



THE AMENITY ASSURED STANDARD



for Integrated Approaches to
Professional Weed, Pest and Disease
Control in the Amenity Sector

AMENITY ASSURED STANDARD

The Amenity Assured Standard sets a benchmark of best practice methods for weed, pest and disease controls in Amenity situations.

Companies and organisations which achieve the Amenity Assured Standard demonstrate that their operating methods meet the compliance criteria for achievement of weed, pest and disease control through a variety of integrated approaches. The methods respect and incorporate high regard for safety to the public, the environment, for water protection and cost effective programmes of work. Control strategies should also be considered before each treatment or specification.

Organisations and companies will be audited annually to achieve the Amenity Assured Standard and ensure on-going compliance.

The Standard is defined by BASIS in conjunction with the Amenity Forum, City & Guilds Land Based Services (NPTC) and the National Association of Agricultural Contractors. The Standard is operated by BASIS and is recognised by the Chemicals Regulation Directorate, which has responsibility for the implementation and control of UK pesticides legislation.

The scheme operates in two parts:

1. A comprehensive, audit questionnaire to gain details of primary company/organisation features and which is signed by the Senior Director/Manager in charge of weed, pest and disease control work.
 2. An on-site visit and audit of the company/organisation to verify the returned questionnaire and operational standards as required.
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Benefits of being AMENITY ASSURED

Quality of work

- Procedures checked
 - Methods examined
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Confidence for the client

- Independent verification of organisation
 - Trust in the work undertaken
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Reliability

- Understanding of contract scope
 - Consistent contract performance
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Compliance with Standards

- Trained and qualified staff
 - Compliance with the law and Codes of Practice
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Verification

- Annual audit to maintain high standards
 - New certificate each year when compliance confirmed
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Best Practice

- Integrated Pest Management (IPM) methods incorporated
 - Leading industry standards met
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Procedures

Audit

- All organisations that are (or wish to be) Amenity Assured will be audited each year using an Annual Questionnaire together with an on-site audit when required at a spraying site.

Inspections

- To ensure ongoing compliance with the Amenity Assured Standard there will also be an annual unannounced visit to a site where a pesticide application is taking place to check consistent adherence to the Standard.

Certification criteria

- Full certification will be granted following a successful audit.
- For a company to achieve certification under the scheme they must comply with all of the Standards containing 'must' and at least 70% of the standards containing 'should'.
- Non-compliant organisations will be suspended or have certification withdrawn.
- Full certification may be reinstated following successful completion of outstanding actions within 4 weeks from being notified of suspension by BASIS.

Appeals and complaints

- Appeals and complaints should be addressed in writing to BASIS Registration Limited, St Monica's House Business Centre, 39 Windmill Lane, Ashbourne Derbyshire DE6 1EY
- BASIS will respond within the timescales defined in the Scheme Governance guidelines.

Data

- A list of organisations compliant with the Standard will be published annually.
- Organisations will be allowed access, upon written request, to their own data held by BASIS.

Scheme logo

- Organisations wishing to use the BASIS or Amenity Assured logo must apply in advance to BASIS Registration Limited for permission to use either or both.

Client satisfaction

- Where applicable, companies/organisations which are part of the Amenity Assured Standard are required to record and action promptly any points of dissatisfaction notified by their clients.
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Summary

The audit process to assess the applicant's operating practices and procedures is comprehensive. A brief synopsis is set out below of every aspect covered by the audit. Over time, changes are made to the law, Codes of Practice and what is considered 'Best Practice'. The Amenity Assured Standard will be amended to reflect such changes. The BASIS website (www.basis-reg.com) will show the up-to-date Standard at any point in time.

If any major change is required (e.g. a change in the law) then organisations which are (or wish to be) Amenity Assured, will be notified.

The AMENITY ASSURED STANDARD comprises the following key points:

1. Company/Organisation

Name, address, type, communication details

Contact personnel and director responsible

Staff qualifications relevant to pesticides

Sub-contractor details (if any used)

Type of work undertaken

Geographic area covered

Pesticide storage addresses

BASIS Amenity Training Register compliant

Codes of Practice in use on site (Code of Practice for Using Plant

Protection Products and Code of Practice for Suppliers of Pesticides to Agriculture, Horticulture and Forestry (Yellow Code))

2. Application

Equipment, type, testing arrangements, suitability

Calibration and maintenance (written records)

COSHH assessments

Site detail (maps, location, area treated and type)

