

GOOD PRACTICE GUIDE SERIES

K I M O



**Local Authorities International
Environmental Organisation**



**GOOD PRACTICE GUIDE
ON THE USE OF
PESTICIDES IN AMENITY
AREAS**

CHECKLIST



A Manual has been produced to accompany this Checklist and is available from KIMO upon request

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Background

Synthetic chemical pesticides have been used for nearly half a century in the control of agricultural, public health, amenity and industrial areas. Pesticides are the only group of chemicals that are designed to be toxic to living organisms and are intentionally dispersed in the environment. As a result of their extensive use over time pesticides have become one of the main sources of hazardous substances in the marine environment. This is a result of inputs from diffuse sources, in particular run off from agricultural land and built up areas. In the marine environment these chemicals can have adverse effects on marine life and can affect the food chain resulting in potential hazards to public health.

Definition

A pesticide is any substance, preparation or organism prepared or used for destroying any pest i.e. weeds, insects, diseases, rodents, moss and algae.

The purpose of this Guide

This guide has been specifically produced to explain the issues surrounding pesticide use in amenity areas. Although there is legislation governing the use of pesticides in agriculture there are few guidelines regarding the use of pesticides by local authorities or other amenity users. The guide also covers alternatives to using pesticides where possible and shows local authorities the best possible methods of reducing pesticide usage whilst maintaining a reasonable level of weed control.

The application of the Checklist and Manual

This Checklist is intended to give guidance in the use of pesticides by local authorities and should be used in conjunction the Manual. However since many different countries have different policies, procedures and areas maintained, all sections of this Checklist and Manual may not always be indicative to all local authority circumstances.

The information contained in this document was, to the best of our knowledge, correct at the time of publication. This Guide is meant only as an "aide memoir" and KIMO assumes no responsibility for any omission or for any actions that might arise as a result of using this Guide.

What are the aims of the good practice guide?

- To provide guidance to local authorities for alternatives to the use of chemicals for weed control in amenity areas
- To identify the most appropriate and successful method of application if non chemical method is unsuitable
- To provide guidance to those developing environmental policy for local authorities
- Enable authorities to phase out pesticide use altogether

What are the objectives of the good practice guide?

- To identify the need to reduce pesticide use in amenity areas
- To provide a framework which local authorities can use to reduce their overall environmental impact
- To define roles and responsibilities within authorities
- To identify the legal responsibilities in the use and disposal of pesticides
- To define training requirements by law
- To establish mobilisation procedures for best practice
- To address the main health and safety aspects
- To be an accessible work of reference to this complicated subject

- To identify the areas which require treatment
- To identify notification procedures
- To interact successfully with other relevant plans
- To show how monitoring systems can be developed and implemented
- To identify procurement procedures

Has the local authority completed an audit on their current practices?

- Areas under control
- How often the areas are used
- Location in relation to watercourse and the public
- Location in relation to health hazards
- Type of surface, hard/soft
- Type of grass, material covering the areas
- Extent, nature and type of use by the public and specific users

Have the areas that are chemically treated been identified?

- Type of weed/pest causing the problem
- Type of chemical used
- How often are the areas treated
- Type of chemical, liquid/granule
- Application method used
- Volume of chemicals

Have the areas that are not chemically treated been identified?

- Reasons for no treatment
- Methods used if any to control weeds

Why are chemicals being used?

- Methods used in the past and present
- Public opinions on pesticide use
- Lack of alternative methods

Has an assessment of storage and disposal methods been completed?

- Treatment and disposal of spent pesticide and containers
- Disposal methods for containers and the washings from this process
- Storage facilities meet appropriate regulations
- Assessment on transporting pesticides

Has staff training been undertaken?

- Handling
- Storage
- Disposal
- Transport

Does the local authority have a purchasing policy and does it include environmentally friendly products?

Has a pesticide policy been developed?

Has an assessment report been carried out?

Have all the ultimate aims of the pesticide policy been considered?

- Cessation of pesticide use immediately
- Pesticide reduction strategy
- Pesticides used in extraordinary circumstances
- Pesticide free authority

Have all the negative and positive aspects of the policy been considered?

Has the draft policy been circulated to relevant departments?

Has the draft policy been sent out for public consultation?

Has the agreed policy been issued to relevant departments?

Has a nominated officer been appointed?

Have any new techniques and non-chemical alternatives been investigated and incorporated into the policy?

Has the policy been reviewed and updated?

How often is it reviewed and updated?

Section 3 Risk Assessment

Has a risk assessment been developed?

Physical assessment

- Identified sensitive resources
- Consulted the public
- Sensitivity map been produced

Factors to be included in risk assessment

- Types of chemicals used
- Quantities and frequency of handling
- Geographic location
- Sensitivity of areas
- Time of year
- Weather
- Potential sources of pollution

Are all sensitive areas identified?

Environmental

- Estuaries
- Fish/spawning grounds
- Bird breeding/flocking grounds
- Marine mammals
- Environmentally sensitive areas
- Local and marine nature reserves
- Plankton
- Designated nature conservation sites

Commercial

- Land and agriculture
- Water intakes/extraction
- Fish farms and other mariculture

Recreational

- Tourist/amenity beaches
- Sports grounds and parks
- Walk ways
- Housing estates
- Marinas
- Canals

Other

- Medical
- Roads and highways

Section 4

Pesticide Legislation

Are staff working with pesticides aware of EC and national legislation?

