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

UNIT PA8 - MIXER / LOADER

ASSESSMENT SCHEDULE

Unit PA 8 MIXER/LOADER

Candidates undertaking assessment on mixing pesticides and transferring them into an applicator will need to complete all test items.

Objective - Candidates will be able to:

Prepare pesticides and operate mixing/loading equipment to ensure correct concentration without risk to themselves, other people and the environment.

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.

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 candidate, Assessor, equipment or the environment at risk will cause the candidate to be declared not yet competent.

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

Candidates must wear Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) appropriate to the product label/COSHH risk assessment whenever carrying out work on the equipment.

Pre-requisites

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

Validation of equipment

Any type of mixing/loading equipment designed to mix concentrate pesticide and diluent.

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 mixing/loading facilities, which comply with current environmental best practice.

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:

Company operating manual.
Appropriate mixing/pumping equipment.
Appropriate mixing/loading site.
Manufacturers operator's instruction book(s).
Clean water supply and hosepipe.
Clean product labels/or label duplicates.
Containers of pesticide/simulated pesticide.
First Aid kit, which complies with the Health & Safety (First Aid) Regulations 1981.
Washing facilities.
Personal Protective Equipment to comply with pesticide label/COSHH risk assessment
Suitable tools.
Accurate and suitable measuring jugs.
Measuring cylinder
Mixing buckets (if required).
Communication system with the pilot/driver.
Appropriate Application Record Sheets.
Scales.

| Assessment Activity | Assessment Criteria |
|---|--|
| Preparation | |
| <p>1. Check and prepare mixing equipment</p> <p>Demonstrate knowledge of legal requirements and safety regulations.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Condition and suitability of tank - Condition of pipe work/filling devices - Valves free and correctly positioned - Suitable connection to water supply - Awareness of any safety implications imposed by the Risk Assessment on the machine and the operation. - Awareness of any guarding requirements. - Awareness of road traffic and carriage of dangerous goods regulations when in transport on the public highway. - Comply with the Code of Practice |
| <p>2. Read and interpret product label (as supplied or approved by the Assessor)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Field of use - PPE requirements - Product being used - Specific product precautions - Appropriate for type of applicator - Timing - Additional label information - Restrictions on use - Use of adjuvants - Dose rate - Dilution rate |
| Site Work | |
| <p>3. Assess the environmentally sensitive factors of the mixing site.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ground conditions - Water courses - Drains - Wildlife - Public access - Sensitive areas - Housing - Factors particular to site - Safe storage of pesticide - Containment of spillage - Water supply - Note presence of non-targets susceptible to product. |
| <p>4. Calculate, measure and mix pesticide(s)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Appropriate site - Ensure approved techniques are followed with due regard to safe practice. - Correct dose rate - Availability and correct use of water supply. - Observance of pesticide manufacturer's instructions for mixing, agitation, tank mixes. - Calculate appropriate quantities for full and part tank loads - Accurate measurement of pesticide. - Rinsing and storage of empty pesticide containers - Correct filling procedure - Use of filling device where fitted - Avoidance of spillage - Safe storage of unused concentrated pesticide - Security of pesticide packs in transit and on site |

