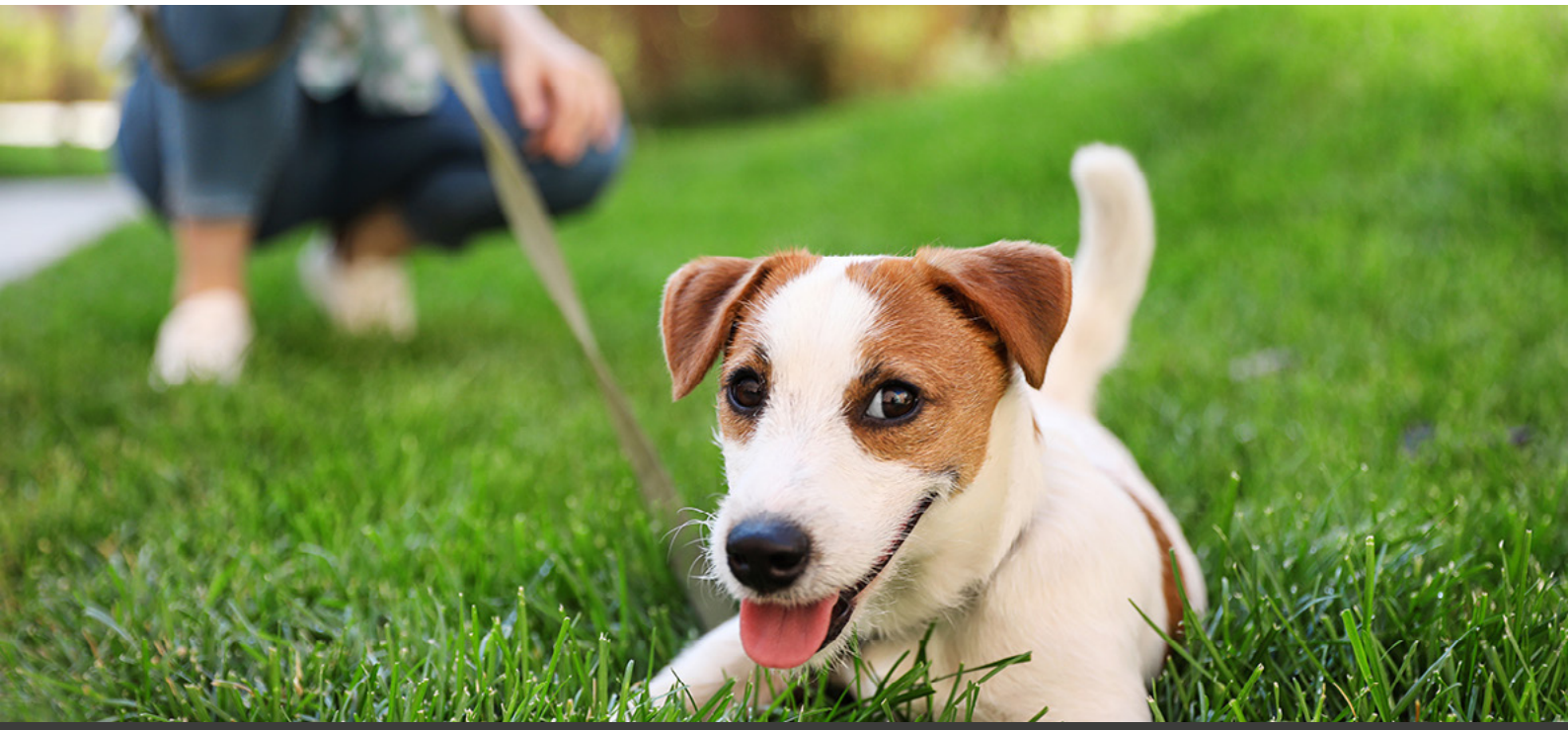
JAPANESE KNOTWEED™ TO BE IGNORED

ENVIRONMENT CONTROLS PART OF JKL

INVASIVE WEED CONTROL
AQUATIC WEED CONTROL
AMENITY WEED MANAGEMENT
CONTAMINATED GROUND REMOVAL



PUBLIC & ENVIRONMENTAL SAFETY

Japanese Knotweed Ltd & Environment Controls

NATIONAL SPECIALIST CONTROL SERVICES

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MANAGEMENT PLAN | SURVEY | TREATMENT | REMOVAL | TRAINING RESOURCES

HEALTH & SAFETY FIRST

Japanese Knotweed Ltd has established itself as one of the industry leading companies in the remediation of Japanese knotweed. Providing Surveys and Knotweed Management Plans, including services for chemical treatment programmes and excavation methods. All provided with the option of Insurance Backed Guarantees.

We are a BASIS Amenity Assured and Amenity Standard Compliant Contractor. The Amenity Assured standard has been developed by key UK organisations which have the responsibility to address the concerns of government, local authorities, and many other amenity organisations with regard to amenity weed control.

The aim of the standard is to:

- Set standards
- Audit contractor performance
- Certificate staff and businesses
- Award on merit the associated qualifications

To comply with legislation, all weed control operatives must have:

- PA1 Handling of pesticides
- PA2 Boom applicator

And / or

- PA6 Handheld applicator
- PA6 AW

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Environment Controls (a trading name of Japanese Knotweed Ltd), provides specialist control services for; Invasive Native and Non-Native Weeds (INNS), aquatic weeds, invasive species, amenity weed management, and removal of asbestos contaminated soils.

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THE PUBLIC'S QUESTIONS ANSWERED

Our website covers most frequently asked questions on a dedicated page which is updated on a regular basis. https://environmentcontrols.co.uk/resources/public-and-environmental-safety/

Here are the most common questions and answers:

Is Glyphosate poisonous?

There are no risks of concern to human health from exposure to glyphosate. As long as Glyphosate products are used according to label directions for use, they do not result in risks to humans according to a scientific opinion published by the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA)

Are children more sensitive to Glyphosate?

There is no indication that children are more sensitive to Glyphosate.

