

Name:

PPP (Plant protection products) management

Definition:

Based on “Check it out – Pesticide Handling Areas” by The Voluntary Initiative.

Keeping herbicides and other plant protection products out of water is vital for protecting the environment and lower the risk. Over 40% of plant protection phytosanitary products that find their way into water come from handling areas.

Every farm that uses plant protection products needs an specific site for filling and cleaning the application equipment. These handling locations are a potential hazard to water because large quantities of diluted and undiluted products are mixed where spills or splashes may occur.

To prevent point source pollution it is important to fill and to clean the sprayers and to handle the plant protection products and containers in zones designed for a convenient handling of spillage. This is to minimise the pollution risk. It is important to take special care in the areas where plant protection products are managed, in order to reduce pollution risk. Appropriate procedure should be followed when cleaning tools and personal protective equipment, and when managing containers.

During all treatment operations, the farmer should think about water protection. Distributors of plant protection products should be the starting point for protection, since they contain large quantities of products in stock.

A well-managed warehouse should pose no risk to water, however stores with damaged or leaking containers pose a major threat to water pollution. The worst scenarios are the fires that occur in the containers causing the melting of the container, discharges of product causing the water pollution.

The design and location of the plant protection products handling area is very important. The protocol for a correct manipulation of the plant protection products requires a minimum distance between the handling area and any water course. These measures include the concrete filler that drains into a protected sump. The purpose of said sink is the collection of the discharge that could occur and its subsequent cleaning.

The containers of the products must be returned to the certified collection points. The equipment must comply with the Inspections required for its correct use according to the community where the agricultural activity is performed.

In most cases, losses of plant protection products in the handling area are little, such as little splashes or foaming. This is why choosing the correct filling surface and using splash gauges can help to control spills. At the end of treatments, the equipment should be cleaned on the inside and on the outside. This must be performed in the handling area to avoid the dumping of large quantities of diluted product residues.

Survey:

Nº	Questions	Answers	Assessment	Score
1	Where do you store the phytosanitary products?	On the floor in a non ventilated warehouse	-15	
		On a shelf in a non ventilated warehouse	-10	
		On the floor in a well-ventilated warehouse	5	
		On a shelf in a well-ventilated warehouse	10	
		In a designed phytosanitary-product warehouse	20	
2	What kind of training certificate training do you hold?	Basic certificate	5	
		Expert certificate	10	
		Qualified to fumigate Certificate	20	
3	How far away is your usual filling site or your phytosanitary products application equipment cleaning site from the nearest drain, sewer, ditch or water course?	Less than 2 metres	-25	
		2-5 metres	-15	
		5-10 metres	-5	
		More than 10 metres	20	
4	Do you have located the drainage of your farm?	Yes I have a comprehensive plan showing where all water drains are	15	
		I have a plan but not all the drains are shown	5	
		I do not have a plan	-10	
		I only do the filling in an area located more than 10 metres from the nearest field drain	10	
5	What water source do you usually use for filling the phytosanitary products application equipment?	A water tank	15	
		A hose with a check valve	10	
		A stream or watercourse	-15	
		A drinking trough	-10	
		A hose directly connected to a main water supplier source	-20	
6	Where and when do you check your main sprayer?	I check it outside a designated area for checking the sprayer before filling the phytosanitary products application equipment.	10	
		I check it inside a designated area for checking the sprayer before filling the phytosanitary products application equipment.	5	
		I check it outside a designated area for checking the sprayer after filling the phytosanitary products application equipment.	-10	
		I check it inside the area of product management after filling the phytosanitary application equipment regularly checking for drips and leaks.	-5	
		I check it inside the area of product management after filling the phytosanitary application equipment regularly checking for drips and leaks	20	
7	In what type of ground surface do you usually fill your sprayer in?	A concrete surface draining to a drain	15	
		A concrete surface draining to a farmyard drain	-20	
		A concrete surface with no visible drain	-10	
		A bare soil	5	
		A cropfield	15	
8	Where do you usually measure out most of your chemicals?	On the floor/ground, in the filling area	-5	
		On a dedicated table	15	
		On a tray attached to the induction bowl	10	
		I always use exact pack sizes	5	
9	What do you do with if an eventual phytosanitary solution remains in the sprayer?	I spray it on a treated crop (below the maximum dose)	15	
		I spray it on an untreated crop	10	
		I spray it on a waste ground	-5	
		I empty the tank in a drain	-15	
		I empty the disposal tank on an authorised area	10	
10	After the cleaning of the inside of the sprayer, what is with the waste waters?	They are stored into a holding tank for its disposal in an authorised area	10	
		They are poured on the cropfields	15	
		They are poured on a soakaway	-15	
		Line Biobed	20	
		They are stored in a drain for a later professional disposal	20	
TOTAL				

Interpretation of the results:

More than 50 points: Most practices are correct, but they may not be perfect. Identify any remaining weaknesses.

0 to 50 points: You are probably on the right side of the law, but things are not quite right.

-50 to 0 points: This is an inadequate result. Some things may be correct but some areas are probably letting you down badly.

Less than -50 points: This is a very poor result and it is quite possibly that you are breaking the law as well as posing a risk to water quality. The way things are done need to be changed immediately.

(Best POSSIBLE SCORE= 165) (Worst POSSIBLE SCORE= -135)

Information source:

Data obtained in a farmers survey.

References and more information:

DIRECTIVE 2009/128/EC OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 21 October 2009 establishing a framework for Community action to achieve the sustainable use of pesticides.

www.voluntaryinitiative.org.uk (2010). Check it out – Pesticide Handling Areas