



Code of Best Practice

Pest Control Foot Personnel

Version 2. August 2020.

British Pest Control Association Code of Best Practice for Pest Control Foot Personnel

A BPCA Code of Best Practice is a set of written rules which explains how people working in our industry should behave in a particular situation. It encompasses relevant legislation but is not the law in itself.

However, were a member to act outside of the norms outlined in the COBP, they may be subject to disciplinary action or be in breach of legislation. Members must abide by Codes of Best Practice

in their day-to-day work. Failure to do so may result in disciplinary action up to and including dismissal from the Association.

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 01332 294 288
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British Pest Control Association

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In larger cities and towns there has long been a need for pest control personnel to carry out their visits via foot and using public transport including overground trains, underground train networks, buses and taxis.

As pest control work is diverse, it is necessary for a foot operative to carry an appropriate bag for the transportation of a variety of different products and equipment.



Transport for London COCs set out your responsibilities when travelling on the network.

Safety for the personnel as well as the people around them is of utmost importance, which this code aims to address.

Preparation

It is important that you take the time to plan the implementation of a foot personnel. You should ensure that, not only has the proper risk assessment been done, but that the work is also allocated to a capable individual with the appropriate competence.

Risk assessing

A competent person must complete a risk-assessing process, making sure hazards are identified:

“Safety for the personnel as well as the people around them is of utmost importance, and so this code aims to address this.”

- Who could be harmed and how?
- What are the associated risks to health?

Decide on precautions and then record and implement them.

Hazards for consideration should include:

- Is the load being carried appropriate for the individual (weight and mass)?
- Has the foot personnel received regular manual handling awareness training? The frequency of this training must be defined by your risk assessments
- Is the bag/container appropriate to support the load in a manageable way?
- Consider the material of the bag vs the chemical contents - can the bag contain a liquid/chemical spillage?
- Lone working
- Security of the contents
- Do the personnel use public transport - if yes, check local Conditions of Carriage (COC)?

Conditions of carriage (COC)

Different cities and towns will have varying COC. You should make yourself and your technicians familiar with what these are, particularly in relation to carrying pesticides.

The general expectation is:

- Pesticides need to be carried in a suitable container to prevent spillage on public transport
- You must have MSDS available
- Copies of MSDS may be digital or paper however, they must be accessible in the event of a third

party needing the information ie police, underground staff, etc.

Appropriate equipment and guidance

Your risk assessment, safe systems of work and planning process will determine what equipment and PPE should be provided/ carried. Examples are:

1

Suitable footwear.

2

Carrying bag of an appropriate size, volume, and padding.

3

Ways to contain any liquid spillages/ clean it up, for example, a spill kit appropriate for the bag size. We advise that liquid pesticides should be in a sealed, impermeable bag to contain any leaks (bund).

4

First aid equipment

Look at using a risk assessment and MSDS for guidance on what to carry.

5

Cutting equipment

Sometimes pest operatives may require cutting tools, so be sure to check local police advice on carrying sharps.

6

PPE/RPE carrying capability

Keep RPE clean and separate from pesticides.

British Pest Control Association

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7

Equipment and product register

Having a list of the items can help keep track of important materials and products, as well as serve as information to any potential emergency services personnel.

8

Product labels must be attached to any decanted pesticides.

Other considerations

It is recommended a company policy is created to cover foot personnel specifically.

Implementation

Ensure initial training and consultation is given to foot personnel, ensuring that all safety information is shared and discussed, equipment and tools are appropriate for the individual, and any questions or concerns are addressed. This should be recorded.

Ongoing and daily planning should consider precise daily workloads so that the carry bag contents can be planned for only the work at hand. Routes of travel, where possible, should also be planned.

If appropriate, a safe and secure storage location should be available nearby for any top up of products - this will help reduce carrying amounts.

Other considerations

- Only carry empty sprayers. You should make up pesticide preparations on site
- Carry the lightest possible load
- Keep the bag in sight at all times and do not leave unattended in public places
- Never carry a bag on one shoulder, this could cause long-term muscle injury.

Management and monitoring

Ensure regular consultations and meetings are arranged with foot personnel to ensure the continuation of safety measures and individual competence for the role. These should be recorded.

Manual handling awareness should be an integral part of foot operatives' ongoing training. Regular checks of carrying bags and its efficiency should be done.

A checklist should be devised and an appropriate amount of

recorded checks implemented (recommended every 1 month).

In light of the 2020 Covid-19 pandemic in the UK and around the world, regular reviews of any government guidance associated with public transport must be reviewed and shared with your employees.



The British Pest Control Association requires that its members meet a range of criteria including strict abidance to all of our Codes of Best Practice. You can search for our members on the BPCA website bpca.org.uk/find

BPCA makes strenuous efforts to ensure the accuracy and current relevance of its publications, which are intended for use by technically competent persons.

However, this does not remove the need for technical and managerial judgement in practical situations. Nor do they confer any immunity or exemption from relevant legal requirements, including by-laws.

If you suspect something in this document is incorrect or out of date, please report it to technical@bpca.org.uk.

Version 2: August 2020

Further reading

- Health and Safety at Work Act 1974
- COSHH Regulations 2002
- Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999
- Manual Handling Operations Regulations 1992
- Control of Pesticides Regulations (COPR) 1986 and the Control of Pesticides (Amendment) Regulations 1997
- EU Biocidal Products Regulations (BPR)
- Transport for London: content.tfl.gov.uk/tfl-conditions-of-carriage.pdf
- Local public transport Conditions of Carriage (COC).