Can I walk past operatives spraying on footpaths or open spaces?

No. To keep the public safe we try to operate herbicide spraying in public spaces during lower use times of the day. We also avoid spraying near schools at peak times.

What speed do the quadbikes operate to?

The Quadbikes are not designed for speed. Quadbikes operate and spray between 3.7 and 5 mph only on pavements and can travel on the highway legally at 20 mph whilst not spraying.

How do you ensure staff keep public safe?

When pedestrians are encountered on the footway being treated, we stop spraying to allow them to pass with a minimum 5 metre buffer zone. Pedestrians will always have the right of way. We operate according to our company 'Code Of Practice' which ensures good practice whilst working on a client's land or property.

Am I safe to walk where you have sprayed?

Once the area is dry depending on the surface type and weather conditions, this may be as little as 10 minutes caution will be required not to get any herbicide on the soles of the shoes which could be transferred to sensitive areas such as grass. Once the area is dry no residue will be picked up on footwear.

Why do I see signage stating 'keep out'?

Where necessary, we will erect signage and fencing stating the area we have treated with herbicide should not be entered.

Are pets safe to use ground we have sprayed?

After 24 hours pets will be safe to use grassy or hard surfaced areas with no risk to their health. This is a soon as the product is dry on most Glyphosate products.

Are other species (such as bees) safe?

The herbicides that we use are carefully chosen to ensure there is no risk to the environment or the species living in the habitats within areas being treated.

How do we protect the environment?

Only approved herbicides are used, and always with a focus on the surrounding ecosystems to ensure no harm is caused by our treatments. If necessary (as with endangered species) we will choose a non-chemical control method such as hand-pulling.

Why do we ride quadbikes on footpaths and public spaces?

With amenity contracts (weed control on public footpaths, pavements, roads and residential amenity areas such as play parks and sports grounds) we are contracted to spray the full areas infested with weeds. With footpath contracts we are required to spray the full width of the pavement which may involve quadbike usage going up and down the road. Our operatives are highly trained to protect the public whilst spraying.

