HSE
Health & Safety Executive

PESTICIDE INCIDENTS REPORT 1999/2000



Field Operations Directorate Investigations
1 April 1999 - 31 March 2000

Introduction

1 This report gives information on incidents and complaints involving pesticides investigated by the Field Operations Directorate (FOD) of the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) between 1 April 1999 and 31 March 2000.

2 The report includes:

- statistical information on complaints and enforcement;
- a report on alleged ill health incidents reviewed by HSE's Pesticide Incidents Appraisal Panel (PIAP);
- environmental and other complaints not alleging ill health;
- case studies.

3 FOD's activity in respect of pesticide enforcement is not limited to investigation of incidents and complaints. FOD inspectors also provide advice and guidance to employers, the self-employed and employees during routine visits and to members of the public.

4 When investigating pesticide incidents and complaints, field professional staff are concerned with the health of people at work, members of the public who may be affected by work activities and the effects of pesticides on the environment. The investigation of incidents often requires expertise from the range of disciplines within HSE. Inspectors, specialist inspectors, Employment Medical Advisory Service (EMAS) staff and the Health and Safety Laboratory may all contribute. FOD staff also liaise locally with other bodies who have enforcement responsibilities for certain pesticide activities, including executive agencies such as the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAFF), local authorities and the Environment Agency, to ensure a consistent and co-ordinated approach.

5 This report does not cover investigations for which these other bodies are the enforcing authority. Products such as sheep dips which are subject to the Medicines Act 1968 are also outside the report's remit.

6 The report and details of individual incidents will be presented to the Advisory Committee on Pesticides (ACP) to inform the pesticides approvals process.

Statistical summary

7 During 1999/2000, 254 pesticide incidents were investigated by HSE inspectors. Of these, 83 alleged ill health and 171 were other complaints, ie where there was no allegation of ill health. The total of 254 incidents is the highest on record. It is also 29% higher than the average number of incidents over the previous seven years (197).

8 Figure 1 shows how the numbers of incidents and complaints compare with previous years.

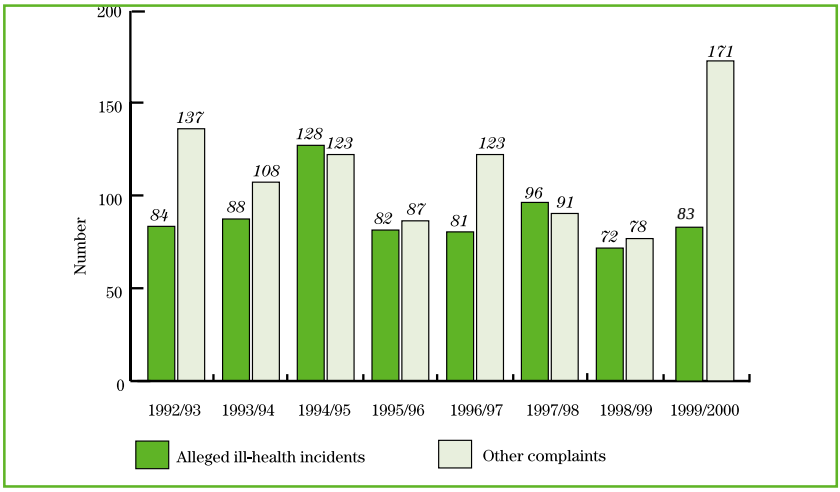

Figure 1 FOD Inspectorate alleged ill-health incidents and other complaints 1992/1993-1999/2000

9 The number of incidents alleging ill health has increased by 15% from last year's record low figure, but is still seven lower than the average over the previous seven years (90). A detailed analysis of these incidents is in paragraphs 18-36.

10 The number of other complaints (171) has risen by 93 (119%) from last year's figure and is the highest since records began. It is also 64 (60%) higher than the average over the past seven years (107). A detailed analysis of these incidents is in paragraphs 37-43.

