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**NPTC LEVEL 2 AWARD
IN THE
SAFE USE OF PESTICIDES (QCF)**

UNIT PA9 FOGGING, MISTING AND SMOKES

ASSESSMENT SCHEDULE

Unit PA9 FOGGING, MISTING AND SMOKES (INCLUDING FORMALDEHYDE)

Objective - candidates will be able to:-

1. Prepare **one type of equipment** for work, calibrate it by means of an appropriate procedure and operate it to ensure the correct application rate without risks to themselves, other people and the environment
2. Use the information detailed on product labels to determine the approved uses for the product and its potential hazards to human safety, non-target areas and the environment in general.
3. Carry out routine maintenance of the equipment
4. Carry out daily and routine operating procedures for the equipment used.
5. Carry out routine procedure for cleaning personal protective equipment and any equipment used.

(There are a number of methods of calibration which the candidates may use provided that it produces the correct end result.)

Qualification and Credit Framework (QCF) – credit value

PA1 has a credit value of 2 credits on the QCF.

Safe Practice

Operating the equipment in such a way as to put the environment, candidate, assessor or the equipment at risk will cause the candidate to be declared not yet competent.

All equipment must be of the standard required under current Health and Safety legislation.

Candidates must wear Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) appropriate to the risk whenever carrying out work on the applicator e.g. checking filters, replacing nozzles etc.

It is assumed that treatments by fogs, mists or smokes are made to enclosed premises. Candidates intending to make outdoor treatments must demonstrate to the Assessor their knowledge of the environmental safety precautions required.

The Assessment may be conducted using either Pesticide or Simulated Pesticide

Pre-requisites

The foundation unit (PA1) is required by candidates before being assessed for this application unit.

Validation of equipment.

Any equipment designed to produce a fog, mist, or smoke.

Mists and Fogs are particulate clouds having a particle size range of less than 100 microns VMD.

When using electrically driven equipment unless an 110v system is available, the system must incorporate a residual current device (RCD). Where no such device is incorporated into the system, a plug in type **must** be used.

Operator's instruction books should be available and may be used by the candidate during the assessment. Any other relevant literature may also be used.

The assessment should be conducted in the context of the work situation

Site: Work site with suitable applicator filling/washing facilities (if appropriate) which comply with current environmental best practice and an area to be treated

Candidates who undertake this assessment and are judged 'Competent' are reminded of their legal obligation to receive/undertake appropriate additional training in the use of any equipment that differs from that used during the assessment, but which they are nevertheless qualified to use.

Suggested facilities and equipment required to run the assessment:

Equipment appropriate to the application technique.

First Aid kit which complies with the Health & Safety (First Aid) Regulations 1981.

Instruction book.

Washing facilities.

Personal Protective Equipment to comply with pesticide label/COSHH risk assessment

Spare parts appropriate to the type of equipment being used.

Tape measure.

Suitable tools.

Clean product labels or label duplicates appropriate to the candidate.

Clean water supply.

Appropriate containers with simulated pesticide.

Pocket calculator.

Wind speed gauge.

Warning signs.
Appropriate Application record sheets.
Scales

Assessment Activity	Assessment Criteria
Preparation	
<p>1. Check applicator (if appropriate)</p> <p>Demonstrate knowledge of legal requirements and safety regulations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Read instructions - Identify components including safety devices - Condition of power source - Security of packaging/canisters - Ignition paper dry - Contamination safety status - Remedial action if appropriate - - Awareness of any safety implications imposed by the Risk Assessment on the apparatus used and the operation - Awareness of regulations when in operation - HSE Approved Code of Practice on Fumigation - Comply with the Code of Practice
<p>2. Carry out an environmental risk assessment of the application site</p>	<p>May include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ground conditions - Water Courses - Buffer Zones - Drains - Wildlife - Flowering plants - Public Access - Sensitive Crops - Hedgerows - Housing - Factors particular to the site - - Wind speed gauge at suitable height or visible signs - Wind direction - - Check & maintain application rate - Check integrity of building - Comply with environmental assessment - Appropriate timing of applications - Use appropriate pesticide - Notification of neighbours
<p>3. Prepare the site</p> <p>a) Check structure</p> <p>b) Post warning signs</p> <p>c) Check for obstructions</p> <p>d) Ensure all non-targets are protected or removed</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ventilation closed/isolated - No obvious routes of pesticide escape - Temperature requirements - Target or crop not under stress - - Suitable positioning of signs - Leave signs posted for adequate time after release of pesticide - Ensure security of doors and entry points - - Fixed or immovable objects - Water pipes or irrigation lines - Ensure way out is clear - Clear route of fog flow - - Other people - Livestock in the area to be treated or in adjacent buildings - Non target plants, crops or equipment
<p>4. Demonstrate knowledge of appropriate PPE/RPE</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PPE/RPE according to product label and COSHH assessment - Correct fit - RPE inspection checks & Records
<p>5. Demonstrate knowledge of potential fire risk</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Position pyrotechnic devices away from sources of combustion - Placement and type of fire extinguishers - Risk of entering a building in the event of fire - Risk of burns from hot equipment

Assessment Activity	Assessment Criteria
6. Read and interpret product label	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Correct product for intended treatment - Treatment intervals - Dose rate - Appropriate for type of applicator - Restrictions on use - WELs (if applicable) - Reduced volumes (if applicable) - Ventilation precautions/interval (if applicable)
7. Preparing to apply a) Select application rate and correct dilution (if applicable) b) Measure & calculate surface area/volume/quantity to be treated c) Calculate the quantity and placement of pesticide required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dose rate from label or canister - Volume of diluent (If appropriate) - Accurate measurement - Accurate calculation - Correct quantity calculated - Correct placement determined
8. Carry out application using selected equipment or process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Comply with environmental Risk Assessment - Measure or weigh required quantity of pesticide - Method of releasing the pesticide - Direction of operator travel - Avoid operator contact with contaminated target
9. Demonstrate knowledge of post application operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ventilate area prior to entry - Re-entry time - Removal of warning signs - Removal of spent containers/devices - Decontamination of non-target areas - Manufacturers procedures followed
10. Demonstrate knowledge of cleaning and storage of equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dry area - In storage cabinet if required - Not on the ground (if appropriate)
11. Complete an application record	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Records completed - Accurate recording