

Pesticide Use Notification Plan 2015

Introduction

This Pesticide Use Notification Plan has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Pesticides Regulation 2009 (the Regulation).

The Plan sets out how TAFE NSW South Western Sydney Institute (SWSi TAFE) will notify members of the community of pesticide applications it makes or allows to be made to public places that it owns or controls.

The aim of this Plan is to meet the community's general right to know about pesticide applications made to outdoor public places that are owned or controlled by public authorities. The Plan allows members of the community the opportunity to take action to avoid contact with pesticides.

SWSi TAFE ensures that pesticides are applied to public places in a safe, responsible manner, minimising harm to the community or the environment.

Definition

Under the NSW Pesticides Act 1999, a pesticide is an 'agricultural chemical product' as defined in the Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Code Act 1994 (Commonwealth), namely:

'a substance or mixture of substances that is represented, imported, manufactured, supplied or used as a means of directly or indirectly':

destroying, stupefying, repelling, inhibiting the feeding of, or preventing infestation by or attacks of, any pest in relation to a plant, a place or a thing; or

destroying a plant; or

modifying the physiology of a plant or pest so as to alter its natural development, productivity, quality or reproductive capacity; or

modifying an effect of another agricultural chemical product; or

attracting a pest for the purpose of destroying it.'

This Plan describes:

- The public places to which it applies
- The estimated level of use of campus grounds by members of the public
- How and when SWSi TAFE will provide the community with information about its pesticide applications in public places (i.e. what notification arrangements will be used).
- How the community can access this Plan and get more information about SWSi TAFE's notification arrangements.
- How future reviews of the Plan will be conducted.
- Contact details for anyone wishing to discuss this Plan with SWSi TAFE.

Public Places Covered By This Plan

SWSi TAFE operates at campuses throughout the South Western Sydney Region. This Pesticide Use Notification Plan applies to outdoor pesticide applications at the campuses set out in the Table 1 below.

Table 1: SWSi TAFE Campus Locations

CAMPUS NAME	ADDRESS
Bankstown	500 Chapel Road, Bankstown
Campbelltown	181 Narellan Road, Campbelltown
Granville	136 William Street, Granville
Lidcombe	East Street, Lidcombe
Lidcombe (Chullora)	Corner Muir and Worth Streets
Liverpool	College Street, Liverpool
Liverpool (ETC)	Corner Bigge and Moore Streets, Liverpool
Macquarie Fields	Victoria Road, Macquarie Fields
Macquarie Fields (Ingleburn (MBISC))	2 Austool Place, Ingleburn
Miller	Corner Hoxton Park and Banks Road, Miller
Padstow	Raine Road, Padstow
Wetherill Park	The Horsley Drive, Wetherill Park

SWSi TAFE uses pesticides for educational purposes and for campus maintenance. Table 2 describes the categories of outdoor locations where pesticides are typically used within TAFE grounds. Table 2 also provides an estimate of the level of public usage by members of the public of each area.

Table 2: Categories of public place and estimated usage within SWSi TAFE campuses

PUBLIC PLACES	REGULAR USER GROUP	LEVEL OF USE OF PUBLIC PLACE
Lawns and paved areas adjacent to outdoor seating	Students	High
	Staff	Medium
	Contractors	Low
	General public	Low
Lawns / grassed areas	Students	Medium
	Staff	Medium
	Contractors	Low
	General public	Low
Garden beds and landscaped areas (not lawns)	Students	Low
	Staff	Low
	Contractors	Low
	General public	Low
Horticultural and agricultural areas used for education purposes (greens, turf, gardens, nursery)	Students	Medium
	Staff	Medium
	Contractors	Low
	General public	Low
Exterior of buildings and ground immediately adjacent to buildings	Students	Low
	Staff	Low
	Contractors	Low
	General public	Low
Roads, car parks, pathways, external stairs and other outdoors thoroughfares	Students	Medium
	Staff	Medium
	Contractors	Low to Medium
	General public	Low to Medium

Notification Arrangements and Information Provided

This section of the Plan describes how and when the SWSi TAFE will provide notice of pesticide use in public places, including:

