

GROWSAFE Basic Certificate

Introduction

The objective of the GROWSAFE Basic programme is to recognise agrichemical users who are able to demonstrate a basic competence in the safe use of agrichemicals under supervision from a suitably qualified person.

The Basic programme is managed by the New Zealand Agrichemical Education Trust (NZAET). GROWSAFE Basic is a voluntary programme but it may enable employers to meet health and safety and/or regional plan requirements for training and competency. The certificate was introduced on 1 January 2018.

The Basic certificate is intended for those working under supervision. It is an entry level certificate suitable for those new to agrichemical use or those doing pre-employment training. The focus is on practical competence and there are no sector specific endorsements.

Achieving GROWSAFE Basic

The GROWSAFE Basic certificate is awarded by NZAET to candidates that can provide evidence that they have reached the required level of knowledge and competency.

Prerequisite

There is no prerequisite for this course. The practical competency requirement can be demonstrated post-course so those with no prior practical experience may attend.

Knowledge and Competency requirements

Knowledge of the safe use of agrichemicals

This module covers learning outcomes relating to agrichemicals and their hazard classifications, with a focus on the safe use of agrichemicals and ability to find key information on an agrichemical label.

Practical Competency

Key learning outcomes of this module are basic competence in the use of spray equipment, safe and accurate mixing, appropriate use of PPE, cleanup and disposal.

Course delivery

GROWSAFE's policy is that the Basic course must be delivered through a face-to-face teaching method. However, there is flexibility in how the course is delivered.

- A one day course (eg 9am – 3pm)
- Several shorter sessions (eg 2 x 3 hr sessions).

Only GROWSAFE accredited trainers may deliver this course and they must use GROWSAFE developed resources unless an alternative agreement has been negotiated.

Courses may be public ie any eligible individual may attend or private ie run for an organisation's own employees. That latter course enables site-specific training to be undertaken in addition to general training.

Assessments

Written assessment

The most up-to-date version of the GROWSAFE Basic assessment must be used. It is marked by the trainer.

The assessment requires candidates to find key information on a label provided by the trainer. An 80% pass mark is sufficient. Where answers are not sufficiently accurate or complete, a trainer may seek additional information via a conversation with the trainee or may request that the question or a similar one be answered again and resubmitted for marking.

Practical requirements

Practical competency is demonstrated by active participation in the on-course practical exercises (as assessed by the trainer). These assessments may be formative, rather than summative, in nature.

Additionally, the trainee must provide one completed spray diary along with a GROWSAFE Verification of Practical Competency form completed by an independent 3rd party eg manager, supervisor, farm consultant for the same event, and including the basis on which the 3rd party is qualified to make this assessment.

Unit standards

There are no unit standards associated with this course although unit standard 27215 may be appropriate. If a trainer or training provider wishes to attach unit standards to this course, they may do so. However, it will be their responsibility to ensure that the assessment and evidence collected meets the requirements of NZQA. Copies of any assessments delivered on a GROWSAFE course, whether in place of or additional to the

official GROWSAFE assessment must be approved by NZAET before use. Course length is likely to need to be extended if additional assessment is included.

Endorsements

A small number of endorsements are available for this certificate:

- Reader/Writer

Details of endorsements are to be written on the certificate.

Additional endorsements may be available in the future or on request.

Recognition of prior learning

Recognition of prior learning (RPL) may be considered when an individual feels they have reached the required level of competency through an alternative pathway.

Individuals wishing to have alternative learning or qualifications recognised need to provide details of that training to NZAET management. Overseas certificates or experience may be considered for the GROWSAFE Basic certificate.

Timeframes

Given the nature of the assessment, it is expected that all assessment (written and practical) is completed within 3 months of the course. Extensions of timeframes for completion are at the discretion of NZAET.

Renewal of GROWSAFE Basic

The GROWSAFE® Basic certificate is valid for 5 years from the date of completion of practical and written assessments (often the date of the course). Basic certification must be renewed every 5 years, before the expiry date. Otherwise the status of the registration will change to “suspended”.

Expired certificates can be renewed or reissued depending on the length of time since expiry:

Expiry period is	
Less than 12 months	No remedial actions are required for renewal – generic renewal course only required.
More than 12 months	A full course is required rather than renewal. The certificate is re-issued rather than renewed.

Extensions of registration validity are at the discretion of NZAET management but will not be more than 12 months.

Renewal requirements

Basic certificates can be renewed in a number of ways:

- Participation in a GROWSAFE-Basic course and successfully completing the assessment
- Evidence of on-the-job training from a holder of a current GROWSAFE Advanced certificate¹.

Alternatively, an individual may choose to progress to the GROWSAFE Standard certificate.

Notification to the candidate

It is the responsibility of the Basic certificate holder to monitor their own status (including expiry dates) and to participate in the renewal process.

NZAET will notify each candidate in writing and at least two months in advance of the expiry of their registration. The notification will include:

- notification of their certificate number and expiry date
- instructions and advice regarding the renewal process.

Certified Handler

It is not envisaged that a holder of the Basic certificate would be at the appropriate level to obtain a Certified Handler certificate.

Transition to/from other GROWSAFE certificates

Current holders of the Introductory certificate will not automatically transfer to the Standard certificate when they renew but will be required to pass the Standard renewal assessment. If they do not successfully complete the renewal assessment, their certificate will be renewed at the Basic level.

Alternatively, they can opt to renew at the Basic level if this is more appropriate and sit a Basic renewal assessment.

¹ Not yet implemented.

Other

General GROWSAFE policies and procedures apply to this certificate. These include policies and procedures relating to

- Privacy
- Data management
- Suspensions, terminations and complaints
- Trainer accreditation
- Certificate issue.

Associated Documents

- Learning outcomes for GROWSAFE Basic certificate
- Resources for course – powerpoint, tutor notes, workbook, assessment, marking schedule, storage activity
- Certificate: Basic

GROWsafe

START

Are you responsible for a workplace or managing spraying?

NO

LEGAL REQUIREMENTS
General Training

RECOMMENDED TRAINING
Growsafe Basic

YES

Do you use class 6.1A or 6.1B products?

NO

Do you use class 9.1A, 9.2A, 9.3A or 9.4A products EITHER with airblast, boom sprayer or handgun OR near water or sensitive habitats?

NO

LEGAL REQUIREMENTS
General Training

RECOMMENDED TRAINING
Growsafe Standard

YES

Do you use class 9.1A, 9.2A, 9.3A or 9.4A products EITHER with airblast, boom sprayer or handgun OR near water or sensitive habitats?

NO

LEGAL REQUIREMENTS
Certified Handler AND Qualified Person

Transition Approved Handler until it expires

RECOMMENDED TRAINING
Growsafe Standard PLUS additional requirements for Certified Handler

LEGAL REQUIREMENTS
Certified Handler

Transition Approved Handler until it expires

YES

LEGAL REQUIREMENTS
Qualified Person

Transition Approved Handler until 31/12/2019 or expiry date (whichever is later) if current at 30/11/17

RECOMMENDED TRAINING
Growsafe Standard