11 HSE republished leaflet INDG 141, *Reporting incidents of exposure to pesticides and veterinary medicines* in 1999, in the expectation that the revised leaflet, together with the publicity surrounding it, would lead

to an increase in reported complaints. Additionally, there was extensive media coverage of pesticide issues during late summer and the autumn of 1999. Although the overall increase in complaints in 1999/2000 seems large, the three sets of data ('Ill health', 'General complaints' and 'Total') were statistically analysed separately, both with and without the last year (1999/2000) - a total of six analyses. In each case, HSE statisticians could not find any statistically significant evidence of any trend. Although there is considerable variability in the preceding ten-year period for 'General complaints', the 1999/2000 response is outside the range expected, and is clearly unusual.

12 The courts heard 30 informations (charges) during the year compared with six in 1998/99. The average fine imposed by the courts per information on conviction was £4691 for 1999/2000 compared to £930 for 1998/99.

13 The number of informations and average fine were influenced by a small number of cases during 1999/2000. Of the 30 informations, 17 were linked to another prosecution that is yet to be heard. Although guilty verdicts were imposed for each information, the defendants were given conditional discharges. However, these prior convictions were necessary to establish evidence to be used against the defendant in the principal prosecution.

14 In addition, following a single prosecution relating to offences on the Isle of Wight during 1997 and 1998, the Crown Court imposed fines of £20 000 in relation to each of 11 informations - a total of £220 000 together with prosecution costs. Seven of the informations were laid under the Control of Pesticides Regulations 1986 (COPR) (as amended) and the remaining four under the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 1994 (COSHH) (as amended). This case demonstrates the close relationship between pesticide and health and safety legislation and is reported in greater detail in the 'Case studies' section.

15 Inspectors also issued 154 enforcement notices under the Food and Environment Protection Act 1985 (FEPA) or COPR compared to 193 in 1998/99.

16 These enforcement figures are provisional and may be revised before publication in the Health and Safety Commission's 1998/99 Annual Report.

17 Inspectors also enforce pesticide issues under more general health and safety laws such as the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 and COSHH. However this report does not include enforcement figures for this legislation.

Alleged ill-health incidents

The Pesticide Incidents Appraisal Panel

18 HSE's Pesticide Incidents Appraisal Panel (PIAP) considers all incidents reported to HSE where the use of a pesticide is alleged to have caused ill health. The vast majority of these incidents are investigated by FOD and form the basis of this report. PIAP also considers a few other incidents each year which fall under the jurisdiction of other parts of HSE or of a different enforcing authority, such as a local authority. The numbers of these cases are mentioned in the footnotes to some of the tables in the report.

19 The main purpose of the panel is to provide an overview of alleged ill health attributed to pesticide exposure so that new issues and trends can be identified, and to inform the pesticides approval process. Appendix 1 explains the appraisal system and the constitution of the panel.

Summary information on alleged ill-health incidents for 1999/2000

20 Table 1 shows the cases submitted to PIAP for consideration which were investigated during 1999/2000, broken down according to the panel's assessment (using the classification scheme set out in Appendix 1) and the employment status of the people involved.

	Total		Employees/ self-employed		Members of public	
	Incidents	*(People)*	Incidents	*(People)*	Incidents	*(People)*
Confirmed	1	*(1)*	1	*(1)*	0	*(0)*
Likely *	9	*(15)*	4	*(6)*	7	*(9)*
Open assessment (i)	5	*(8)*	1	*(1)*	4	*(7)*
Open assessment (ii)	2	*(2)*	0	*(0)*	2	*(2)*
Unrelated	7	*(11)*	1	*(1)*	6	*(10)*
Insufficient information	13	*(16)*	0	*(0)*	13	*(16)*
Pending	46	*(107)*	9	*(53)*	37	*(54)*
Total	83	*(160)*	16	*(62)*	69	*(98)*

* In addition, PIAP assessed as 'Open assessment (i)' one incident which fell under the jurisdiction of the local authority.

Table 1 *Number of alleged ill-health incidents investigated during 1999/2000 and people affected analysed by PIAP decision and employment status*

21 Before cases can be considered by the panel, HSE seeks as much information as possible regarding the circumstances of the incident, the products used, and the health effects on the people involved. This process can take some time, particularly as consent must be sought from the injured people before information can be requested from the medical professionals who have treated them. While information is being gathered on these cases, they are classified as 'Pending'.

