MS 3 - Chemical Spraying

To be read in conjunction with Risk Assessment 3 – Chemical Spraying

Potential Hazards



Exposure to chemical
Environmental spills and over application
Transportation of chemical and spraying equipment
Manual handling of equipment
Moving traffic
Difficult terrain

PPE (additions to the below are identified on chemical specific COSHH assessments)



Spray Suit Type 5/6, EN 1149, EN 1073



Spraying Face Shield EN standard 166.



Nitrile gloves (min 0.45mm thick) tested to EN374-3



Wellington Boots EN ISO 20345:2011.S5.SPA.

Preparation



- Chemicals can be hazardous, therefore before use all operators are to be familiar with relevant Product label, Safety Data Sheet and COSHH assessment for products in use.
- Chemicals to be signed out of chemsafe
- All Operators to be familiar with the Use of Herbicides Tool box talk
- All Operators to be aware of any changes in locations where herbicide can and cannot be applied in line with the Local Councillors Approved Locations for use (in the toolbox talk)
- All PPE must be worn before filling up knapsacks
- While transporting chemical and spraying equipment ensure they are secured and that a spillage cannot occur. Chemical containers to be transported in a spill proof container.
- Ensure knapsack and components are in good working order with no blockages, loose parts or leaks before using.
- Ensure spill kits are easily accessible in case of any spills
- Check work site for any site specific hazards present and assess environmental conditions which could impact task such as weather and temperature etc.
- Select nozzle and regulator appropriate to task
- Calibrated sprayer for accurate application
- Fill up knapsack – some water first, then chemical then remaining water as per calibration

- Emergency contacts should be known in case of adverse events such as poison control, medical assistance and environmental agencies (SEPA)



During Operation

- Maintain proper handling and carrying of knapsack sprayer during unloading and operation
- Maintain a consistent spraying pressure and technique for even and efficient coverage, ensuring that overspray and drift are avoided
- Spray as close as possible to target species to reduce spray drift and ensure there is no excessive drip from target vegetation once sprayed
- Ensure knapsack is sitting comfortably on back, using the straps and buckles as intended. Take regular breaks to reduce excessive strain and prevention of injury. Full knapsack sprayers can weigh over 15kg, be aware of possible strain to back and shoulders. Fill knapsacks suitable to the task.
- Fuelling station should be situated in a suitable location – that is doesn't produce a trip hazard, is left out in the open to the public and is close enough to water for filling up containers (not knapsacks directly).
- Avoided spraying into sensitive areas such as water courses, gardens and non-target vegetation.
- Take care when spraying near moving traffic, ensure operators are easily seen with high vis if necessary
- Use of signs to warn others that pesticides are being applied.

After Operation



- All equipment and PPE should be washed thoroughly, using the procedure of triple rinsing and stored or disposed of suitably. Some of this waste may need to be dealt with as 'hazardous waste'. You should dispose of used vertebrate control agents, other pesticide baits and dead bodies in line with the guidance on the product label. If no advice is given on the label, arrange to dispose of this waste through a licensed waste-disposal contractor, making sure that you follow the correct procedure. Consult your Team Leader where needed.
  You should dispose of used compost, soil and so on which have been treated with pesticides in line with the guidance on the product label. If no advice is given on the label, get guidance from your local Environment Agency office. You can also get information on the PSD website www.pesticides.gov.uk.
- You should arrange to dispose of other materials (such as treated seed, other treated plant material and used crop covers which are contaminated with pesticides) through a licensed waste disposal contractor.
- Any surplus chemical mixtures should be disposed of in accordance with current Code of Practice for using Plant Protection Products in Scotland
- Personal cleaning facilities should be carried in all vehicles and used before eating, drinking, smoking etc.
- Operatives to fully fill in spraying record books for task and location. Books to be retained by Operators.
- Chemicals to be stored in locked authorised chemical safes, stock records to be filled in

- Any incidents or spillages should be recorded after it has been suitably cleaned up and disposed off

Competence



- All operations should have spraying tickets PA1 and PA6, PA6 INJ-AW
- Spraying signs or notices should be available and on display in sensitive situation or areas where there is a lot of public presence to advise others that pesticides are being applied
- Operators should be competent in the correct use and application of spill kits
- Records should be kept in the form of spraying books which should be available and fully filled in for each area and use/task
- Operators should understand the potential impacts of Chemical in use on the environment
- Chemicals will be kept in an authorised chemical safe during transportation in a vehicle or trailer

New Operators – Will be closely supervised and work with experienced operators to support them.