

PLANT PROTECTION PRODUCTS

BIGGA's Management Support series produced by Xact



Plant protection products include pesticides, herbicides, insecticides, rodenticides, growth regulators and wood preservatives. They are, by nature, a necessary evil for use on the golf course to control problems that cannot otherwise be managed by good husbandry and management. Many are toxic chemicals and are subject to the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) regulations and will require assessments to be carried out to ensure their safe use. Only pesticides which are currently MAFF approved can be used and it is important to check that any old stock is still on the approved list of materials before using it.

The product label and the manufacturer's safety data sheet (MSDS) are essential instructions for the use of any chemical. These will inform: How the substance can be used; Where it can be used; How it is to be stored; Safety precautions to be taken when used regarding protection from the chemical for the operatives and others who may come in contact with it; Effects on other species other than the target organism; Emergency action in case of spillages and fire.



Both the MSDS and the product label should be available to those who use these substances.

Storage - Plant protection products should be stored in a suitable secure bin, chest or vault dependent on the quantity being retained. The container must: Be secure from theft; Have at least a 30min fire protection; Be resistant to impact damage; Have a sump which will retain at least 110% of the contents in the event

of the contents leaking; Be signed to indicate the nature of the contents. It should not be sited near to staff eating areas and if situated outside it needs to be frost proof.

Usage

Those using plant protection products must be aware of the hazards and risks from the substances. They should have received training on the safe use of such materials and should be aware of what personal protective clothing is required, how it is worn and disposed of.

The substances should only be used for the purpose the manufacturer has designed them for and particular care should be taken in the vicinity of rivers, burns and ponds to avoid contamination.

Waste Disposal

Empty containers should be rinsed out with clean water and the rinsings added to spray solutions or sprayed onto soil or grass away from watercourses and drains. The foil sealing caps should also be rinsed with water and retained for later disposal. All waste containers, foil caps, contaminated clothing and excess pesticides must be disposed of via a waste contractor approved to handle these types of products. Waste disposal notes for hazardous wastes must be held for three years.

Emergency Plan

An emergency action plan needs to be in place to deal with any accidental spillage, personnel exposure or fire.

Personal Exposure - The manufacturer's safety data sheet will outline the actions required to treat contamination of personnel. Where medical help is required the safety data sheet and the label from the substance should accompany the person requiring treatment to give to the attending doctor

- **Spillages** - Ensure spillages do not enter watercourses or drains by using covers, sandbags etc. Inform the Environment Agency, SEPA in Scotland, if the pesticide contaminates watercourse and the local water company if the spilled material enters the sewers
- **Fire** - Where the fire cannot be quickly put out, call the fire brigade and evacuate personnel away from the area. An inventory of the pesticide store should be given to the fire brigade to enable them to decide the safest way of tackling the fire

Further information on the actions required when dealing with plant protection products can be had from the BIGGA safety management system or from the government website

www.defra.gov.uk

For more information on health and safety issues visit:
www.xact.uk.com