22 The panel assessed only one of the cases as having a 'confirmed' link to pesticide exposure (although some of the 46 for whom a decision is still pending may in due course be confirmed) and nine as having a 'likely' link. The confirmed case involved one person, an employee, ie whose pesticide exposure occurred during the course of his work rather than in a private or personal capacity. The nine likely cases involved a total of 15 people, six of whom were employees or self-employed people. The remaining nine were members of the public.

23 Panel decisions for cases identified as 'pending' in last year's report (including four carried forward from the previous year) are summarised in Appendix 2. Where decisions have been reached, these are included in the trend information and recent data presented and discussed in the remainder of this section. One case from last year (1998/99) and three from the year before (1997/98) remain pending. Consideration of the 1998/99 case has been deferred while further medical information is sought. The three cases from 1997/98 (which involve seven people) are all concerned with pesticide use at one farm - Mersley Farm, on the Isle of Wight. This farm has been the subject of an extensive HSE investigation into the illegal use of pesticides, resulting in the prosecution of the farm's owner. Further cases of ill health allegedly due to pesticide use at Mersley Farm are still coming to light as this report is being prepared and it is not known as yet how many individuals might have been affected. When HSE has gathered as much information as necessary for PIAP, all these cases will be considered in the usual way and included in future reports. At present, however, only the three cases originally reported in 1997/98 are included in the tables and figures in this report.

Overall trends

24 The number of members of the public and people in employment (employees, self-employed or employers) who were involved in incidents considered by PIAP in each of the last ten years are shown in Figure 2 (excluding a small number of cases where employment status was not recorded).

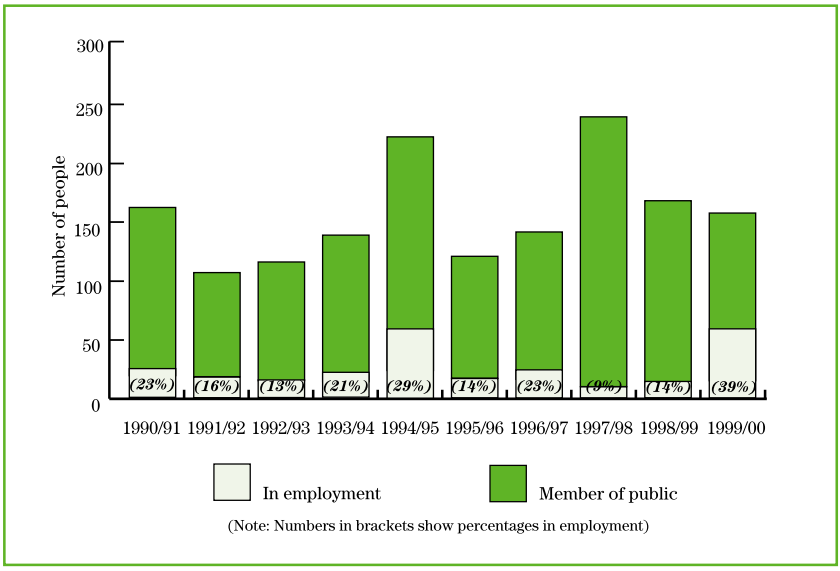

Figure 2 *Trends in employment status*

25 The chart shows that, as in previous years, the majority of people involved in pesticide incidents are members of the public. The proportion of those in employment has fluctuated over the past ten years and at 39% is higher than at any time in the past. This is mainly due to one incident, the decision on which is pending, which alone accounted for 33 employees. The total number of people involved in alleged ill-health incidents has also fluctuated greatly from one year to the next. Much of the fluctuation (for example, the high figures in 1994/95 and in 1997/98) is due to the occurrence of single incidents involving large numbers of people. The number of incidents reported each year is not so variable, as Figure 3 demonstrates.

26 Figure 3 shows the number of incidents each year, for the ten-year period from 1990/91, analysed according to whether PIAP classified the link between pesticide usage and the alleged ill health as 'confirmed' or 'likely', or came to some other decision; pending cases are shown separately. A review of PIAP in 1994 resulted in a change to the classification scheme so that the 'confirmed' category is now narrower. Accordingly some cases which, before 1994/95, would have been classified as ‘confirmed’ are now classified as 'likely' - but this does not affect the total figure for 'confirmed' plus 'likely' cases.

