	Complete Weed Control	Revision 4
	Handheld Spraying Equipment ( <i>Knapsack</i> )	Page 1 of 5

Workplace / employee details	Details of work / activities undertaken	Assessed by	Action by
The company has static premises but also has company vehicles operating from it to work on customer premises.  <b>Customer/Site:</b> Minehead Town Council	Workers complete varying tasks dependent upon their role within the organisation and can include working on customer and their customer sites and premises.	Craig Brannigan	Complete Weed Control
		<b>Date</b>	<b>Review Date</b>
		31.01.2026	31.01.2027
<b>Revisions</b> 31.01.2026 Full Review			

RISK MATRIX	PROBABILITY				
	1 Near Impossible	2 Unlikely	3 Notable Chance	4 Likely	5 Almost Certain
SEVERITY	1 Insignificant	2	3	4	5
	2 Minor Injury	4	6	8	10
	3 Notable Injury	6	9	12	15
	4 Major Injury	8	12	16	20
	5 Death	10	15	20	25
<b>RISK SCORE OUTCOME</b> (Probability x Severity)					
Risk Number 1 > 8	Overall risk rating is low, standard precautions should be used				
Risk Number 9 > 12	Overall risk rating is at a medium level; extra precautions may be needed before you proceed				
Risk Number 13 +	Overall Risk rating is high, extra precautions <b>MUST</b> be put in place before the task continues, if nothing can be done, please seek a different method of carrying out this task				

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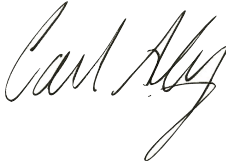
Activity	Hazard	People in danger	Initial risk			Control measures	Residual risk		
			L	S	Risk rating L x S		L	S	Risk rating L x S
General activities	<b>Slips, trips, and falls</b> Causing sprains, strains, or broken bones	Operator / others in close proximity	4	4	16	Information, instruction, training, supervision provided. Avoid hazardous areas – communication / pre-visit Inspect unknown area prior to spraying and walk area to be sprayed to remove obstructions and items likely to cause injury and incident by slips, trips and falls. Do not run, proceed with care, especially when ground conditions create additional hazards. Keep work areas tidy Wear appropriate, slip resistant safety footwear / wellingtons (PPE) with good grip soles. Immediately clean up any liquid spillages with absorbents and remove waste once soaked up into container to be disposed as hazardous waste by approved waste agent. COSHH assessment and manufacturers safety data sheet (SDS) provided to detail spill and disposal process.	2	4	8
General activities	<b>Moving traffic</b> Hit by vehicles causing cuts, bruises, broken bones even fatalities	Operator / others in close proximity, vehicle drivers	4	5	20	Information, instruction, training, supervision. Work when traffic volume is at its lowest. Stop and or control traffic whilst working if possible. Operators to wear high visibility clothing when working in traffic area Where risk is high a second person as lookout/traffic controller Erect suitable warning signs / barriers / cones / signage Stop work if traffic volume or behaviour exceeds safe level.	1	5	5
Pool, pond, lake, and other watercourse treatment	<b>Deep water</b> leading to drowning. Leptospirosis on the riverbanks.	Operator, persons in close proximity, aquatic life	4	5	20	Work with great care near deep water. Ensure that the work area at waterside is free from obstructions and trip hazards Do not work at a remote site alone where 'working near water' is a factor. If working from a boat, or in close proximity to water the operator must wear personal buoyancy aid Emergency procedures must be prepared and communicated – this must include the provision of necessary equipment and roles and responsibilities attributed in emergency situation Keep others at a safe distance. Cover all cuts with water proof plasters. If contracting flu-like symptoms, inform doctors about Leptospirosis risk. Carry an "At Risk" card if possible. See risk assessment "Pesticide application in or near water"	1	5	5

Activity	Hazard	People in danger	Initial risk			Control measures	Residual risk		
			L	S	Risk rating L x S		L	S	Risk rating L x S
Lifting and carrying	<b>Manual handling</b> Work related upper limb disorders, MSD injuries, back problems, sprains, and strains.	Operator / person assisting lift (where necessary)	4	4	16	<p>Avoid manual handling where there may be injury risk e.g. if suffering from back pain or injury</p> <p>Plan to avoid/minimise the need to handle manually.</p> <p>Store safely when transporting in vehicle to avoid spills, container punctures and movement. Substance to be in a container that it was specifically designed to be stored within, labelled to content and hazard in accordance with COSHH and CLP regulations and to have safe access to its storage when requiring to obtain it to mix with water prior to spraying.</p> <p>Ensure work area is free from trip hazards</p> <p>Ensure load is safe to lift (size and shape) and within the capabilities of the operator. Use more than one person where assessment dictates.</p> <p>Use equipment that reduces the size of load to be carried consistent with the job to be done and terrain to be worked on</p> <p>Personnel trained in safe lifting/handling techniques</p> <p>Use safe lifting and handling techniques</p> <p>Ensure knapsack sprayer fits comfortably with straps adjusted for the operator</p> <p>Fill sprayer on raised platform e.g. pickup tailboard</p> <p>Stand full knapsack sprayer on raised platform then put back against it and lift – do not lift from ground to get on back as the twisting action can cause harm</p> <p>If taking off a part-full knapsack sprayer lower weight on to raised surface – do not just drop off shoulders</p> <p>Take adequate rest pauses. Wear suitable strong footwear</p> <p>Purchase pesticides in pack sizes suitable for safe and easy handling. Carry out / refer to specific MH risk assessment / training</p> <p>Operators receive Manual Handling training which is refreshed periodically.</p>	2	4	8

