As of 26th November 2015 the legislation regarding Grandfather Rights is changing.

The current legal position is that anyone born on or before 31st December 1964 is permitted to apply pesticides to their own land or land they occupy or land owned by their employer without the need for a certificate of competence, i.e PA1 & PA2, although they should be suitably trained to carry out these tasks. This is known as Grandfather’s Rights. However from 26th November 2015, anyone who applies pesticides and does not hold a certificate of competence will be breaking the law.

The Plant Protection Products (Sustainable Use) Regulations 2012 allows operators eligible under Grandfather Rights to continue using pesticides until 26th November 2015. After this date everyone who uses PPPs for professional use must hold a Certificate of Competence.

It will also be an offence for anyone to purchase any pesticides from this date, if they do not hold the appropriate certification.

The Code of Practice for using Plant Protection Products states, “By law everyone who uses pesticides professionally must have received adequate training in using pesticides safely.”

**Implementation**

There are two options available to operators to become suitably qualified to spray using a boom sprayer. They are either the current route i.e. the PA1 and PA2 and/or PA6 **or** the new Grandfather Rights route. CAFRE will offer assessment and training for both options. The training will be provided free of charge to farmers but there will be a charge for registration and certification with City and Guilds and for the assessment.

Option 1, Current route of PA1 & PA2/PA6

* Undertake an assessment in PA1 which is the Safe use and Handling of Pesticides and then an assessment in PA2 which is for using a Boom Sprayer. There is also an assessment available in PA6 which is for Hand Held Applicators.

Option 2, New Grandfather Rights route

* Only persons born before 31st December 1964 will be allowed to undertake this option, which involves an assessment in Unit 051 (similar content as PA1) and Unit 052 (similar to PA6) and/or Unit 053 (similar to PA2)

The length of time required to deliver the training and carry out the assessment is shown below.

1. Existing Route

Training             Assessment

PA1 (foundation module)             Mandatory 1 day                  1 hour

PA6a (knapsack sprayer)               Optional 1 day                   2 hours

PA2a (Boom sprayer)                      Optional 1 day                   3 hours

You need the PA1 and one of the Optional units to apply pesticides.

1. Grandfather Rights Route
2. **Familiarisation and assessment**

This option will require home study using the workbook and trainees should be encourage to discuss assessment criteria with others who have attained Certificates of Competence in the use of boom sprayers.

Training   Assessment

Unit 051 + 052 (knapsack sprayer)   0 3½ hours

Unit 051 + 053 (boom sprayer)                  0                   4 hours

1. **Training and assessment**

This option will require home study using the workbook.

Training   Assessment

Unit 051 + 052 (knapsack sprayer)   1 day                  2½ hours

Unit 051 + 053 (boom sprayer)                  1 day                  3 hours

1. **Training (1 day+ 1 repeat day) and assessment**

During a trainee’s first day of training they will have the option to withdraw from the assessment and repeat the training without having to reapply and repay the fees. This option will require the trainee to inform the instructor via a written request before leaving the training and a maximum total of two days training is available.

Training   Assessment

Unit 051 + 052 (knapsack sprayer)   2 day                  2½ hours

Unit 051 + 053 (boom sprayer)                  2 day                  3 hours

You will have to have passed Unit 051 and Unit 052 or Unit 053 to apply pesticides to your own land or to land that you occupy.

**Current Course content**

PA1 entails a day of training offered at all three CAFRE campuses which is classroom based theory, followed by a one hour online assessment at a later date.

The content of this course is as follows,

* Legislation
* Interpreting Product Label Information
* Personal Safety and Contamination
* Pesticide and Container Storage
* Disposals
* Record Keeping
* Environmental Factors

On passing the PA1 assessment, trainees can choose either the PA2 or PA6 courses or both, depending on their needs.

* PA2 is the Boom sprayer i.e. Tractor mounted, trailed or self-propelled.
* PA6 is the Handheld Applicator i.e. Knapsack sprayer.