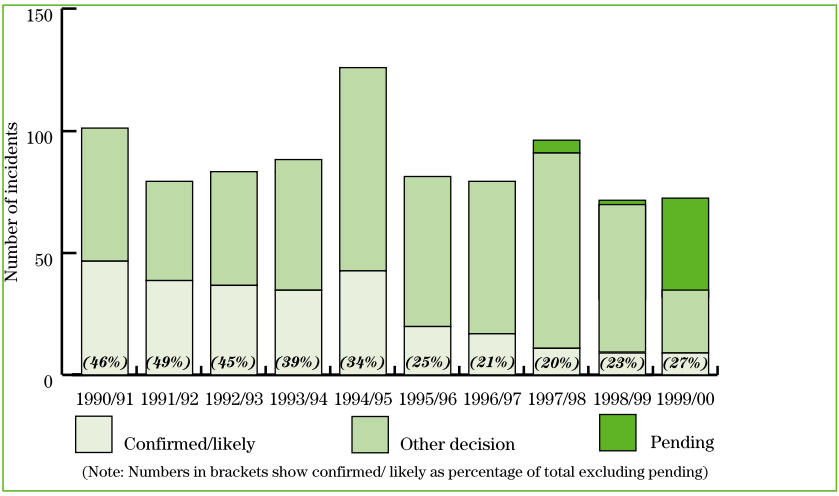

Figure 3 *Trends in PIAP decisions*

27 The total number of alleged ill-health incidents in 1999/2000 - at 83 - was in line with the average number of cases per year in each of the last ten years. It was somewhat higher than the 1998/99 figure of 72 cases although the number of people involved in these incidents was lower this year (160) as against 170 in 1998/99, as Figure 2 shows.

28 The proportion of total (excluding 'pending') incidents assessed as 'confirmed' or 'likely' in 1999/2000 is at 27%, currently the highest figure for five years although, as noted earlier, the decision on 46 cases is still pending and so this proportion is likely to change. For 1998/99 the proportion has been revised from 16% to 23%, as a result of the decisions taken by the panel during the year on incidents previously classified as 'pending'. The proportion remains considerably lower than it was in the first years of the panel. In the early 1990s, approximately half of the cases seen were assessed by the panel as 'confirmed' or 'likely'.

Recent ill-health data

29 Since 1994/95, the panel has also made decisions on the type and severity of the ill health experienced by people involved in incidents with a 'confirmed' or 'likely' assessment. Symptoms were recorded as 'acute' and/or 'chronic', 'local' and/or 'systemic' and their severity being classified as 'mild' (requiring no or self-treatment), 'moderate' (GP or hospital Accident and Emergency) or 'severe' (in-patient treatment). To date, none of the cases considered by the panel have resulted in chronic ill-health effects.

30 Figure 4 summarises the information on the nature and severity of cases for the last two years, 1998/99 and 1999/2000, combined. It incorporates the panel's assessments of 13 people involved in 11 incidents which were pending in last year's report but which the panel has since assessed as 'confirmed' or 'likely'.

31 The majority of people involved in 'confirmed' or 'likely' ill-health incidents in 1998/99 and 1999/2000 were assessed as having 'moderate' symptoms. Most cases are usually assessed as 'mild' but one incident in 1998/99 involved 48 people, for whom all ill-health symptoms were assessed as 'moderate'. This case was unusual both in terms of its scale and the severity of the ill-health outcomes. There does not appear to be a widespread trend towards increased severity of symptoms: eight of the 16 people whose ill health was assessed as 'confirmed' or 'likely' in 1999/2000 had mild symptoms while six had 'moderate' and two 'severe'.

