



## St Helena Government Agriculture and Natural Resources Division

### Voluntary Code of Practice for Safe Sale of Pesticides to the Public

This voluntary code of practice is an **interim measure** towards the development of a comprehensive pesticide management system. It expresses the **ideal situation** to be aimed for.

The objective is to take steps to **protect the public from the adverse effects of pesticides and ensure their safe and effective use to produce high quality pest and disease-free crops**, noting that:

- Pesticides are potentially highly dangerous chemicals;
- Incorrect use can affect users, non-target species such as pets and livestock, and the environment. Misuse can lead to dangerous levels of pesticide residues in food crops, and also lead to pesticide contamination of the islands water sources;
- There are two grades of pesticides, Home and Garden Use (also known as Amateur Use) and Professional Use, and Professional Use pesticides are intended for use only by trained professionals;
- Professional Use products are potentially very harmful in untrained hands;
- Pesticide resistance is a real problem for pest and disease management on the island and can develop through incorrect use of pesticides;
- Training in the safe use of pesticides was carried out in 2009 and 44 people received certificates.

The merchants who sell pesticides to the public have contributed to and agree to abide by the following set of guidelines:

#### The pesticide store:

- The pesticide store should be well ventilated, well lit and secure from unauthorised access;
- Pesticides should be stored away from food or other edible produce intended for human or animal consumption, with either a physical separation or at least 2 – 3m away;
- The pesticide store must have no internal drains which connect to public drainage, in order to protect water sources;
- The exterior of the store should be marked with the general danger sign (yellow triangle with a black border and black exclamation mark in the middle); no smoking signs and no naked flame should also be placed;
- Powders are stored above liquids (liquids can leak if the containers are damaged);
- Shelving should be of metal, not wood, and be no higher than workers can comfortably reach (head height);
- An inventory of products in store is kept up-to-date, and held separate to the store, available in the event of an emergency (eg in case of fire at the store);
- Stock rotation should be practised, so oldest stock is used first;
- For disposal of expired, broken or leaking pesticides consult Environmental Health;
- Pesticides labelled “flammable” should be kept apart, and the fire service consulted as to the appropriate conditions of storage;
- A bucket or container of inert material such as cat litter or sand should be kept at the store in the event of spillage of liquid pesticide, to contain the spill.

#### Pesticide handling:

- Pesticide containers should be opened only in well ventilated areas, away from food for human or animal consumption, and over plastic drip trays in case of spillage;

- Workers opening or handling open pesticide containers must be equipped with the appropriate personal protective clothing according to the label: typically these include face shield, chemically resistant protective gloves, and apron or coverall;
- The manufacturer's safety recommendations as given on the label should be followed.

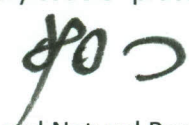
**Pesticide sales area:**

- Pesticides should ideally be displayed on metal shelving or placed in chemically resistant drip-trays in a well ventilated area away from food products intended for human or animal consumption, with either a physical separation or at least 2 – 3m away;
- Pesticides should ideally be sold in their original packaging with their original label;
- Leaking or broken packages should not be offered for sale to the public;
- Buyers are in all cases advised to read and abide by the label instructions;
- Professional Use products are ideally only sold to people able to provide evidence of having a Certificate of Competence in the Safe Use of Pesticides;
- Anyone born before 31 December 1964 may buy professional products for use on their own land without a Certificate of Competence, although they are encouraged to get a Certificate;
- Professional Use products should be clearly labelled as such and not displayed together with the Home and Garden Use products.

In addition, noting the value of cooperation and need to work together, the Agriculture and Natural Resources Division undertakes to:



- Provide some form of annual training in the Safe Use of Pesticides, either from an off-island pesticide training specialist or using local expertise;
- Share information with the merchants and traders on recommended pesticides, resistance management and any other technical information likely to be of interest and benefit to them.

This voluntary code of practice will be reviewed on an annual basis.

Signed: 

Date: 8/8/13

Agriculture and Natural Resources Division

St Helena Growers Cooperative Society  

Queen Mary Stores 

Solomon & Company plc  27.08.13

WA Thorpe and Sons  9th Aug 2013

Further information available from [www.pesticides.gov.uk](http://www.pesticides.gov.uk):

Guidance on storing pesticides for farmers and other professional users. Health and Safety Executive, UK, Agriculture Information Sheet No. 16 (rev 1).

Yellow Code: Code of Practice for suppliers of pesticides to agriculture, horticulture and forestry. Health and Safety Executive, UK.