- General notification requirements for medium and low use areas on TAFE campuses
- Additional notification requirements for high use or high contact areas on TAFE campuses
- Additional notification requirements for sensitive areas or places
- Notification measures for small applications and emergency pest control

These notification requirements are based on the SWSi TAFE's assessment of:

- the level of usage of outdoor areas on campuses where pesticides may be used
- the extent to which members of the public who are most likely to be sensitive to pesticides (e.g. young children, sick, pregnant and elderly people) and are likely to use these areas regularly
- the extent to which activities generally undertaken in these areas could lead to some direct contact with pesticides (such as areas where food is consumed or other recreational activities that result in contact with the ground)
- type of pesticide used.

These notification arrangements apply to SWSi TAFE staff, contractors, external licensee of SWSi TAFE premises and anyone else using pesticides on SWSi TAFE campus grounds.

General notification requirements for medium and low use areas on TAFE campuses

The notification arrangements described in this section apply to the following categories of outdoor area, provided that usage is considered to be medium or low:

- Lawns / grassed areas
- Garden beds and landscaped areas
- Horticultural and agricultural areas used for educational purposes (greens, turf, garden beds and nursery)
- Exterior of buildings and ground immediately adjacent to buildings
- Roads, car parks, pathways, external stairs and other outdoor thoroughfares
- Any other outdoor areas of a campus.

Where usage of these areas on a particular campus is considered to be high then the additional measures in section 3.2 apply.

When applications will occur in low and medium use areas the following measures will be taken:

An email will be sent to all staff of that campus at least 24 hours before pesticide application occurs or as soon as practicable after the intention to apply pesticides is notified but before the application commences.

The email will contain the information set out in (b) below. Where applications are dependent on weather or other conditions the email will indicate the time period during which application is anticipated to occur.

Notifications to staff will contain the following information: – A statement that pesticide applications will be occurring on the campus during a specified date and time period

The specific location/s on campus where the application will occur

The full product name of the pesticide (including active ingredient if possible)

The purpose of the application

Any warnings from the pesticide label on how long the area should be avoided

A contact name and phone number for further information.

At least three (3) re-locatable signs will be placed immediately adjacent to the application area/s, prior to commencement, and kept in place for the duration of the application. Signs will be located so they are easily seen by passers-by. The signs will be removed once the application is completed, unless the period of avoidance required by the pesticide manufacturer is still current (in which case signs will be removed once the avoidance period has expired). The signs will contain the following information:

- the date and time of pesticide application
- the area to which the pesticides will be applied
- the full product name of the pesticide being used (and active ingredient if possible)
- the purpose of the use (for example, to kill weeds or insects)
- a phone number and email address for the person who can be contacted for further information about the pesticide application
- any warnings on the pesticide label about how long the area must be avoided after a pesticide application.

Where available and practicable, central noticeboards used by staff and students will have a notice in place 24 hours prior to the application occurring containing the information set out in (b) above.

Additional notification requirements for high use or high contact areas on TAFE campuses

The additional notification arrangements in this section apply to:

- outdoor areas where students or staff congregate for lunch or other social or educational functions, in particular lawns and paved areas adjacent to outdoor seating or eating areas
- At least two re-locatable signs will be placed in the area 24 hours prior to the application. These signs will contain the information set out in (c) above and will be located in high visibility areas within or adjacent to the proposed application location.

These signs will be kept in place for 24 hours after the pesticide application has been completed unless the avoidance period required by the pesticide manufacturer is still current, in which case signs will be removed once the avoidance period has expired.

3.3 Additional notification requirements for sensitive places

A number of sensitive places are located on or adjacent to SWSi TAFE campuses. These sensitive places are listed in Appendix 1 of this Plan.

In addition to the notification arrangements set out in Section 3.1 the following arrangements will apply when pesticide application occurs on or adjacent to sensitive areas.

The manager, principal or other contact person for the sensitive place will be notified in writing (or alternate contact method as nominated by that person) at least one week before planned use of pesticides in or near the area.