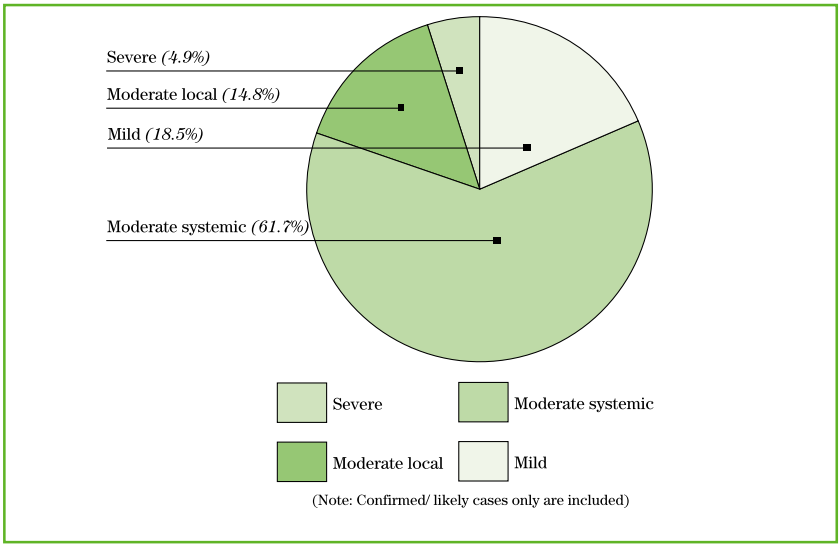

Figure 4 *Severity of ill health 1998/99 -1999/2000*

Recent and historical data on pesticides

32 For each of the pesticides reported to be involved in an incident, the database records the trade names and the names of the active ingredients. The latter are classified by *chemical type* (eg organophosphate) and *function* using the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAFF) Central Science Laboratory, for agricultural pesticides, and HSE's own classification for non-agricultural ones.

33 In last year's report there was a summary of the most commonly encountered chemical types and functions in the incidents reviewed by PIAP over the course of the ten years 1989/90 to 1998/99. Since then, HSE has carried out a review of the active ingredient data held on the database and, in particular, have added a chemical type for a number of active ingredients, formerly recorded as chemical type 'not known' or 'various'. As a result, figures for the last ten years have changed slightly, so the two charts (Figure 5a showing those actives involved in 'confirmed' or 'likely' incidents, Figure 5b showing actives involved in all incidents) are updated and reproduced below.

