**Guidance on the use of pesticides/ herbicides**

1. The Contractor must ensure that all pesticides/herbicides to be used and the operatives using them both have the approval and conform to the latest legislation contained within Part III of the Food and Environment protection Act and the Control of Pesticides (Amendment) Regulations 1997.
2. Pesticides/herbicides shall be used only as and when recommended by a person having a certificate of competence to do so, as defined by the above Act. The work must be carried out by an Amenity Assured Contractor (refer to Clause 346 (4)) or the landscape contractor will register with the Amenity Assured Contractor’s Scheme within 6 months of acceptance onto the framework.
3. In addition, they shall be strictly applied in accordance with the manufacturer’s recommendations, observing all precautions.
4. The Contractor shall notify the CA of each pesticide/herbicide to be used prior to application.

USE OF PESTICIDES/HERBICIDES***:***

1. Use only where specified or approved, and then only suitable products as listed in the UK Pesticide Guide;
2. Where work is near water, drainage ditches or land drains, comply with the Defra guidelines for the use of herbicides on weeds in or near watercourses and lakes. No herbicide may be applied on or near water without a valid herbicide application licence issued by the Environment Agency, allow sufficient time to obtain approval for this application. Proof of consent for each licence application must be provided to the CA prior to each herbicide application. Take special care to prevent spray drift into water bodies and adjoining land.

Application form: <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/601813/LIT_4719.pdf>

It is also essential to ensure that groundwater quality is protected. Groundwater Source Protection Zones (SPZ’s) are areas of groundwater where there is particular sensitivity to pollution risks due to the closeness of a drinking water source and how the groundwater flows. They are used to protect abstractions used for public water supply and other forms of distribution. Generally, the closer the activity is to a groundwater source, then the greater the risk. More information on SPZ’s is available at: <http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/homeandleisure/37833.aspx>

1. As a consequence, Picloram and other persistent biocides should not be used within the inner zone of a SPZ, and a risk based approach will be adopted when considering its use outside of the inner zone;
2. Observe all precautions recommended by the manufacturer and remove containers from site immediately they have been emptied or are no longer required;
3. ***The work must be carried out by an*** ***Amenity Assured Contractor*** *(refer to Clause 346 (2))*. Amenity Assured Certification will give the assurance of high quality standards of operation and legal compliance, all endorsed by, registered with and verified by the combined resources of:

* BASIS (Registration) Ltd
* National Association of Agricultural and Amenity Contractors (NAAC)
* City and Guilds NPTC

The Amenity Assured standards are also endorsed by the Pesticide Safety Directorate, The Environment Agency, The Amenity Forum and the Crop Protection Association.

Operatives must hold a BASIS Certificate of Competence, or work under the supervision of a Certificate holder, and must be trained to PA6A and PA6AW as a pre-requisite. Proof will be required by the CA and also when applying for EA application licences;

1. It is envisaged that Glyphosate non-selective herbicide is likely to be used under this contract e.g. Roundup or similar approved. A non-persistent herbicide such as 2,4D-amine which is selective of broadleaved plants is useful for treating weeds where grass is being established. The type of herbicide shall be recommended by the contractor and approved by the contractor’s own specialist advisor;
2. The specification and use of any herbicide is to be strictly in accordance with the Control of Pesticides (Amendment) Regulations 1997, the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002, the Agriculture (Poisonous Substances) Regulations, the Poisons Act 1972, all as amended and any relevant Code of Practice issued by DEFRA;
3. Herbicide may be applied by glove, wick or knapsack sprayer. No spraying of herbicides shall take place in windy conditions and the Contractor will be responsible for reinstating any damage caused by drift of spray. Where a contact herbicide is used round plants in leaf, an adequate guard must be used or a suitable applicator used for spot treatment. All spraying equipment is to be carefully calibrated to prevent over or under dosing. The Contractor will be responsible for replacing any plants damaged by misplaced herbicide. Take special care to prevent spray drift into water bodies;
4. For full consent the Contractor must provide the CA with the name and NTCP Certificate number of the herbicide operator at least 14 days before the first herbicide application. This is necessary for subsequent operations only if details change;
5. The Contractor must give 48 hours’ notice to the CA prior to the use of herbicides;
6. Weed control may be required for injurious weeds as follows: Broad leafed dock; Curled dock; Common ragwort; Creeping thistle and Spear thistle; in addition to the invasive plant species: Himalayan Balsam; Giant hogweed and Japanese knotweed. In addition, invasive aquatic plants include New Zealand Pigmy weed also known as Australian swamp stonecrop, Water fern also known as Fairy fern, Floating pennywort, Water primrose and Parrot’s feather. If any of the above are found, the Landscape Clerk of Works should be advised immediately and a method statement provided;
7. For total weed control, weed treatment shall achieve total die-back of weeds and shall not allow any significant re-growth (less than 5%) within 6 months of application. In the case of selective weed control there shall be not more than 5% re-growth during the season. For site preparation, on topsoil heaps and in planting beds, a translocated, non-residual herbicide, approved for total weed control, shall be applied in accordance with the manufacturer’s instructions. Weeds in planted areas and grassed areas shall be controlled using a selective translocated herbicide. The herbicide shall be applied during a period of active growth in accordance with the manufacturer’s instructions. Return site visits to remedy treatment shortfalls within 6 months of the initial application will be deemed to be at the landscape contractor’s expense.