



Press release: 20 July 2017

Red Tractor standards updated to reflect enhanced metaldehyde stewardship

Ahead of metaldehyde slug pellet treatments, growers should familiarise themselves with the new Red Tractor Combinable Crops and Sugar Beet and Fresh Produce standards which have been updated to reflect the 2017 enhanced metaldehyde stewardship campaign.

Simon McMunn, spokesman for the Metaldehyde Stewardship Group (MSG), explains why the enhanced stewardship campaign has been implemented.

“Metaldehyde products are undergoing re-registration and the regulatory risk assessment, which forms part of this process, has revealed a requirement for increased protection of birds and small mammals,” says Simon.

“This why the enhanced stewardship has been introduced. However, it’s important to note that water stewardship remains vital and is very much at the forefront of the campaign,” he adds.

“Further to this, stewardship is now a CRD-agreed condition of metaldehyde product availability and regulators will be monitoring the campaign success closely.

“This means it’s more important than ever for the industry to pull together and follow stewardship advice, to help preserve the future of the active ingredient, which remains a key tool in slug control.”

In line with the enhanced stewardship campaign, Red Tractor has introduced a new standard, which will come into force on 1 October 2017.

“In order to reduce the risk to water, birds and small mammals, we have strengthened the Combinable Crops and Sugar Beet and Fresh Produce standards to



encourage responsible metaldehyde use," says Laurence Matthews, Red Tractor combinable crops chair.

"For our members, this means demonstrating appropriate use to avoid run-off and being aware of permitted dose and application rates, as well keeping application records," he adds.

Aside from the changes to Red Tractor standards, Simon highlights that there is a new metaldehyde stewardship guideline for 2017.

"The new guideline states that no pellets should be allowed to within a minimum of 10 metres of any field boundary or watercourse," says Simon.

"The buffer was previously six metres and it only applied to watercourses. However, increasing it to 10 metres of all field boundaries will help protect birds and small mammals, and provide additional protection to water," he adds.

"In addition the new guidelines, we're also promoting the role of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) in slug control with the view of helping to minimise slug infestation and reduce the need for treatment.

"Factors such as soil and stubble management, planting methods, weather, trapping and monitoring should all be considered as part of slug control programmes. And, if treatment is necessary, it's imperative to refer to the full set of MSG guidelines."

The MSG has launched a practical guide on IPM and slug control and you can request copies by emailing info@getpelletwise.co.uk.

Two BASIS points have been allocated to the guide and to claim points, members of the professional register have to read the guide and complete a short series of questions online: www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/MSG-BASIS

More information on the enhanced MSG stewardship can be found at www.getpelletwise.co.uk



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Notes to editors:

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About the Metaldehyde Stewardship Group (MSG):

The Metaldehyde Stewardship Group (MSG) formed in 2008 in response to metaldehyde being detected in catchments used for water abstraction.

The 'Get Pelletwise' stewardship campaign was launched to promote and encouraging best practice with metaldehyde slug pellets, to minimise environmental impacts and in particular protect water.

Due to increasing regulatory pressure, the stewardship campaign has enhanced for 2017 and includes steps to ensure maximum protection of birds and small mammals, as well as water.

Step 1: Metaldehyde slug pellets MUST only be used as part of an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) programme to help minimise slug infestations and reduce the need for treatment.

Step 2: Take a field-by-field approach to assess the risk of metaldehyde reaching watercourses.

Step 3: Follow stewardship guidelines and note there is new guidelines for 2017 to help ensure maximum protection to water, birds and small mammals.

Step 4: Think B.I.R.D which stands for Buffer, I'm Legal, Records and Dose.

Product labels remain unchanged for 2017. However, enhanced metaldehyde stewardship guidelines apply to all treatments.

- No pellets to be allowed to fall within a minimum of 10 metres of any field boundary or watercourse **(NEW FOR 2017 SEASON)**
- Use minimum active per hectare to avoid drainage and run-off losses
- Maximum application rate 210g metaldehyde a.s/ha* For additional protection of water, suppliers/BASIS advisors may recommend rates reduced to 160g a.s/ha or less*
- Maximum total dose from 1st August to 31st December: 210g metaldehyde a.s/ha* For additional protection of water, suppliers/BASIS advisers may recommend rates reduced to 160g a.s/ha or less*
- Maximum total dose rate: 700g metaldehyde a.s/ha/calendar year**
- Do not apply when heavy rain is forecast
- If drains are flowing do not apply metaldehyde based slug pellets

The MSG represents 100% of the UK agricultural market for metaldehyde slug pellets and comprises the manufacturers; Adama Agricultural Solutions UK Ltd, Certis Europe B.V, Chiltern Farm Chemicals, De Sangosse, Lonza and Sharda Cropchem.

Visit www.getpelletwise.co.uk for more information.