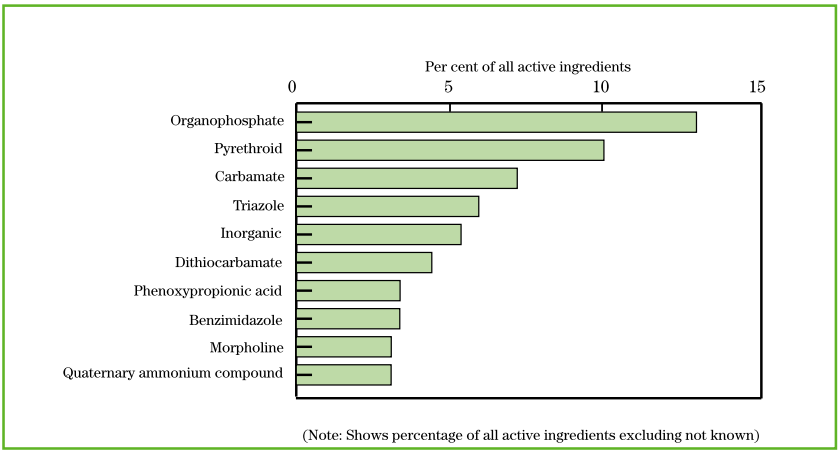

Figure 5a *Active ingredients involved in 'confirmed'/'likely' incidents*

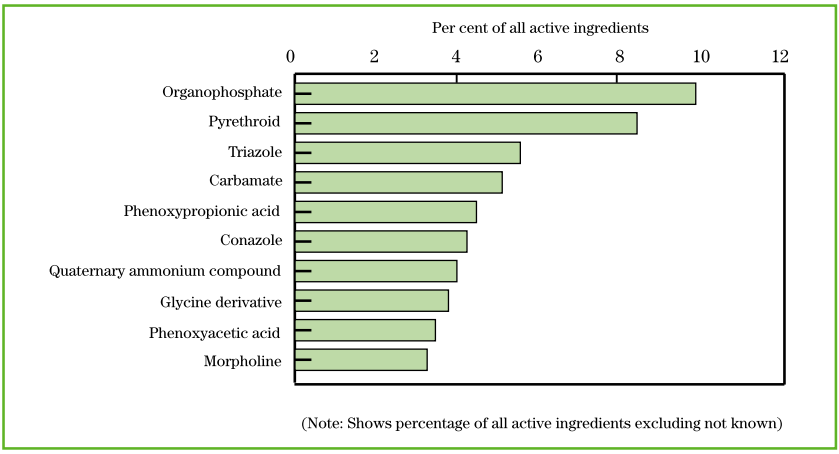

Figure 5b *Active ingredients involved in all incidents*

34 The relative significance of particular categories may simply reflect the fact that their usage is more widespread rather than indicating that they are more hazardous. Also, identification of an active ingredient in the report of an incident does not necessarily imply that it contributed to any ill-health effect: many pesticides include more than one active ingredient, as well as non-active co-formulants, and it may be that one of these was responsible. The charts show that organophosphates remain the most commonly recorded pesticide type although they only account for 10% of all active ingredients recorded and 13% of all those in confirmed or likely incidents.

35 Data on incidents assessed by PIAP involving organophosphate and carbamate pesticides are currently being analysed as part of the review of anticholinesterase compounds being conducted on behalf of the Advisory Committee on Pesticides by HSE and MAFF's Pesticide Safety Directorate. Over the past decade, there have been around 20 such incidents per year, the most common active ingredients involved being chlorpyrifos, demeton-s-methyl and pirimicarb. Information from the PIAP database on the nature of the incident, the severity of the ill health and the body system affected will be drawn together, along with data from other sources, to see whether any significant patterns can be identified.

36 Looking only at the data from the past two years, the most commonly recorded pesticide type was pyrethroid (11% of all incidents; 14% of 'confirmed'/'likely'), followed by conazole for all incidents (8%) and glycine derivatives and organophosphates (each 10%) for 'confirmed' and 'likely' only. This suggests perhaps a small movement away from the use of organophosphate pesticides. The most commonly recorded functions for pesticides were, once again, herbicides and fungicides which accounted for, respectively, 38% and 29% of all incidents and 39% and 32% of 'confirmed' and 'likely' incidents in the last two years.

Environmental and other non-health complaints 1999/2000

37 During the year there were 171 environmental and other complaints which did not allege ill health. This is an increase of 93 from last year's figure (78) and compares with an average of 107 and a range of 78 to 137 in the previous seven years. See Figure 1 and paragraphs 9 to 11 for statistical analysis of the figures.

38 Figures 6 to 8 summarise the number of complaints for 1999/2000, classified according to sector of use, work activity and method of application.

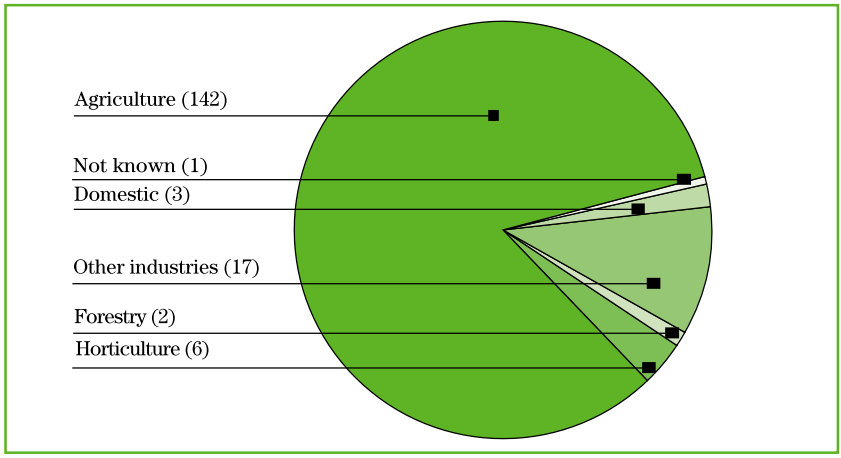

Figure 6 *Number of environmental and other non-health complaints 1999/2000: classified by sector*

39 Of the 171 complaints, 83% originated from the agricultural sector. 'Other industries', including the amenity sector, pest control and wood treatment accounted for 10% of all complaints. Horticulture, forestry and the domestic sector accounted for the remaining 7% of complaints.