PA2 entails one day’s training at Greenmount Campus followed by an assessment at a later date and involves in depth theory and practical work. The topics covered include:-

* Preparation
* Calibration
* Site work
* Post operational procedures

PA6 also involves one day’s training, available at all three CAFRE campuses. The trainee will be assessed at a later date. The course involves both theory and practical work and the topics covered include:-

* Preparation
* Calibration
* Site work
* Cleaning and Storage

**Grandfather Rights Course Content**

CAFRE will deliver a range of new Grandfather Rights Training and Assessments. These will cover the same breadth of material as covered within the current course structure but not to the same depth. For example, within the current Pa1 and Pa2 assessments the trainee maybe asked to list four factors influencing spray drift, whilst within the Grandfather Rights assessment they may be asked to list two factors.

**Unit 051 (Mandatory)**

The first step in this process is to complete the mandatory Unit 051 which is similar to the PA1. Home study is recommended before undertaking the assessment.

This unit involves 1 hour classroom based training/revision and will briefly cover the following areas;

* Legislative requirements and codes of practice relating to the use of pesticides on own land
* The relevance of pesticide product information
* Human contamination and implement emergency procedures
* The storage and transport of pesticides
* Surplus pesticide and waste materials management and disposal
* Record keeping requirements
* Environmental contamination

**Unit 052 (Optional)**

This unit entails 5 hours training, maybe offered at all three CAFRE Campuses and will be followed on a separate day by an assessment, which will assess both Unit 051 and Unit 052. The assessment involves both theory and practical work using a knapsack sprayer and will cover the following areas;

* Legislative and safety regulations relating to sprayer/applicator use on own land
* Environmental factors relating to mixing and application of pesticides
* Reading and interpreting to product information
* Preparation and calibration of a hand held pedestrian applicator
* Operation of the application equipment to apply pesticides on own land
* Understanding of post-operational procedures

**Unit 053 (Optional)**

This unit also involves 5 hours training, but is only offered at Greenmount Campus. It will be followed by an assessment on a separate day, which will assess both Unit 051 and Unit 053. The assessment involves both theory and practical work using a tractor mounted boom sprayer and will cover the following areas;

* Legislative and safety regulations relating to application equipment on own land
* Environmental factors relating to the mixing and application site
* Reading and interpreting pesticide product information
* Preparation and calibration the applicator
* Operation of the application equipment to apply pesticides on own land
* Understanding post-operational procedures

**Cost**

CAFRE provides training free of charge to farmers and growers. However there is a cost for the assessment and for City and Guilds registration and certification fees.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Course focus | Current Route | | Grandfather Rights Route | |
| Training and assessment | Farmer’s Fee | Training and Assessment | Farmer’s Fee |
| Safe use and handling of pesticides | PA1 | £63 | NA | NA |
| Tractor mounted boom sprayer | PA2 | £174 | NA | NA |
| Knapsack sprayer | PA6 | £130 | NA | NA |
| Safe use and handling pesticides + Tractor mounted boom | PA1 + PA2 | £237 | Units 051 + 053 | £168 |
| Safe use and handling of pesticides + Knapsack sprayer | PA1 + PA6 | £193 | Units 051 + 052 | £146 |
| Safe use and handling pesticides + Tractor mounted boom + Knapsack | PA1 + PA2 + PA6 | £363 | Units 051 + 052 + 053 | £256 |

**Points for consideration**

Having the PA1 & PA2 qualification will enable operators to apply pesticides on their own land and for other farmers.

Having the new Grandfather Rights qualifications will only allow operators to apply pesticides on their own land or land they occupy.

Under the Grandfather Rights route all the training, if requested, will be delivered prior to assessment, allowing for all assessments to be combined and carried out on one day. For example the training associated with Units 051+ 053 will take place over one day, but there will be one combined assessment lasting 3hrs. Compared to the current route this will reduce the number of times farmers have to travel to CAFRE from 4 to 2.