What happens after we do a treatment?

- Day 1 – we carry out the treatment.
- Day 7 – the herbicide will have moved into the root system, however the weed may not look affected at this point, rest assured the herbicide will be doing its work!
- Day 14 – the plant will begin to die back or may have fully died off at this point, appearing discoloured or brown and dried up.

Are we wearing the correct operator PPE?

Not all herbicide treatments require full PPE, so you may see us without full protective clothing or a facemask. When we do need to cover up all of our operatives are trained to know what PPE is required and are supplied with a full pack to use.

WHY WE TREAT URBAN AREAS

Weed growth on the Public Highway is unsightly and can result in damage to the surface of the carriageway or footway. It can also impede the flow of surface water into the highway drainage system.

Risks associated with the use of pesticides in amenity areas, such as parks, is specifically considered as part of the authorisation process. Legally enforceable conditions of use are imposed on the way products can be applied to ensure the public are not exposed to levels of pesticides that would harm health or have unacceptable effects on the environment.

Pesticides in amenity areas should be used responsibly and only as part of an integrated programme of control. They can help deliver substantial benefits for society which include management of conservation areas, invasive species, and flood risks; access to high quality sporting facilities; and safe public spaces (for example, by preventing weed growth on hard surfaces creating trip hazards), industrial sites and transport infrastructure.

WHAT IS A PESTICIDE?

Pesticides are a broad group of chemicals that include plant protection products, biocides and some veterinary hygiene products. For the purpose of this safety document, the focus will be on the use of plant protection products. Throughout this guidance document, the term ‘pesticide’ and ‘plant protection products’ will be used interchangeably, which covers a range of products that protect plants from pests.

Pesticides should be used correctly as the incorrect use of pesticide products can put people and the environment at risk. Plant protection products are used in an amenity setting to eliminate pests, protect plants, to make historic buildings and monuments more aesthetically pleasing and to improve accessibility for the public.

Plant protection products are designed to control organisms that are harmful to plant life. Pesticides can be very beneficial if used correctly as they offer a cheap and effective way of ensuring safe and sustainable amenity areas. Pesticides should be used as part of an integrated approach and always used following best practice.

WHICH PESTICIDE DO WE USE?

The popular herbicide to control weeds is Glyphosate, this has many trade names, but only certain Glyphosate based products are approved for amenity use and namely upon a hard surface for on or near water.

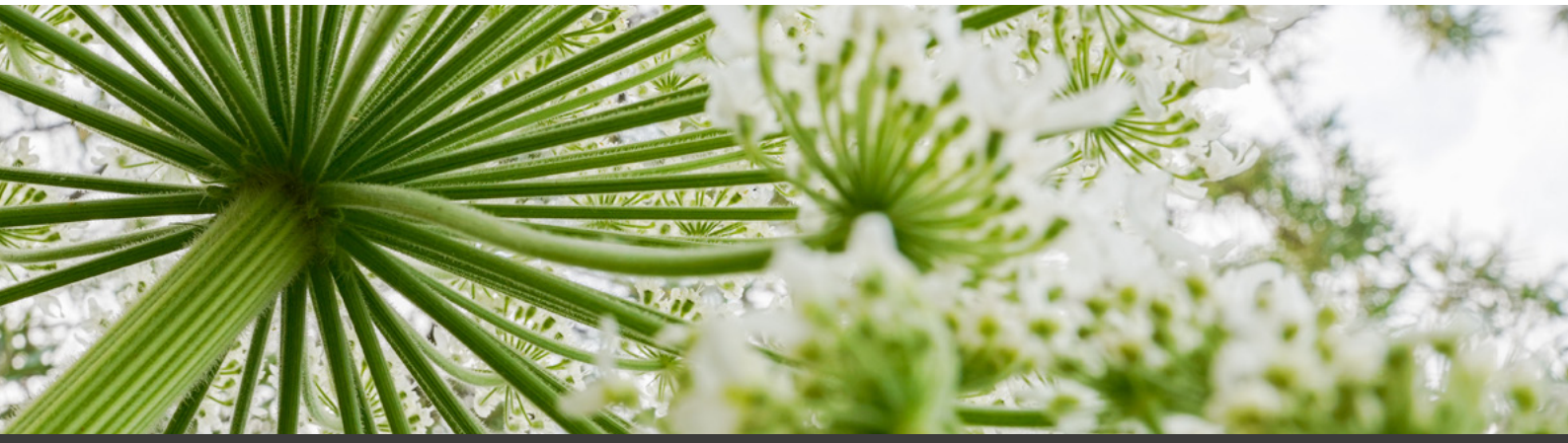
Glyphosate is the active substance in many herbicides and is widely used around the world. All pesticide active substance approvals are subject to periodic review and the approval of glyphosate has recently gone through this process. In November 2017, the European Union re-approved the continuing use of glyphosate from 16 December 2017.

