

## NEW standard EC.f.3.1 Nematicide Stewardship Best Practice



There is a new standard being implemented under both the Crops and Fresh Produce standards on Nematicide stewardship best practice. The standard is being implemented in October 2019 under the standard code EC.f.3.1. The following document provides background to the standard, tips on how to comply and templates for the records required. The standard wording can also be found below:

| Sector     | Code           | Standard  | How you will be measured   | Record   |
|------------|----------------|---|--|--|
| FP & Crops | EC.f.3.1 (NEW) | Where granular nematicides are used, they must be used in line with the Nematicide Stewardship Programme (NSP) Best Practice Protocol (New) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Staff applying granular nematicides have completed relevant training on the Nematicide Stewardship Best Practice Protocol</li> <li>- The applicator is checked prior to the start of the season and on each working day to ensure all pipework is correctly fitted, the hopper bungs are in place and the hopper lids are secure. When the applicator is in use granules are monitored to check they are flowing correctly</li> </ul> <p>For Combinable Crops and Sugar Beet standards</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Applicators are fitted with a device in the cab which allows the operator to shut off nematicide granule flow at least 3 meters from the end of each row. In sugar beet crops the applicator must be able to turn off the flow of granules before the row end.</li> </ul> <p>For Fresh Produce Standards</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Applicators in potatoes are fitted with a device in the cab which allows the operator to shut off nematicide granule flow at least 3 meters from the end of each row. For all other crops the applicator must be able to turn off the flow of granules before the row end.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Record of attending ARTIS stewardship training, PA4G certificate or ARTIS on-line E-learning modules completed</li> <li>- Pre and during season applicator check record</li> <li>- Record of field checks post application</li> </ul> |

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|  |  |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Designated areas for filling hoppers in each field are used which can easily be checked for spillages. Spillages should be dealt with according to manufacturer recommendations and the NSP Protocol to ensure no granules are left on the surface</li> <li>- Treated fields are checked 24-48 hours after application for any adverse effects to wildlife. If any are found contact the Wildlife Incident Investigation Scheme (WIIS) and the granule manufacturer</li> </ul> |  |
|--|--|--|---|--|

**EC.f.3.1 Guidance and background**

From 1 October 2019, the best practice protocol issued from the Nematicide Stewardship Group will become an audited standard for Red Tractor’s fresh produce, combinable crops and sugar beet growers. The protocol has been an appendix in some of Red Tractor’s fresh produce crop protocols for the past couple of seasons and is already widely adopted by most growers. The standard gives clear stewardship guidance for the decision to use a granular nematicide and its subsequent application. Good stewardship helps limit the risk of impacting non-target species.

Emphasis is placed on simple, practical measures such as operator training, checking and calibrating the applicator plus an inspection of the crop following application. Patrick Mitton, Independent Chair of the Nematicide Stewardship Protocol, said: “The NSP promotes a responsible use of granular nematicides by providing clear stewardship guidance via a best practice Protocol. “By ensuring that growers and operators follow the guidance of the Protocol, Red Tractor Assurance is encouraging safe and environmentally friendly food production whenever granular nematicides are used.”

**Device to shut off nematicide granule flow**

The ability to stop application prior to turning at the end of a row has been a requirement by DuPont/ Corteva in association with Nematicide Stewardship Protocol (NSP) under the Guide to Best Practice since at least 2014. This has additionally required users to have a facility to shut off application from the tractor cab since 2016. Exposed granules may pose a risk to wildlife and a land-wheel continuing to turn after the applicator has been lifted out of work will cause product to be applied to the soil surface. If a member has an applicator which was produced prior to 2017, applicator shut off can still be achieved remotely from the tractor cab by one of the following approved systems:

- Electric clutch

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- Cable clutch
- Hydraulic land wheel lift
- Computer controlled drive

### **Record of attending ARTIS stewardship training, PA4G certificate or ARTIS on-line E-learning modules completed**

Under the NSP, operators have received additional stewardship training around granular nematicide use to complement their PA4G training. This has been further refined and developed via on line training units provided in association with ARTIS (NIAB) and free on line, with associated BASIS and NRoSO points.

More information on the ARTIS online training can be found here: <https://www.artistraining.com/e-learning>



**POST APPLICATION FIELD CHECK RECORD**

| Date of application | Date of field check | Time of field check | Bungs fitted and in tact |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|
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| Any other comments: |                     |                     |                          |

**Wildlife Incident Investigation Scheme (WIIS)**

**Report pesticide poisoning**

Please call the WIIS (Wildlife Incident Investigation Scheme) on **0800 321600** if you see:

- Any animals you suspect may have been poisoned by pesticides.
- Any spillage of a pesticide, particularly coloured seed, grain or pellets.
- Any potentially poisonous baits, such as dead animals cut open and staked out.

Please provide the following information:

- The location of the incident.
- The number and type of casualties, or suspected poisonous baits.
- Why you believe pesticides are involved.
- Your name and contact telephone number