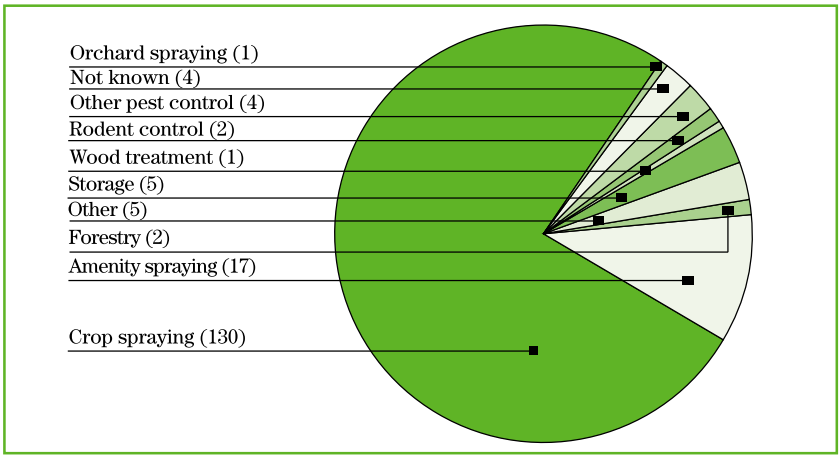

Figure 7 *Number of environmental and other non-health complaints 1999/2000: classified by activity*

40 Crop spraying accounted for 76% of all environmental and non-health complaints in 1999/2000. Other significant activities included amenity spraying accounting for 10%, rodent and other pest control for 4%, storage for 3%, with the remaining group of miscellaneous activities (including forestry, wood treatment, orchard spraying and 'other') accounting for a further 5%.

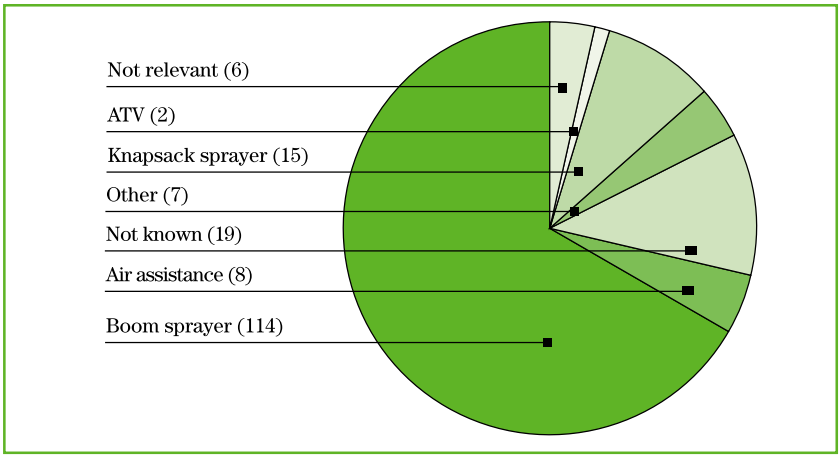

Figure 8 *Number of environmental and other non-health complaints 1999/2000: classified by application method*

41 Conventional boom sprayers were involved in 67% of all non-health complaints. Other application methods included knapsack spraying (9%), air-assisted sprayers (5%), and spraying using all-terrain vehicles (1%).

A further 4% comprised 'other' application methods (including brush and orchard blast sprayer). In 14% of complaints the application method was either not known or not relevant.

42 Despite the significant increase in the number of general complaints investigated during 1999/2000, the distribution of percentages within the various categories (ie by sector, activity and application method) described in paragraphs 34 to 36 are comparable with those in previous years.

43 Of the 171 complaints, 168 were reported by members of the public. Again, this is consistent with previous years where over 95% of all general complaints come from this group of people.

Case studies

As in previous years, a range of work activities gave rise to complaints about alleged ill health, environmental or other concerns in connection with the use of pesticides and to enforcement action by HSE, including prosecution. Previous reports have included a cross-section of HSE's prosecution activity, in the form of case studies. In doing so, HSE has neither attempted nor claimed to provide a comprehensive catalogue or overview of the complaints investigated or of the enforcement taken during the course of the year. Rather, case studies have been included to illustrate key issues and areas of concern, and so have previously concentrated on, among other things, matters such as crop spraying, storage, competence and training, the use of personal protective equipment and the disposal of pesticides.

