

The Code explains how you can use pesticides safely to meet the legal conditions covering their use. By following the Code you will be doing enough to keep within the law. You may be able to work in a different way from the Code as long as that way is just as safe. If you are prosecuted for not following the Code a court will find you guilty unless you can show that you have obeyed the law in some other way.

Pesticides

Summary of the Code of Practice for Using Plant Protection Products



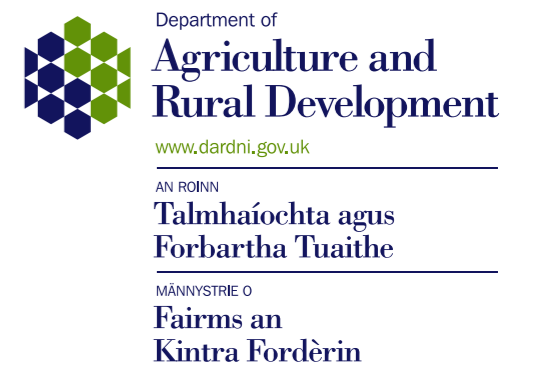
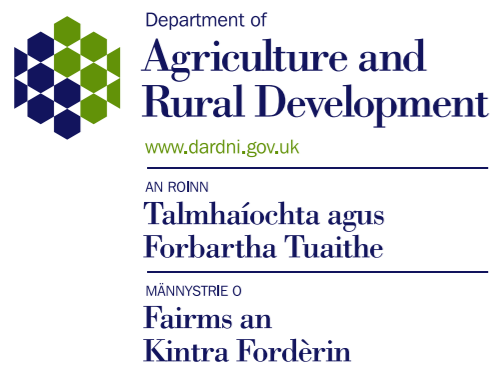
This is a summary of the main areas contained within the Code.

You must refer to the Code for detailed guidance.

You can download the Code at www.dardni.gov.uk/ppp-code



DMS 10.11.135



<p>Emergency Procedures</p> <p>Part A of the Code gives guidance on dealing with emergency situations involving pesticides.</p>	<p>Emergency action plans must be kept up to date and cover:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personal Contamination • Dealing with Spillage • Suspected Animal Poisoning • Fire
<p>Training and Certification</p> <p>Section 2 of the Code provides guidance on training and certification.</p> <p>By law, if you use pesticides as part of your job you must have received adequate training.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In general you will need a Certificate of Competence if you supply, store or use agricultural Plant Protection Products or be supervised by a person who has the Certificate. • You can get a list of local training providers and details of other relevant qualifications from CARFE, BASIS, NPTC and Lantra. Contact information is in Annex D of the Code.
<p>Planning and Preparation</p> <p>Section 3 of the Code provides guidance on what you need to consider before using a pesticide, to ensure that you apply it in a way that is safe and effective and meets the requirements of the relevant laws.</p>	<p>Check whether the product:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • is currently approved for the intended use and situation; • can be safely prepared and applied using the intended equipment; • can be used in line with harvest interval, access or application restrictions shown on the product label; • presents the least risk to the health of people, livestock, the environment (including surface water and groundwater) and other creatures in comparison to other suitable pesticides. <p>The COSHH Assessment</p> <p>Under COSHH regulations before using a pesticide, an employer or self-employed person must carry out a COSHH assessment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For five or more employees you must record the significant findings. • For less than five employees you do not have to record the significant findings but are advised to so as good practice. <p>Protecting the Public</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read the label to find out if there is anyone you need to contact before you can use the pesticide you have chosen. • Although there is no legal obligation to do so, you should consider if you need to inform people living in the vicinity to be sprayed, that you will be applying pesticides in that area. <p>Remember, giving notice to neighbours does not remove the need for you to take measures to control exposure.</p> <p>Protecting Wildlife and the Environment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You should carry out an environmental risk assessment. The information on the product label will provide the basis for this assessment. • You can download environmental information sheets at the Voluntary Initiative website www.voluntaryinitiative.org.uk. • You should contact beekeepers identified in your assessment each year to agree a spray programme before using a pesticide in that immediate area. Details of the locations of beekeepers can be found at www.ubka.org. <p>Water</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only a small number of pesticides are approved for use in or near water and only those products can be used. • For further advice contact your local NIEA office.

<p>Working with Pesticides</p> <p>Section 4 of the Code provides guidance on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • how to handle, transport and prepare pesticides for use; • how to use them safely; and • what action to take after using them. 	<p>Have you:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Had suitable training? • Read and understood the product label? • Put in place measures to control exposure? • Carried out an environmental risk assessment? • Taken account of avoiding contaminating feed stores and areas to which livestock have access? • Met the conditions on the label for keeping people and livestock out of the treated area? • Obtained advice and received permission from the appropriate agencies before using pesticides in areas of special environmental status, in or near water, from aircraft and, where necessary, on public rights of way? • Given notice to neighbours, the public and beekeepers, if necessary? • Checked equipment to ensure it is in good working order? • Put emergency procedures in place? • Ensured the pesticide can be transported safely and legally?
<p>Disposing of Pesticide Waste</p> <p>Section 5 of the Code gives guidance on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • handling; and • disposal of pesticide waste. • Groundwater Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2009. • Landfill Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003. <p>For the most up-to-date information and guidance contact NIEA either at www.ni-environment.gov.uk or by phone on 028 9056 9710.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask your supplier if they will take the pesticides back. If not you can use a waste management company to dispose of the pesticides or you can transfer your own waste to a licensed treatment or disposal site. • In both cases you must ensure the facility receiving the waste is authorised for that type of waste by NIEA. • If the waste is hazardous you or the waste management company must purchase a consignment note from NIEA to accompany the movement of hazardous waste. • For further information on completing the consignment note contact NIEA. If you use a waste management company they will do this for you. • For non hazardous waste you must complete a waste transfer note. • Rinsed pesticide containers are normally deemed as non-hazardous waste and can be disposed of by using a licensed waste-disposal contractor or by taking them to a licensed waste disposal site. <p>Options for Disposal of Dilute Pesticide Waste include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applying the contaminated water to the treated or untreated crop area within the terms of the product approval. • Storing the contaminated water in a suitable container until it is collected by a licensed waste-disposal collector.
<p>Keeping Records</p> <p>Section 6 of the Code covers record keeping requirements.</p> <p>Records, for example under Single Farm Payment and Cross Compliance requirements, can be used to meet these obligations, adding additional information as required.</p>	<p>You will need to keep records on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Storage • Pesticide Treatments • COSHH (See above) • Environmental Risk Assessments • Exposure monitoring • Exposure control measures • Health surveillance (if necessary) • Disposal records • Local Environment Risk Assessments for Pesticides (LERAPs)