

Crop Protection Product Applications

BCPC believes that the proper application of crop protection products, where these have to be used, is of paramount importance. BCPC maintains an Applications Expert Working Group that has a wide representation to contain appropriate expertise.

Area of operation

To consider matters concerning the practical use and application of pesticides in crop protection and propose actions to improve application systems.

The Applications Expert Working Group assists the exchange of information on pesticide application between the chemical and equipment industry, users, trainers, advisors, researchers and others in order to promote developments of benefit to the crop production industry, its workers and the environment.

The practical application of pesticides

Undertaking a wide variety of multi-disciplinary projects, the Applications Expert Working Group:

- Reviews matters concerning the physical application of pesticide products for crop protection and growth regulation and proposes actions to improve application systems, including recommendations for research and development;
- Undertakes specific tasks such as the development of the BCPC Spray Nozzle Coding System and the associated International (BCPC) Spray/Nozzle Classification Scheme;
- Provides advice on application matters to official bodies such as DEFRA, British and International Standards and the Health & Safety Executive, and is represented on their committees which deal with practical application issues;
- Facilitates and/or promotes the exchange of information on application technology between agrochemical suppliers; equipment suppliers; research, development and advisory organisations, farmers, growers and others;
- Promotes the development of application technologies of benefit to the crop protection industry, the environment and crop protection generally.

Establishment of unique code and practical publications

This Group was the original co-ordinator of the BCPC Central Testing Scheme and devised the uniform BCPC Nozzle Code. This Code has become the industry standard not only within the UK but it has also been adopted, or used as a model, in many countries around the world.

Further work led to the publication of a series of practical Handbooks which have been adopted as core reference works in the training syllabus for the Certificate of Competence in the safe use of pesticides as well as being referred to within Official Guidance such as the *Code of Practice for the Safe Use of Pesticides on Farms and Holdings*.

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