Reviews of the scientific data by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) and the European Chemicals Agency's Committee for Risk Assessment have found no safety concerns that would prevent continuing approval, and UK scientists agree with this assessment.

The popular herbicide to treat these areas is Glyphosate, this has many trade names, but only certain Glyphosate based products are approved for amenity use and namely upon a hard surface for on or near water.

For that reason, JKL only use approved Glyphosate products for Amenity weed control.

- **Roundup Pro Vantage**
- **Gallup Amenity**
- **Gallup Hi Aktiv**
- **Barbarian XL**
- **Quartz Adjuvant**
- **Top Film Aquatic Adjuvant**
- **Firebrand Adjuvant**



HEALTH & SAFETY LEGISLATION

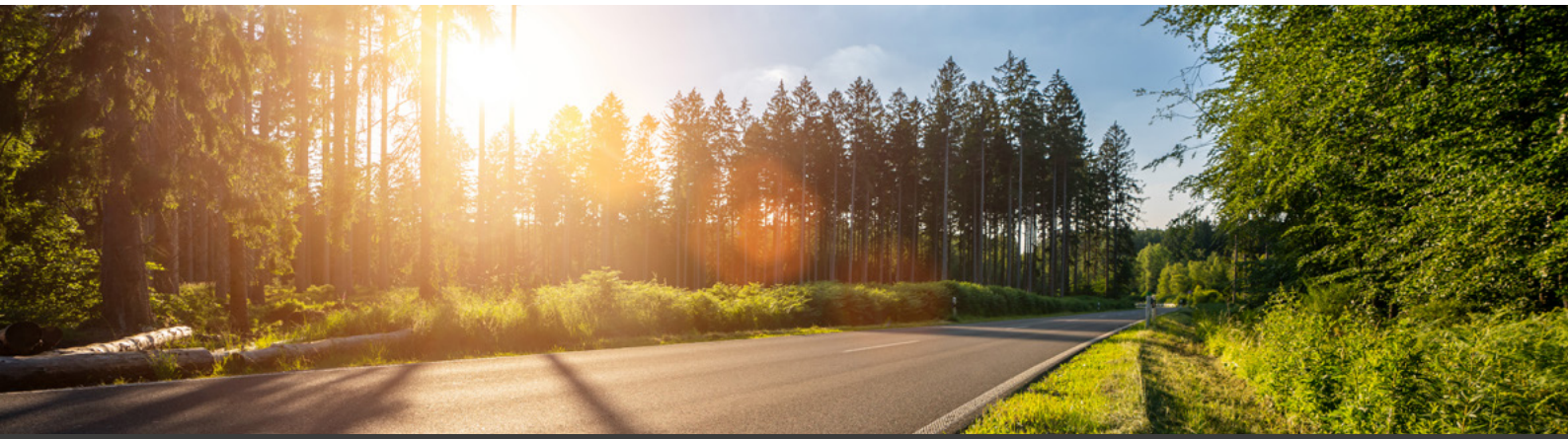
We ensure that the work is carried out in accordance with the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974, the Control of Pollution Act 1974, Environmental Protection Act 1990 and other relevant Legislation.

