

# THE ACT

WHAT was significant about October 6th, 1986? If you are intent on being an ostrich then bury your head in a bunker and forget about FEPA until it is too late. October 6th, 1986 saw the introduction of the Control of Pesticides Regulations 1986, introduced as a direct result of the Food and Environmental Protection Act 1985.

This Act of Parliament affects everybody concerned in the sale and application of Pesticides. Pesticides, it must be explained, is a broad term which includes all weed-killers, fungicides, pest control substances and even wood preservatives - in fact any chemical covered by the 'Blue Book' MAAF Publication 500 'Pesticides 1986'.

The Regulation states that 1) Those born after December 31st, 1964 require a Certificate of Competence.

2) Those working on land other than his own or his employer is regarded as a contractor and requires a Certificate of Competence.

3) Those involved with the supervision of uncertified operators require a Certificate of Competence.

4) Those born before December 31st, 1964 and who do not fit into any of the other categories do not need a Certificate but must prove that they have been adequately trained.

The Certificate of Competence required under the Act is divided into separate modules.

The first of these modules will be required by all those seeking certification and is known as the Foundation Module.

This module consists of the following topics.

- Current legislation
  - Personal hygiene
  - Preparation for use of pesticides
  - Transport and temporary storage
  - Contamination
  - Environmental factors
  - Interpretation of labels and literature
  - Selection and use of protective clothing
  - Disposal of surplus materials
  - Keeping records
- and takes about one full day.... 6 1/2 hours.... to complete with already experienced operators.

Further operating modules will then be taken according to the types of equipment in use; a) Hand held applicators b) Tractor mounted hydraulic sprayers.

As a hypothetical situation let us consider a golf club employing five staff, a head

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greenkeeper aged 42, first assistant aged 28, tractor driver aged 58, assistant greenkeeper aged 19, and YTS trainee.

First the YTS trainee cannot handle any chemicals until he is 18 years of age.

The assistant greenkeeper will require a Certificate of Competence in order to apply chemicals alone, but before he can acquire his Certificate he must attend either a registered training course and / or be under constant supervision during training by his supervisor.

The tractor driver does not need a Certificate if he can show he has been adequately trained (attending a registered

training course would be regarded as desirable by the Health and Safety Inspectorate).

Neither the head greenkeeper or the first assistant under the present law require a Certificate of Competence but like the tractor driver must show they are adequately trained. If however the tractor driver, first assistant or head greenkeeper are directly involved in supervising or training the assistant greenkeeper, they would require a Certificate. Courses are available under the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food banner with the ATB acting as administrators. Courses are available at the colleges listed below and testing for certification will be on a one to one basis and may be carried out at your place of work. However, operators cannot gain an operating test module until successfully completing the foundation module.

The Greenkeeping Colleges Consultative Group was set up as a direct result of the Greenkeeping Training Committee appointing five colleges as centres of excellence for greenkeeper training. The GCCG is made up of the colleges listed below, and consists of tutors from those colleges, their county liaison office's, and a representative from Bingley and the GTC. For further details consult:-  
Cheshire College of Agriculture, (0270) 625131  
Askham Bryan College of Agriculture, (0904) 702121  
Cannington College of Agriculture, (0278) 652226  
Sparshalt College of Agriculture, 096272 441  
Plumpton College of Agriculture, (0273) 890454.

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