The notification will contain the following information:

- where the pesticide will be used
- the full product name of the pesticide that will be used (and active ingredient if possible)
- the purpose of the use (for example, to kill weeds or insects)
- the proposed date/s of use. Where it is not possible to provide a specific date, then a range of dates of when an application will take place should be given
- a phone number and email address for the person who can be contacted about the proposed use
- any warnings on the pesticide label about how long the area must be avoided after a pesticide application.

3.4 Notification measures for small applications and emergency pest control measures

SWSi TAFE uses small quantities of some pesticides for weed and insect control that are widely available in retail outlets and ordinarily used for domestic purposes (including home gardening). When less than one litre (or one packet) of such pesticides are applied on any given day, no notice will be given provided the following conditions are met:

- application is conducted using hand held sprays or baits readily available for domestic purposes at retail outlets
- application is not carried out within 10 meters of students or staff using outdoor areas unless students and staff present at the time of the application are advised verbally.

In cases where emergency pesticide applications are required to deal with biting or dangerous pests such as wasps, bees, venomous spiders, fleas, bird mites or rodents (that pose an immediate health hazard) one sign will be placed in the immediate area for the duration of the pesticide application and staff working in nearby buildings will be notified by email. The sign will indicate that pesticide application is currently occurring and will contain the following information:

- Name of the pesticide (and active ingredient if possible)
- Purpose of application
- Significant health warnings associated with the pesticide
- The expected duration
- A contact name and phone number of a person who can provide further information.

These measures only apply to emergency applications. When planned pesticide applications are carried out for control of insects the notification measures described in Section 3.1 apply.

Every attempt will be made to notify the contact person for a sensitive area prior to the small or emergency applications of pesticides in or near sensitive areas.

How The Community Will Be Informed Of This Plan

The SWSi TAFE will advise the public and relevant stakeholders of this Plan and its contents by:

- placing a copy of the Plan on the SWSi TAFE website
- Informing staff and relevant contractors of the Plan's requirements

Placing in notice in SWSi TAFE local papers

Placing a notice in the NSW Government Gazette

Future Reviews Of the Plan

This Plan will be reviewed every five (5) years or when circumstances require a review of the Plan. The review will include:

- A report on the Institute's progress in implementing the Plan considering the results of audits undertaken; details of any incidents or complaints received and the Institute's actions in response including potential improvement opportunities identified.
- Undertaking community consultation on the Plan's notification methods and implementation.
- In light of public submissions, making recommendation for alterations (if applicable) to the Plan.

If amendments to the Plan proposed by the review are not substantial, the revised Plan will be posted on the SWSi TAFE website and communicated in accordance with the Plan.

If a new or substantially changed Pesticide Use Notification Plan is proposed then SWSi TAFE will develop this Plan in accordance with the requirements of the NSW Pesticide Regulation 2009 and advice from the NSW Environmental Protection Authority.

Contact Details

To discuss this Pesticide Use Notification Plan and its implementation; or to obtain details of pesticide applications on SWSi TAFE campuses contact:

Manager Transformation Facilities
ETC, Liverpool College
Cnr Bigge and Moore Streets
Liverpool 2170

Appendix 1.

Sensitive areas on or adjacent to SWSi Institute campuses

The notification arrangements set out in Section 3.3 of this Plan apply to the following sensitive areas.

Sensitive Area	Location relative to SWSi College
Bankstown College Children's Services Centre French Ave, Bankstown	Located Bankstown College in Block L
LaSalle Catholic College 544 Chapel Road, Bankstown	Located adjacent to Bankstown College
UWS Childcare and University Narellan Road, Campbelltown	Located adjacent to Campbelltown College
Granville College Children's Services Centre Cnr of Elizabeth and The Avenue, Granville	Located Granville College in Block N
Granville Public School Cnr William and Lena St, Granville	Located across from Granville College
University of Sydney and University Childcare 75 East Street Lidcombe	Located adjacent to Lidcombe College
Liverpool Hospital College Street, Liverpool	Located adjacent to Liverpool College
Wombat Willows Early Learning Centre 30 Victoria Road Macquarie Fields	Located adjacent to Macquarie Fields College
KU Playford Park Children's Centre Padstow	Located adjacent to Padstow College
Wetherill Park Children's Centre Victoria Street, Wetherill Park	Located Wetherill Park College Block T

For more information you can email:

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