

GROWSAFE Standard Certificate

Introduction

The objective of the GROWSAFE Standard programme is to recognise agrichemical users who are able to demonstrate a competence in the use of agrichemicals within a specific sector, including adherence to the principles and contents of the New Zealand Standard, NZS8409 Management of Agrichemicals and sector guidelines.

The Standard programme is managed by the New Zealand Agrichemical Education Trust (NZAET). It replaced the Introductory certificate on 1 January 2018.

GROWSAFE Standard is a voluntary programme.

The Standard certificate is intended for those working independently with responsibility for a single site/property (PCBU) and may have responsibility for supervising/managing others. They are likely to be operating in a known set of circumstances eg one location, one crop and/or equipment type (or operating under the supervision of someone with an Advanced or RCA certificate).

In most instances, the Standard certificate is a prerequisite for GROWSAFE's higher level programmes.

Achieving GROWSAFE Standard

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

Prerequisite

The GROWSAFE Basic certificate (or equivalent knowledge) plus one season's spraying experience is a prerequisite for this course. The course tutors will assume all trainees have a basic level of knowledge of agrichemicals and their use so they can focus on new, higher level material.

In special circumstances, a trainer may give an exemption to the prerequisite to enable a trainee to attend the course. However, the certificate will not be awarded until both written and practical competency is demonstrated. A record of such exemptions must be kept by the trainer. In such circumstances, a trainer is likely to require some pre-work or pre-reading by the trainee.

Knowledge and Competency requirements

Knowledge of the safe use of agrichemicals

This module covers learning outcomes relating to the core information within NZS8409 and relevant legislation and regulations, with a focus on compliance and the safe use of agrichemicals.

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 Standard course must be delivered through a face-to-face teaching method. However, there is flexibility in how the course is delivered.

- One day course
- Several shorter sessions (eg 2 x 3 hour sessions plus assessment)
- Over a longer period of time built into a bigger course eg Certificate of Horticulture.

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. The latter course enables site-specific training to be undertaken in addition to general training.

Assessments

Written assessment

The current version of the GROWSAFE assessment must be used. It is marked by the trainer.

All answers are required to be answered correctly. 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.

Where a trainee has difficulty with writing, it is acceptable for the trainer to accept verbal responses. Responses must be documented, and the assistance provided must be noted on the assessment.

Practical requirements

Evidence is required on an individual's ability to implement the theoretical knowledge gained in class. Specifically, an individual needs to demonstrate their ability to manage agrichemicals in accordance with the label requirements and the relevant law/regulations/NZS8409.

The best form of assessment is observation by a trained assessor of an individual undertaking a real-life spraying activity, with details documented. However, this is unlikely to be feasible in most cases. So, the following alternatives are acceptable:

1. Copy of workplace inventory plus provision of 8 completed spray diaries covering 8 independent spray events (ie different date, place, or agrichemical) with sign-off from an independent third party eg manager, or where there are less than 8 spray events per season, a season's spray diaries. Note: up to 4 of the spray diaries may be animal remedy applications for someone operating in the agriculture sector.
2. Copy of workplace inventory plus practical demonstration of skill in a simulated workplace or teaching environment using real agrichemical eg on vineyard/farm owned by the educational institute. This must be documented.
3. Copy of workplace inventory plus detailed questioning of an individual covering a number of scenarios and case studies ie professional conversation. This must be documented or recorded.
4. Copy of workplace inventory plus detailed questioning of the candidate's employer or supervisor. This must be documented or recorded.

Unit standards

There is no requirement for a trainer to offer unit standards for this certificate. However, this must be advised in writing to trainees prior to the course.

The primary unit standard related to this course is 21563 *Demonstrate knowledge of the HSNO Act, and NZS8409:2004 for the use of agrichemicals*¹. The written assessment is designed to meet the NZQA requirements for demonstration of competency.

Unit standards 27215 or 27216 may be awarded if evidence of practical competency is obtained. Note that it is the responsibility of the training provider submitting the units to NZQA to ensure that the evidence collected meets the requirements of NZQA.

Non-Achievement

In the event a trainee attending a course is unable to demonstrate the level of competency required to obtain the GROWSAFE Standard certificate, the trainer (at their discretion) may

¹ Under review as at December 2017.

award the GROWSAFE Basic certificate. Careful screening at the pre-enrolment stage should minimise the frequency of this occurring.

Endorsements

There are no endorsements available for this certificate:

Additional endorsements may be available in the future or on request. Details of any such endorsements are to be written on the certificate.

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 qualifications will not be considered for the GROWSAFE Standard certificate due to requirement for knowledge of New Zealand’s regulatory framework.

Timeframes

All assessment requirements must be completed within 12 months of the course date. Extensions of timeframes for completion are at the discretion of NZAET.

Renewal of GROWSAFE Standard

The GROWSAFE® Standard certificate is valid for 5 years from the date of completion of both written and practical assessments (often the date of the course). Standard certification must be renewed every 5 years, before the expiry date. Otherwise the status of the registration will change to “expired”. 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 expiry date are at the discretion of NZAET management but will not be more than 12 months.

Renewal requirements

Standard certificates can be renewed in a number of ways:

- Participation in a GROWSAFE approved renewal course and successfully completing a renewal assessment
- Online renewal assessment gaining 80% pass rate.

Notification to the candidate

It is the responsibility of the Standard 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 Recertification

Some candidates renewing their Standard certificate will also want renewal of their Certified Handler (previously Approved Handler) certificate. Additional questions in the assessment (written and online) are expected to meet the Compliance Certifier requirements for knowledge² but additional evidence of practical competency will be required.

Downgrades

Where an individual has held a higher level of GROWSAFE certification, they can, on the expiry of that certificate, revert to a Standard certificate by completing the renewal process for the Standard certificate.

Transition

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.

² Subject to confirmation from Test Certifiers and WorkSafe

Other

General GROWSAFE policies 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 Standard certificate
- Resources – manual, tutor resources including powerpoint, assessment (initial and renewal), marking schedule (initial and renewal)
- Certificate: Standard.

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