The Glyphosate herbicide that is used has a very low toxicity to humans, animals and insects and is licensed to be used in areas that are open to the public and their pets. On contact with soil the herbicide breaks down into harmless substances.

WORKING SAFELY

Weed control operatives are trained and hold PA1/PA2/PA6a certificates. Operations are covered by a detailed risk assessment and safe system of work. Operatives undertaking spray application works will adhere to the following:

- Safe Systems of work and Risk Assessments are to be followed at all times.
- Close fitting body protection and protective gloves are issued as requested and will be worn at all times and replaced as required.
- Eye protection and protective gloves will be used when mixing chemical and when carrying out repair work including the replacement or unblocking of blocked nozzles.
- Correct transport, storage and mixing of herbicides must be observed.
- Daily recorded checks of vehicles and spraying equipment will be completed
- Weather forecasts will be checked in advance.
- Machinery and equipment will be operated with care and accordance with manufacturers recommendations.
- Weed control operations will cease if the operator has any concerns regarding safety of the public or him/herself.
- Herbicide will be applied only at the recommended rates.
- Empty herbicide containers and other materials must be disposed of in the correct manner.
- Any incidents, accidents or near misses will be notified promptly and reported using the Incident Report Form.
- Pesticide Application Logs will be completed daily.



MAINTAINING PUBLIC SAFETY

When we are operating in public areas the following rules are followed:

- When applying pesticides in areas where the public are allowed to go you must make sure that people are not put at risk. To make sure people are not put at risk this means stopping if there is a risk to health either from the machinery or from the spray if people are using the land or right of way while you are applying pesticides.
- Public safety during spraying operations and when travelling between sites will be given priority at all times.
- Avoid spraying near schools at peak times.
- Always use the safest approved product.
- When pedestrians are encountered on the footway being treated, you must stop spraying to allow them to pass (min 5 metre buffer zone). Pedestrians always have the right of way.
- Should you, whilst carrying out spraying, be confronted with obstructions (parked cars, skips, bins etc), you should pass them by means of the road. Never pass by using private driveways or walking on grass verges/gardens – herbicides on your footwear will cause damage.
- Should you, whilst carrying out spraying, be confronted with areas such as town centres, shopping areas and school premises, or anywhere where pedestrian activity is high, carry out the operation at a time when pedestrian activity is low, i.e. early mornings, evenings or weekends. If necessary, leave these areas, make a note of the location on your map and treat at a suitable time. It may be necessary to seek authorisation from the client.
- Should you, whilst carrying out spraying, be confronted with road works, caution must be observed in case workmen are obscured from view. If in doubt, stop spraying, make a note of the location on your map and inform the client or your supervisor.
- Public safety during spraying operations and when travelling between sites will be given priority at all times

MAINTAINING ENVIRONMENTAL SAFETY

To ensure minimal effects on the environment we adhere to the following procedures:

- Only approved pesticides to be used meeting both field of use and mode of action criteria.
- Watch for changes in the wind speed and direction; if necessary, change your spray programme to avoid drift onto non-target areas or stop spraying until suitable conditions return.
- Ideal spraying conditions are a Force 2 light breeze (3.2 – 6.5 km/h) blowing away from sensitive areas. This would be a breeze strong enough to be felt on the face and to rustle leaves.
- Use nozzles which reduce drift wherever practical.
- Check the local weather forecast and adjust work accordingly. Do not spray if wind speed and direction would cause drift onto neighbouring property or sensitive areas.
- Ensure that the sprayer is calibrated; with nozzle flow rates within 10% of their speciation.
- Empty pesticide containers are triple rinsed and stored awaiting collection by a licensed waste contractor.