Records of area, product, dose, date, operator(s), weather

Risk assessments, hazards, etc

Integrated approaches used

Relevant PPE

Relevant safety equipment

Water source

Mixing and filling arrangements

Use of approved-for-purpose products only

Safe disposal of empty containers

Safe and compliant operating procedures

Method statement

Emergency procedures and contact details

3. Transport

Product storage whilst in transit (segregated, secure, vapour proof)

Load identification

Driver training and qualification

Safety equipment (PPE, spill, fire)

Personal safety equipment (wash facilities, eyewash, clean water, etc)

4. Storage

Inspection and registration

Suitable and secure bunding

Size/quantity stored

Person responsible and qualification(s) held

Records

Safe waste disposal

AMENITY ASSURED STANDARD

The Amenity Assured Standard is operated on a fee structure and audit process geared to the size of each individual organisation.

BASIS recognises that some organisations operate as a franchise structure. For details of how franchise based companies can achieve the Amenity Assured Standard, please contact BASIS.

The following Amenity Assured Standards apply for franchise based companies

1. The parent company/organisation will be the certificate holder provided all the franchisees are compliant with the Amenity Assured Standard.
2. All franchisees will complete and return the questionnaire audit and meet compliance criteria.
3. A selection of the franchisees will be on-site audited at random.
4. The parent company will accept responsibility for all its franchisees in relation to Amenity Assured Standard conduct, compliance and operational practices.
5. Should any one or more franchisees be non-compliant, at any stage, with the Standard requirements, then the company and all its franchisees will all be considered as non-compliant.
6. The parent company will be responsible for payment of the Amenity Assured Standard fee(s) on the franchise company rates and pay within the BASIS terms of trade.



7. For minor non-compliance issues there will be a two week period to correct the issue(s) back to compliance status without loss of Amenity Assured Standard certification.

Where major non-compliance issues occur there will be a period of up to six weeks to correct the issue(s) back to compliance status without loss of Amenity Assured Standard certification.

If non-compliance issues are not resolved within the prescribed timescales, then BASIS reserves the right to withdraw the company's Amenity Assured Standard certification and to remove it from the companies listed as compliant certificate holders.

8. Franchise Amenity Assured Standard certificate holders will have the same status as individual company Amenity Assured Standard certificate holders.

9. The scale (price on application) of fees for Amenity Assured Standard franchise companies are based on the number of franchisees within the organisation, as below:

1 to 9 Franchisees	Option A
10 to 19 Franchisees	Option B
20 to 29 Franchisees	Option C
30 to 39 Franchisees	Option D
40 to 49 Franchisees	Option E
50 to 59 Franchisees	Option F

AMENITY ASSURED STANDARD **ASSOCIATE membership**

1. Introduction

The increased, recognition and scope of the Amenity Assured Standard is building over time to support the Amenity Sector. Best practice has come to mean different things over recent times, with changes in many areas.

Examples are:

- The Sustainable Use Regulations (2012)
 - Changes to product labels e.g. no spraying of channels
 - The compulsory requirement for sprayer testing in 2015
 - The wide scale adoption and development of Integrated Approaches
 - The removal of “grandfather” rights for sprayer operators
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These changes, and more, are recognised and incorporated into the Amenity Assured Standard.

The adoption of the Standard is important to steer, guide and lead the way that Amenity weed and pest control work should be done.

It is therefore most important that the Amenity Assured Standard is supported and encouraged by both those conducting work in Amenity, using pesticides, and by others who support the principles, but who are not actually engaged in weed and/or pest control.

For those organisations, the Amenity Assured Standard Associate Member Category has been developed.

2. AMENITY ASSURED STANDARD–Associate Criteria

Associates will:

- a support the principles and Standards as set out in the Amenity Assured Standard
 - b support Integrated approaches for weed and /or pest control in Amenity Areas
 - c support the principles of BASIS and its objectives in the Amenity Sector with regards to qualifications, CPD and the Amenity Assured Standard
 - d support Amenity Industry standards and frameworks (e.g. CRD National Action Plan, Amenity Forum) and their objectives.
 - e operate their own organisation in a manner which is commensurate with the aims and objectives of the Amenity Assured Standard.
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3. Support AMENITY ASSURED STANDARD ASSOCIATES

BASIS will support Associate members by:

- a including them in Amenity Assured Standard activities and information provision
 - b involving them in meetings and consultation for promotion of the Amenity Assured Standard
 - c allowing the use of premises/facilities when appropriate for meetings and demonstrations
 - d allowing the use of the Amenity Assured Standard logo for literature, etc. in agreement with BASIS provided that the use is fully appropriate with the integrity of the Amenity Assured Standard
 - e including Associate members as an integral component of the Amenity Assured Standard
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