

Act now on training before updated pesticide legislation deadline

Changes to plant protection product (pesticide) legislation involving training and certification requirements that come into effect on 26 November 2015 will affect all businesses and individuals involved in the sale and supply of pesticides.

The updated requirements apply to wholesalers, retailers, vendors, suppliers and those who sell over the internet.

From 26 November 2015, anyone who sells any plant protection product (not just those authorised for agricultural use) must ensure that they have sufficient numbers of staff with a BASIS Certificate for Sale and Supply

available at the time of sale (rather than at the point of sale) to provide information to customers on: pesticide use, health and environment risks, and safety instructions to manage the risks for the products.

The new requirements will also apply to sole traders selling professional plant protection products, who will be required to hold the appropriate Certificate.

Those selling non-professional (amateur) products will also be affected. It will be necessary to employ certificated staff to provide customer information on request.

Micro-distributors of non-professional

products are exempted from this change in legislation.

"A large increase in demand for the BASIS Certificate for Sale and Supply courses is expected with just over a year to go until legislation is implemented," says Stephen Jacob, BASIS Business Development Manager. "We suggest that individuals and businesses plan ahead and get training done as early as possible to avoid a last minute rush and potential disappointment."

To book a place on a course contact Sue Mason t: 01335 340856 or e: sue@basis-reg.co.uk

BASIS and Harper Adams re-launch Graduate Diploma

BASIS members will once again have the opportunity to achieve a qualification equivalent to the final year of an Honours degree, after BASIS and Harper Adams University re-launched the Graduate Diploma in Agronomy with Environmental Management.

Rob Simpson, Managing Director of BASIS says: "We are extremely pleased to be able to re-launch the Graduate Diploma with Harper Adams University. Our members are highly skilled professionals and it is important that those outside the industry are able to recognise this with a formal, university accredited qualification."

Those who have already achieved the BASIS Diploma in Agronomy can 'top up' this qualification to the Graduate Diploma by successfully completing either another Advanced Module or the Nutrient Management Planning module to gain the additional 15 credits required.

Head of the Crop and Environment Sciences Department at Harper Adams, Dr Andy Wilcox, says: "This is an excellent opportunity for formal recognition of training within a subject area of key importance to the land based industries."

Originally launched in 2008, seven people have already attained the Harper Adams Graduate Diploma.

Andrew Havergal, Senior Agronomist & Agronomy IT Manager for Frontier Agriculture, was one of the first to graduate, in 2011. He says: "Many agronomists, especially those who have been doing the job for a number of years, may have come into the industry without a formal university qualification. The Graduate Diploma recognises the effort and work required to become a fully-fledged agronomist with an educational qualification which is very well-recognised within the crop protection industry."



Harper Adams University



There are two routes to the Graduate Diploma, guided by the date when candidates achieved qualifying modules. For the 'direct route', qualifying modules must be taken within seven years of applying for the Graduate Diploma.

For information about the Graduate Diploma and which route applies to your situation, contact Sue Mason t: 01335 340856 e: sue@basis-reg.co.uk

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help further your career with a recognised pesticide qualification

FACTS scheme changes unveiled



The restructuring of the FACTS Scheme is nearly complete, although it will be some time before the changes are fully implemented.

In future, there will be two grades of membership. The well-established FACTS Qualified Adviser (FQA) grade remains. This is for those who regularly give crop nutrition advice on farms and holdings. FQA status is achieved by completion of the FACTS exam, then passing the Nutrient Management Planning (NMP) module and achieving the requisite CPD points each year.

The new grade is 'FACTS Subscriber' which is suited to those who do not give third party advice, which would include farmers who only make their own crop nutrition decisions.

"The new grade is a way for those with an involvement in crop nutrition that does not

directly involve giving advice to access the FACTS information service which is a unique feature not offered by other professional development schemes," says FACTS Committee Chairman Geoff Dodgson. "Overall, we have simplified the route to gaining FQA status and created a robust route to membership.

FQAs receive an identity card to satisfy the needs of assurance schemes where they give advice on farms. FACTS subscribers do not.

Other changes will include a reduction in the permitted time between passing the FACTS examination and passing the NMP course and on-line test.

"The changes will not come fully into force until 2016," says Geoff. "This is to ensure there is sufficient time for FACTS members, and particularly FACTS trainers, to understand and adapt to the changes."

Further details will be circulated to FACTS members in the near future.

Rob's round up



As the busy exam period gets underway, we'd like to thank our trainers who do an excellent job in training not only our next generation of advisers, but many of those who have entered the industry later in life or suddenly require certification as part of their job.

Going back to the classroom can be a daunting experience for anyone and particularly for those not of an academic mind-set. Learning all those facts and figures can be difficult – that's why participative training, as discussed in this newsletter, is an excellent way to engage with those who prefer hands-on learning.

Changes to the requirements for those that sell and/or supply pesticides, particularly in the non-professional sector is likely to result in a significant increase in demand for courses. We urge anyone affected by the changes to think about training requirements early, to avoid being caught out by the last-minute rush.

We are delighted to re-launch the Graduate Diploma in Agronomy with Environmental Management with Harper Adams University, and look forward to seeing many more of our members achieve this enviable accolade.

Finally, we're very pleased to be able to launch the new Project Award, celebrating the huge effort candidates put into their Certificate in Crop Protection projects.

Rob Simpson
Managing Director, BASIS

Upcoming CPD Events

6th November

Conference: Drones for Farming

The National Centre for Precision Farming (NCPF), Harper Adams University, Shropshire

19–20th November

Event: CropTec – seminars and trade show

East of England Showground, Peterborough

4 – 5th December

Course: Tree Issues for Horticultural Professionals

RHS Garden Wisley, Surrey

Paul Singleton Project of the Year Award

BASIS is creating an annual prize for the best project submitted as part of the Certificate in Crop Protection Award, to recognise the outstanding input that many candidates apply to their project.

The project is a fundamental element of the Certificate in Crop Protection – it should typically be between 3,000 and 5,000 words in length and must include significant crop protection content. Ideally it will include personal practical involvement and original research.

Stephen Jacob, BASIS Business Development Manager, says: "We have seen some spectacular projects over the

years, with candidates going to a lot of effort to demonstrate their understanding of a particular subject. We felt it was only right to celebrate their achievements."

The award will be named the Paul Singleton Project of the Year Award in gratitude and appreciation of the work and commitment that Paul Singleton has made to BASIS over the years.

The winner will be selected from the top five scoring projects and judged by a panel of BASIS exam chairmen following second marking and moderation.

More details will be made available when the new Award is officially launched.



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promote and develop the professional standards to which you aspire

Careful application and pellet choice safeguards water and crops

Metaldehyde is still regularly found in water at levels above the European standard. As slug pressure increases into the autumn, users of metaldehyde slug pellets should remain diligent to prevent the pesticide getting into water.

Catchment Sensitive Farming (CSF) and the Metaldehyde Stewardship Group (MSG) are two of a number of industry bodies urging farmers to remember stewardship guidelines when applying metaldehyde slug pellets, and to consider alternatives for slug control in order to protect water sources.

"Recent weather has been highly conducive to slug activity and high populations have already been reported," says Simon McMunn of MSG. "But it's vital that pelleting decisions are made on a field-by-field basis. Think soil-slope-stream."

He continues: "Consider where the soil is heavy or under-drained; if the field is on a gradient and whether there is a ditch or watercourse in close proximity. Use the

minimum amount of active per hectare to achieve control and never apply metaldehyde-based slug pellets when heavy rain is forecast or if drains are flowing."

The annual calendar year limit for metaldehyde is 700g/ha. The seasonal total limit, introduced under MSG guidelines is 210g/ha (or 160g/ha on BASIS qualified advice) between 1 August and 31 December.

CSF is working with farmers to reduce metaldehyde in water bodies by trialling alternative methods and products for slug control, as well as encouraging best practice via MSG guidance.

A trial in 2012 on three farms bordering the River Leam in Warwickshire demonstrated that alternative products can have as good, if not better results in controlling slugs, without the risk to drinking water.

When ferric phosphate pellets were used in place of a metaldehyde-based product the



resulting water samples collected revealed considerably lower number of metaldehyde-level exceedances.

Crop damage differed little between products in the early stages of the trial; however leaf damage increased dramatically to 80-90% after October in metaldehyde-treated areas. Crops in the ferric phosphate trial remained strong and healthy.

"The trials showed that ferric phosphate is an effective method of slug control and contributed to reduced peaks in metaldehyde found in water – this is good news for farmers and water quality and will help to prevent further restrictions on metaldehyde use," says Melissa Hoskings from CSF Partnerships.



For more information go to:
www.getpelletwise.co.uk
www.naturalengland.org.uk

Participative Training Workshops help BASIS trainers to help candidates



BASIS trainer Frank Newberry's 25 years of experience have revealed that almost all BASIS trainees are practical people, who learn best by 'doing' things.

"All of the BASIS trainers I have met are very professional and keen to do a good job for their students. Adapting the style of training and method of learning to fit the trainees is an important part of being a trainer," says Frank.

"In our industry I've found that while a tiny minority of students respond well to an academic approach, by far the majority find sitting for long periods, trying to remember key facts, very difficult indeed."

