



## Grandfather spraying certificates

Foresters born before 31 December 1964 who previously sprayed under the 'Grandfather Rights' exemption, have until the end of 2018 to take the "C & G Level 2 Safe Use of Pesticides Award". After the end of the year candidates will have to take full qualifications from the PA suite of specified certificates - a much more demanding examination.

This certificate is designed for those who have worked with professional pesticides but as yet have not taken a specified certificate, and assumes that as candidates have had previous training and/or experience to operate under Grandfather Rights, so takes less time and costs less to register than the

full pesticide awards.

It is only applicable for those using professional pesticide products on land they own or occupy so contractors staff must take the full PAi / PA6 qualification.

Candidates can either self-study using a work book or attend a training course to ensure they have the necessary skills and knowledge. Candidates will have to take a practical assessment covering knowledge and competence based on the equipment that they use to apply pesticides.

Details of trainers / examiners in England & Wales can be obtained from the Confor Pesticides Helpline.

## Timbrel Pro

The scrubkiller Timbrel lost its UK approval in November 2014, and since that time foresters have needed to rely on glyphosate for scrub control. For many species such as rhododendron and bramble, glyphosate will perform well, but other woody weeds such as gorse are not well controlled.

Triclopyr is also much more selective than glyphosate so is useful in situation where grasses are to be retained.

The manufacturers Dow Agrosciences (now merging with Dupont and renamed Corteva) have promised a replacement, (Timbrel Pro) which should have been approved for use in the UK early in 2016. But constant delays from the regulatory authorities in Belgium who have responsibility for processing the approval has meant that this very useful product has yet to appear. A further delay has just been announced with a new target date sometime in 2019.

Once approved in Belgium, the product will then have to progress through the UK regulator under the EC Mutual Recognition process which will cause further delays, And that is not the end of the process, as the approval will not include forestry, so an offlabel approval will then have to be applied for.

Adding this all together, means that it is entirely possible that the UK will have moved out of the European regulatory system before approval is granted, which could mean that the process will have to start from scratch under whatever regulatory regime is then operating in the UK - so the omens are certainly not looking good.

However, there is a possible alternative option - that of applying for an offlabel approval for another triclopyr herbicide, or one based on the similar compound, fluroxypyr. Many of these products exclude the use of knapsack sprayers which rather rules them out, and others contain aminopyralid which can be hazardous near tree roots making them also unsuitable.

## Hylobius control with Gazelle SG: Gazelle and counterfeit parallel imports

Acetamiprid is manufactured by Nisso Europe, and sold in the UK by Certis Europe BV as Gazelle SG, Gazelle and Insyst, but under other names in Europe.

When purchasing Gazelle SG you may be offered alternative products. These may be cheaper - but are they authorised, legal and certification allowable? Under EC parallel import regulations, any parallel import product may be used so long as the "reference product" has a label or an EAMU for the required use.

However, in 2018 counterfeit acetamiprid has been found in the UK - so how can we be sure that we have an approved formulation? Any fake product may harm the crop, be hazardous to the operator and environment and is unlikely to do the task for which it is used - so why take the risk? Instead, purchase only from reputable distributors who will have checks and balances in place to avoid inadvertently supplying illegal products.

Counterfeiting is big business worldwide - indeed in Europe is it estimated that

14% of pesticides are likely to be counterfeit materials and Europol's Silver Axe campaign has seized over 670 tonnes of counterfeit or illegal pesticides since 2015.

It is important also to understand that Certis has invested a considerable amount of time and money in the UK to gain this forest approval, and we should consider whether by not supporting them, and purchasing from a competitor is in the long term interests of the forest industry.



**The product on the right is genuine Gazelle SG, but that on the left, although packaged as acetamiprid, is actually counterfeit material which almost certainly will not work, and may harm the crop and the spray operator.**

**Parallel Import acetamiprid products in the UK. Sanguie has now been withdrawn by the HSE for non-compliance, and Pure Ace is similarly under investigation.**

UK Product	MAPP	Company	Source	Original Name	Formulation	OK?
Gazelle SG	13725	Certis Europe	UK	N/a	WDG	✓
Aceta 20	16919	Eurochemicals	Czech.	Gazelle SG	WDG	✓
Vulcan	16689	Pan Agriculture	?	Gazelle SG	WDG	✓
Pure Ace	18364	Pure Amenity	Germany	Mosiplan SG	WDG	✓
Sanguie	16042	Agroquimicos Genericos	Spain	Gazel Plus	WDG	✓
Antelope	18041	Gemini Agriculture	Spain	Gazel Plus	WDG	✓

**Acetamiprid products with no approval for use in forestry**

UK Product	MAPP	Company	Source	Original Name	Formulation	OK?
Gazelle	12909	Certis Europe	UK	N/a	WSP	X
InSyst	13414	Certis Europe	UK	N/a	WSP	X
Acetamax 20SP	15888	MAC-Gmbh	Germany	Gazelle	WSP	X



MEMBER SERVICES  
**Pesticides helpline**

Pesticides helpline is a free service operated by Confor's crop protection adviser Colin Palmer on behalf of Confor members. Colin can be contacted 8am to 8pm Mondays to Fridays on 01531 633500 (leave a message if necessary) or by email to: [branchline@xln.co.uk](mailto:branchline@xln.co.uk)