Activity	Hazard	People in danger	Initial risk			Control measures	Residual risk		
			L	S	Risk rating L x S		L	S	Risk rating L x S
Spraying and equipment maintenance	<b>Equipment being used</b> could cause Burns or cuts. Ingesting/inhaling the spray could cause breathing problems.	Operator, maintenance, persons in close proximity	4	3	12	Maintain and operate equipment if full accordance with manufacturer's instructions and in accordance with COSHH / SDS. Wear PPE and RPE in accordance with COSHH. Only trained, competent and authorised person to use and maintain equipment. Suitable calibration regime by competent persons	2	3	6
Pesticide application	<b>Hazardous substances</b> causing, burns, toxic vapours, dermatitis and harmful to aquatic life.	Operator. persons in close proximity, aquatic life, animals, the Public, other contractors, client representatives	3	4	12	Pesticides are only to be used by certificated operators or those under the direct and personal supervision of a certificate holder. Spraying certificate must hold relevant units (e.g., PA1, PA6A, PA6B, PA6AW, etc) BASIS registration competence in place for storage with restricted and authorised only access. Information, instruction, training, guidance. The safest product or product formulation will generally be used and applied using the safest technique or equipment. COSHH Assessments and manufacturer Safety Data Sheets (SDS) available and issued. Compliance with the appropriate COSHH assessment. Maintain good personal hygiene at all times Keep others at a safe distance In aquatic situation ensure water will not be used for drinking or recreation until it is safe to do so Suitable and appropriate PPE relevant to COSHH assessment and activity / environment. See school specific risk assessment for spraying in schools.	2	4	8
General activities	<b>Working alone</b>	Operator	4	3	12	See risk assessment "Working alone"	2	3	6
Debris	<b>Asbestos exposure</b>	Operator / persons in close proximity	4	4	16	No operatives to handle debris in areas for dispensing. Client is responsible for moving and disposing of debris in areas requiring treatment – Asbestos management plan if needed Application to take place around debris. Operatives are not to stand on debris or attempt to lift / handle / break up discarded debris. Sole protection to be in place on footwear.	1	4	4

Activity	Hazard	People in danger	Initial risk			Control measures	Residual risk		
			L	S	Risk rating L x S		L	S	Risk rating L x S
Debris in working area	<b>Needlestick injuries / puncture wounds</b>	Operator / persons in close proximity	4	4	16	<p>Operatives must not handle needles – a grabber, tongs or shovel, etc. must always be used to remove contaminated materials. Wear disposable gloves and eye protection as a precautionary measure. Where a high risk or incidence rate exists, awareness training / Toolbox Talk must be provided prior to work commencing, to ensure operatives understand the dangers and essential safe working procedures required to prevent exposure. Where needles are found in public areas (roads, footpaths etc.), the local authorities must be notified – they will make arrangements for safe removal and proper disposal. Client is responsible for moving and disposing of debris in areas requiring treatment.</p> <p>In the event of a Needlestick injury: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage the puncture to bleed (do not suck the wound)</li> <li>• Wash well under cold running water with soap and water and cover with a dry dressing</li> <li>• <b>(Seek medical advice as soon as possible.)</b></li> <li>• Personnel who work in high-risk areas should have HIV inoculations</li> </ul>	1	4	4
Spraying near water sources or water ways	<b>Hazardous substances entering water ways, sewers or other groundwater sources</b>	Operators/ members of the Public/ Aquatic live	5	3	15	<p>Operator to be trained in application of product near waterways. Operator to cover/protect any exposed water sources when working near them. Operator to be familiar with COSHH assessment for the product being used. Operator to be aware of procedures to follow if there is an Environmental incident with the product during application.</p>	1	3	3

Dynamic Risk			Initial risk			Residual risk			
Activity	Hazard	People in danger	L	S	Risk rating L x S	Control measures	L	S	Risk rating L x S

Assessment provided by: 

Date: 27 April 2026

Assessment accepted by:

Date: