

1. What is the Sustainable Use Directive (SUD)?

The SUD is a new EU directive governing all aspects of pesticide use.

It is being implemented in Ireland by the Dept. of Agriculture, Food & Marine.

Pesticides include : herbicides, fungicides, insecticides, seed dressings, certain rodenticides etc.

Biocides (detergents, etc.) are not included yet but may be in the future.

2. What is the purpose of the SUD

The overall aims of the SUD are:

- Reduce the risks and impacts of pesticide use on human health and the environment.
- Promote the use of integrated pest management (IPM) and of alternative approaches or techniques to pesticides.

3. What is IPM?

IPM is essentially good, sound farming practises such as growing competitive, healthy crops, choosing the correct variety, applying pesticides to get the most from them, practising a good rotation, etc. See more examples under number 10 (below).

4. Who will the SUD affect?

The SUD will affect the following:

- Pesticide advisors*
- Pesticide Distributors (merchants)*
- Professional users of pesticides (farmers, sprayer operators, spraying companies)
- Inspectors of sprayer equipment*

** Not covered in this note – see <http://www.pcs.agriculture.gov.ie/sud/> or www.iasis.ie for relevant information*

5. What is a Professional user of pesticides?

A professional user is any person who uses pesticides (professional use products as per their label) in the course of their professional activities, including operators, technicians, employers and self-employed people, both in the farming and other sectors.

All professional users must be registered by **26th November 2015**. From this date, only a registered professional user can apply pesticides authorised for professional use.

6. How does a Professional User register?

There will be an online registration facility available for professional users on the PCS website (<http://www.pcs.agriculture.gov.ie/sud/>).

7. How do you become a trained Professional User?

People who have completed the Pesticide Application module as part of a Teagasc (FETAC level 5 or 6) course will meet the requirements for professional user training. Similarly, anyone who has completed the Teagasc standalone Pesticide Application short course (Level 5) will also be deemed appropriately trained. Coilte deliver the City & Guilds Pesticide Application course (PA series) which also meet the SUD requirements.

The Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine will determine if alternative qualifications meet requirements on a case by case basis.

8. Are there any exemptions from the requirement to register as a Professional User?

No.

9. Can an individual who is not registered as a Professional User buy pesticides authorised for professional use?

Individuals who are not registered as a professional user can buy pesticides authorised for professional use but these pesticides must be applied by a registered professional user or a person operating under the direct supervision of a registered professional user.

There is a requirement to keep appropriate records with details of the registered professional user who applied the pesticides.

Note: When purchasing pesticides for professional use, retailers will request the **Herd No/Flock No. or Professional User No. of the purchaser** (when available) from 1st. January 2014. This record must be kept by the retailer for 5 years and made available to an authorised DAFM person upon request.

10. What must I do as a Professional User?

- Register with the DAFM as per point 5 (above)
- Farm using the general principles of integrated pest management
- Maintain records demonstrating application of these principles

The following are extracts taken from the DAFM records required to be kept by professional users.

1. Fill in for each pesticide applied on your farm*							
Product Name (Trade Name)	PCS Number (as printed on product label)	Location LPIS No.	Crop (Winter or Spring)	Area/tonnage treated e.g. Ha or tonnes	Pesticide application rate e.g. L/Ha, Kg/ha	Date applied	Rationale / Reason (Pest present, preventative treatment, resistance management, crop damaged etc...)
Bravo 500	03452	V1230892	W. Wheat	10	1.0	10/5/14	Septoria prevention

2. IPM Farm Records – fill in (tick) the IPM practises used on your farm			
Crop rotation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sterile seedbed technique	<input type="checkbox"/>
Clean machinery and equipment	<input type="checkbox"/>	Clean potato boxes/growing trays etc..	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nutrient management programme	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Irrigation (applied to schedule)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Soil testing (pH, nutrients, OM)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Protect beneficial organisms	<input type="checkbox"/>
Certified seed	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Full inversion tillage (plough)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
There are over 60 other IPM options in the complete version and a comprehensive guide on IPM has been produced by the DAFM on www.pcs.agriculture.gov.ie/sud/			

*These are the same records as pesticide required since 2006 under SFP/Cross-compliance with the addition of a 'Rationale/reason' column for each pesticide application

11. By what date must Pesticide Application Equipment be inspected?

All boom sprayers greater than 3m and all blast and orchard sprayers must be tested at least once by **26th November 2016**.

The interval between inspections must not exceed 5 years until 2020 and must not exceed 3 years thereafter.

12. When must other Pesticide Application Equipment (e.g. boom sprayers less than 3 metres, weed wipers, etc.) be inspected?

The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, in consultation with relevant stakeholders, will determine appropriate timetables and inspection intervals for other types of pesticide application equipment in 2014. It is anticipated that all types of application equipment, with the exception of knapsack sprayers, will be required to be tested at least once before 2020.

13. What checks should a Professional User complete on their Pesticide Application Equipment?

Professional users should conduct regular calibrations and technical checks of their pesticide application equipment.

14. How much will it cost to have Pesticide Application Equipment inspected?

The cost of inspection is agreed between the Inspector and the owner of the equipment.

15. What are 'No Spray Zones'?

These are areas where pesticides cannot be applied as part of the SUD.

a. Safeguard zones

These are around water abstraction points, e.g., shallow wells, boreholes; river points etc. and are non-negotiable.

These are not identified on pesticide labels and are the same as no spread zones required under the Nitrates regulations.

Safeguard zones around water abstraction points (including wells) servicing the following numbers of people.

200m	500 people
100m	50-500 people
25m	10-50 people
5m	10 or less people
15m	Landscape feature (karst area, sink hole or collapse feature)

e.g. if there is a well on your land that is used for a group water supply for 50-500 people, then **no** pesticide can be applied within 100m of the well.

b. Buffer Zones

Buffer zones can be either areas adjacent to water (mainly) or hedgerows which cannot receive direct application of pesticides.

These are identified on the product labels and are typically **5-10m** in width but may extend to 70m.

e.g., Bravo, Sumi Alpha, Adexar, Arelon 500, Aviator Xpro, all have a 5m buffer zone.

The DAFM have developed the scheme STRIPE whereby those who have and use drift reducing nozzles (conforming to DAFM specification), and apply lower application rates, will be allowed to reduce the extent of the buffer imposed (most could be reduced to 1m). This is available from www.pcs.agriculture.gov.ie