RECORD KEEPING

With the implementation of the Sustainable Use Directive, it has been established that there should be a full record of the lifecycle of a pesticide product, from purchasing, storage, use and disposal. Records are required to ensure:

- Traceability – all pesticides use/spillage/disposal should have a written record.
- Accountability – to ensure that all workers are using good working practices and keeping a record of the tasks that they perform.
- Provision of information – in case of an emergency.
- Stock management – to have a written record of the exact quantity of product in the store, the amount used and disposed of, which should account for all pesticides from supply to disposal. This will also prevent over purchasing products and excess stock.
- Legal obligations – to comply with the Sustainable Use Directive and the National Action Plan.
- Internal auditing - help identify areas for action/improvement, to demonstrate compliance.

SAFETY PROCEDURES

EMERGENCY INFORMATION

All pesticides users should be aware of the emergency procedures in the case of an incident, accident or emergency involving pesticides.

A list of personnel to call in an emergency (e.g., first aider, fire warden) should be displayed in a location that is accessible for all workers.

Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) for pesticides should be stored in the vicinity of the pesticide storage area in case of emergency as there is specific information on the MSDS's for emergency procedures for each pesticide product.

DEALING WITH SPILLAGES

- Get other people and animals away from affected area.
- Take steps to contain the spill.
- Let other people know, such as the Environment Agency (in Scotland, the Scottish Environment Protection Agency and in Northern Ireland, the Department of the Environment), the local Pollution Prevention Officer, the police, neighbouring farms and so on. Tell them what has been spilt, where and how much.
- Keep a spillage kit to hand including absorbent material (cat litter or sand not sawdust) brush, shovel, plastic bags and ties.
- Put on personal protective equipment (protective gloves, rubber boots, coverall and face shield as a minimum).
- Block drains if the spill might reach them.
- Liquids: firstly, put absorbent material round the spill, and then on it;
- Solids: sweep up gently (do not raise dust), sprinkle absorbent material and sweep carefully again.
- Collect all sweepings and any other contaminated materials (e.g., brushes, clothes, towels) in a strong, impermeable, marked container and dispose of using a licensed waste disposal contractor.
- Have a copy of the product label to give to any emergency services.

INCIDENT REPORTING PROCEDURE

1. RECORD

Record all incidents in a standard way for consistency and ease of use.

2. LOG

Provide a quick and straightforward way to log incidents.

3. ACKNOWLEDGE

Ensure all incidents are logged and acknowledged.

4. CHECK LEGAL

Ensure all legal requirements are met.

5. ANALYSE

Provide management information and trend analysis.

6. INVESTIGATE

Ensure incidents are investigated in a timely manner.

7. UPDATE

Ensure those who report incidents are updated with progress and outcomes.