Have all relevant staff received training and guidance in the following aspects?

- Hazards and risks posed
- Safe working practices
- Emergency action plan
- Health surveillance
- Record keeping
- Use of application equipment
- Disposal regulations

Have all the relevant health and safety regulations been noted?

Have all staff associated with pesticides been trained and briefed on national regulations?

Are staff familiar with pesticide labelling?

Is there a safe working environment?

- Written health and safety programme
- Health and safety risk assessment
- Health and safety training
- Mobile first aid station/kit
- Washing areas for equipment
- Washing areas for protective clothing and staff
- Artificial running water supply for on site use
- Separate washing bowls if water supply on site is impractical
- Containment areas for used protective clothing
- Proper supervision and the use of trained personnel
- Comprehensive reporting procedure of all pesticide works
- Separate area for toilet facilities and meals when on site

Are staff familiar with application procedures?

Have decontamination procedures been identified?

- Identification of cleaning site for equipment and clothing
- Identification of cleaning equipment to be kept on site
- Methods to be used to clean clothing and equipment
- Procedures for handling, storing and transporting spent pesticide
- Spent pesticide disposal plan

Have the public been notified of any pesticide application procedures?

Section 6

Storage of Pesticides

Are all staff involved in the storage of pesticides aware of EC and national regulations surrounding pesticide storage?

Do the storage facilities meet regulations?

Do the storage facilities meet the criteria below?

- Suitably sited
- Soundly constructed of fire-resistant materials
- Adequate storage capacity
- Provided with suitable entrances
- Well lit and adequately ventilated
- Capable of containing spillages and leakage
- Dry and frost free
- Marked with appropriate warning signs
- Secure against theft and vandalism
- Equipped, organised and staffed to accommodate intended contents

Section 7

Disposal of Pesticides

Have procedures for the disposal of spent pesticides been implemented?

- Have all regulations and legislation been considered?
- Has the necessary paperwork been completed?
- Does a licensed site and carrier exist?
- Has the purchasing policy been adhered to?
- Have the supplier and carrier been contacted?
- Have potential consequences of a breach of the legal requirements been considered?
- Have methods of reducing pesticide usage been investigated/implemented?

Have the best and safest options for disposing of spent pesticides been considered?

- Supplier collects waste
- Store waste
- Direct disposal

Have storage sites for spent pesticides been identified?

- Temporary
- Intermediate
- Final

Have methods to reduce the risk of spillages been investigated and implemented?

Section 8

Record Keeping

Are records of all pesticide applications, storage and disposal kept?

Are the records updated regularly?

Are the records easily completed and interpreted?

Are application records kept updated?

Are the records maintained and available for the given period set by legislation?

Is information provided to the public about treated areas?

Are calibration records kept for monitoring purposes?

Section 9

Preparing Contracts

Has a contract policy been developed?

Does the contracting party have an understanding of national legislation?

Is there a trained and qualified advisor preparing and monitoring contracts?

Have control level standards been set for contractors?

Do the contractors have area information?

- Clear definition of areas to be treated
- Relevant measurements
- Maps and plans

Has a profile on the contractors been produced?

Has a contracting monitoring programme been developed?

Has an annual review on all aspects of the contract been completed?

Section 10 Alternatives to Pesticides

Have alternative methods to pesticide control been considered?

Have each of the alternative methods been investigated?

- Financial implications
- Viability
- Availability
- Public opinion
- Potential hazards
- Environmental impacts

Have any trials been undertaken on any alternative method?

Do any of the alternative methods fit the Pesticide Policy criteria?

Are the aims of the good practice guide met?

- Development of an environmentally sensitive pesticides policy
- Alternatives to chemicals for weed control in amenity area's considered
- Most appropriate application method identified if non chemical alternative is unsuitable
- Reduction in the authorities use of pesticides

Are the objectives of the good practice guide met?

- The need to reduce pesticide use in amenity areas has been identified
- The need to provide a framework which local authorities can use to reduce their overall environmental impact
- The roles and responsibilities throughout the authority have been defined
- The legal responsibilities in the use and disposal of pesticides have been identified
- The areas that require treatment have been identified
- Training requirements have been identified

- Mobilisation procedures for best practice have been defined
- The main health and safety aspects have been addressed
- To be an accessible work of reference to this complicated subject
- Notification procedures have been identified
- Monitoring systems have been developed and implemented
- Procurement procedures have been identified

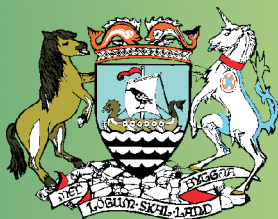
**A International Partnership
Working Together
To Improve
Northern Seas Environments**

**This Checklist and the accompanying Manual
are available on the KIMO website at
<http://www.zetnet.co.uk/coms/kimo>**

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“KIMO's primary objective is the cleaning up of the existing pollution in Northern Seas and coastal waters, of preventing future pollution and working to preserve and enhance them and to leave them in a fit and healthy state for the well-being of future generations”.

A **Growing** CONCERN