It was an unexpected revelation some years ago that led Frank to add active

participation to his training courses. "I remember being told that people couldn't remember much of what I had said to them on my workshops," he says, "But years later they could remember in great detail what 'they' had said and done on the events. It was clear that maximising participation and giving trainees lots to say and do was the key to effective recall."

Frank took steps to redesign his course delivery and saw the effects immediately.

He continues: "Trainee energy levels stayed high, recall was greater and they were clearer on the priority actions they needed to take after the training."

The BASIS Participative Training Workshop is entering its third successful year and

Frank is keen to point out the benefits to BASIS trainers. He says: "The course gives you dozens of tips on ways to increase participation and learning, whatever your subject area. You'll get involved in the sort of participation your students will benefit from, so you can experience learning in a more dynamic way."

"During the course you'll have the opportunity to put these ideas to the test and get valuable feedback from your peers."

To find out more and join the next course, contact
Stephanie Hickling-Mace t: 01335 340858
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BASIS debates amenity pesticides at Saltex



BASIS Consultant Paul Singleton joined a panel debate at a packed seminar on the first day of Saltex 2014 on 2 September to discuss 'The control of pests, weeds and diseases'.

Paul was joined on the panel by Nick von Westenholz, CEO of the Crop Protection Association, Leo de Montaignac, Chief Operating Officer for Weedingtech, and Will Kay, Managing Director of LanGuard. Professor John Moverley, Chairman of the Amenity Forum, chaired the session.

The audience, which included contractors, groundsmen and local authority personnel was especially concerned about reduced pesticide use due to budgetary constraints, and the impact of tougher restrictions under the EU Water Framework Directive, due to come into force in 2015.

There was also concern about the lack of product choice for weed control on hard

surfaces, putting increased pressure on glyphosate based products.

Paul urged the amenity sector to take all steps necessary to prevent further withdrawal of essential pesticides. He said: "The really big worry is making sure pesticides will be available for use in 20 years' time. We must do our very best to keep these products out of water."

There was significant discussion around the subject of Continuing Professional Development (CPD) for the sector. Paul recommended amenity professionals join the BASIS Amenity Register to demonstrate their competence in advising on pesticides. Members of the audience asked how this could be broadened to encompass a wider range of amenity activities.

"We are aware of the increasing need for a broader CPD offering for the amenity sector and are actively working to develop a scheme

that will meet the industry's needs," said Paul. More details will be available soon.

Paul encouraged companies and organisations working within the sector to adopt the BASIS Amenity Assured Standard, which demonstrates that their operating methods follow best practice guidance for weed, pest and disease control, audited annually. He said: "There has recently been an increase in organisations achieving the BASIS Amenity Assured Standard. This is great news, but there is more work to do. Ideally we need membership to become the norm for this sector."

For more information on the BASIS Amenity Register contact Ali Brennan e: ali@basis-reg.co.uk. For BASIS Amenity Assured, contact Lindsay Smith e: lindsay@basis-reg.co.uk

Jill Bailey retires



Jill Bailey has retired after 34 years at BASIS. Current and past BASIS staff celebrated her long service and bade a fond farewell at a recent drinks reception.

Jill joined the company as a typist in the late 1970s working with Barrie Orme – the founding Chief Executive of BASIS. Over her long career Jill worked across all departments, including as Personal Assistant to Rob Simpson, current BASIS Managing Director and more recently, part-time predominantly with PROMPT.

"Jill's knowledge of BASIS has been invaluable. She has been a huge asset to the company and the industries she has worked with. Her sense of humour and happy disposition will be missed by all her associates, colleagues and friends," said Rob. "We wish her all the best for a long and happy retirement".

Who's Who at BASIS

Sue Mason, Examinations & Training Manager



What is your role at BASIS?

I manage the Exams & Training Department at BASIS which is a very varied and interesting role. I am also part of the BASIS

Management Team.

What do you do day-to-day?

Days can vary greatly. I might be: booking exams, appointing chairmen and examiners, working with our BASIS Approved Trainers, updating course literature and accreditation, or attending meetings. The Exams & Training and Professional Register departments work very closely together and everyone working with us does a fantastic job.

How long have you worked for BASIS?

Since 1985 – 19 years!

What is your background?

Before life at BASIS I worked in London for 10 years in administration, including three years at Eurotunnel.

What do you enjoy the most about working for BASIS?

I love working with my BASIS colleagues, everyone really enjoys their job and likes working together - it really does make a difference. It's a fantastic place to work. I enjoy what I do because it's very varied, interesting and busy all the time. I love going out to meet the people I've worked with for so many years, either at meetings, or events like Cereals and the BASIS Seminars.

Only **BASIS** can . . .
continue to improve good practice in both amenity and industrial pesticide sectors