8. ESCALATE

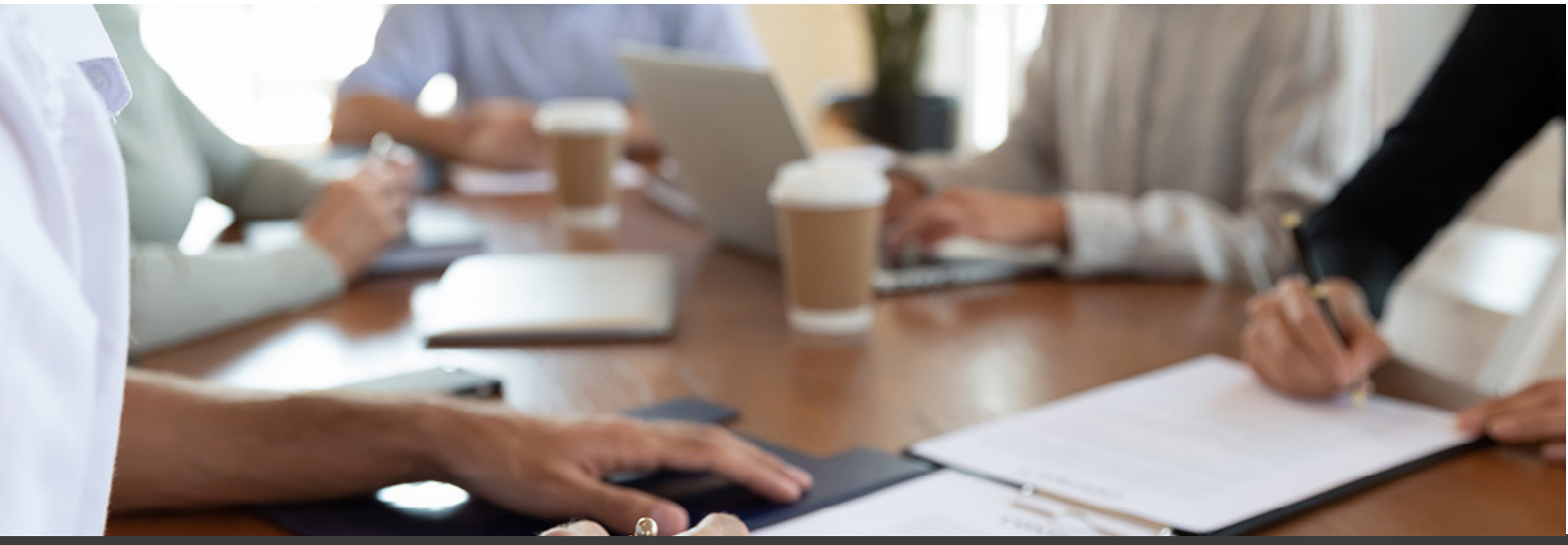
Provide standard processes for incident escalation.

9. INFORM

Provide Health and Safety officers with information and awareness of incidents.

10. CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

Encourage all staff to make suggestions to improve the business operations. Acknowledge and consider opportunities put forward.



LEGISLATION & ACTS

Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)

Section 14 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 makes it an offence, liable to a fine, to plant or otherwise cause to grow in the wild, certain specified weeds. However, it may be a potential defence to prove that all reasonable steps were taken to prevent these plants growing in the wild. Specified weeds under the Act include giant hogweed, Himalayan balsam and Japanese knotweed.

Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (England and Wales)

Section 215 (England & Wales) empowers local authorities to serve notice on owners or occupiers of land to control weeds that are considered harmful to the amenity of the surrounding area. Failure to take appropriate action may be liable to a fine, or alternatively the local authority may recover costs incurred in employing a third party to take the appropriate action.

Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (Scotland 2011) or WANE Act

Is an Act of the Scottish Parliament which introduced legislation to that country, affecting the way land and the environment is managed.

EU Regulation on Invasive Alien Species

Lists 36 plants. This legislation still applies in the UK. These plants should not be planted or caused to grow in the wild but in addition are banned from sale.

The Weeds Act 1959

The Weeds Act 1959 empowers the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) or its subsidiary bodies to serve notice requiring an occupier of land to take action to prevent the spread of certain specified weeds. Action under the Act is pursued by DEFRA specifically when agricultural land is threatened by these specified weeds. DEFRA may also elect to have a third party undertake any necessary action and recover costs from the occupier. Specified weeds under the Weeds Act 1959 are Spear Thistle, Creeping Thistle, Curled Dock, Broadleaved Dock and Common Ragwort.

Note: The Weeds Act was enacted to prevent a build-up of particular weeds that could have an adverse impact on agricultural production. The Weeds Act should not provide an excuse for the use of herbicides in amenity spaces and the public realm unless there is a build-up of weeds close to areas of agricultural production that are likely to have an impact on crop yields if allowed to spread.

PESTICIDE USE LEGISLATION

Strict legislation surround's the application and usage of pesticides these are covered by the following:

- Plant Protection Products (Sustainable Use) Regulations 2012
- Control of Pesticide Regulations (COPR) 1986
- Food and Environmental protection Act (FEPA)
- Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations (COSHH) 2002
- Water Framework Directive 2000
- EU Glyphosate License 2017