The Statistical Summary to this report indicated that during the past year FOD inspectors had been involved in two major investigations, resulting in extensive enforcement activity, one of which is still proceeding through the courts. The second, relating to offences on the Isle of Wight during 1997/98 concerned the importation and use of imported pesticide products without UK approval and the use of pesticides outside the conditions of approval. In a departure from previous practice, the case studies this year concentrate on the Isle of Wight prosecution because of its implications in terms of the importation of pesticides, the use of non-approved products and the failure to maintain accurate spray records.

Statutory control over pesticides is implemented through Part III of the Food and Environment Protection Act 1985 and the Control of Pesticides Regulations 1986. The Regulations prescribe the approvals that are required in respect of individual pesticide products and allow for Consents setting general conditions on the advertisement, sale, supply, storage or use of pesticides. In addition to these general Consent conditions, a pesticide may only be advertised, sold, supplied, stored or used, in accordance with the statutory conditions of approval specified for that pesticide.

Applications for approval must be made in writing and in accordance with published procedures to the appropriate registration authority - to the Pesticides Safety Directorate (PSD) for agricultural pesticides and to the Biocides and Pesticides Assessment Unit (BPAU) (formerly Pesticides Registration Section (PRS)) for non-agricultural pesticides.

Separate arrangements are in place for the approval of imported pesticide products identical to UK-approved products. Under these arrangements, the applicant must provide evidence that the imported product is identical to a product already approved within the UK. When an approval is issued, the approval holder is required as a condition of approval to maintain specified records of importation etc.

In the summer of 1997, HSE received a series of complaints alleging ill health in connection with agricultural crop spraying at a farm on the Isle of Wight. The investigation at that time was unable to establish failure to comply with pesticides legislation or best practice as set out in the *Code of Practice for the safe use of pesticides on farms and holdings* (the Green Code) published by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAFF). In late autumn 1998, several employees of the farm were made redundant, two of whom claimed unfair dismissal citing breaches of health and safety and/or pesticide legislation at the farm. HSE reopened the investigation and, on the basis of new information, including evidence of falsification of records of application and use, identified wide-scale abuse and breaches of pesticide legislation over a two-year period. A further consequence of these abuses was that unapproved pesticides might have entered the food chain.

The farmer/owner was prosecuted on 11 counts: seven under the Control of Pesticides Regulations 1986 (COPR) (as amended), detailed below, and four under the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 1994 (as amended).

Cases 1 and 2

These cases concerned the non-approved uses of pesticides. Two agricultural pesticides had been applied to sweetcorn intended for human consumption, a crop for which neither had at the time been approved. At a later date, following application by a third party to the registration authority, PSD, one of the products was subsequently granted an extension of use (Off-Label) approval for use on sweetcorn.

Case 3

The third case involved one of the pesticide products referred to in Cases 1 and 2. Following the granting of Off- Label Approval for application to sweetcorn intended for human consumption, the pesticide was again applied to the crop. However, the defendant instructed employees to pick the crop within two days of the application, in contravention of the condition of approval stipulating a 21 day minimum harvest interval.

Cases 4 and 5

These cases concerned the application of non-approved imported pesticides, ie foreign products for which no application for UK approval had been made or granted. Again the pesticides were applied to sweetcorn intended for human consumption. One of the products, an insecticide, had had an historic approval, subsequently revoked, from the competent authority in Germany, but not in respect of sweetcorn. The second, a herbicide of French origin, appeared not to have any form of approval.

Cases 6 and 7

The final cases under pesticide legislation concerned the farmer's failure to maintain accurate spray records - one case relating to the record of application for 1997, the second for 1998. The failure was one of commission, not omission in that duplicate and/or false records had been made and kept to conceal the application of non-approved pesticides from enforcing authorities, commercial clients or both.

Associated charges under health and safety legislation were concerned with the failure to plan, organise, control and monitor the use of pesticides, the failure to supply adequate information to crop sprayers about the risks from and the necessary precautions to be taken in the application of imported pesticides and the risk of exposure to pesticides by crop pickers, required to harvest the crop within minimum harvest intervals.

This case vividly demonstrates the close relationship between pesticide and health and safety legislation. Imposing a penalty of £20 000 in respect of each information, the Crown Court considered that although it was difficult to quantify the extent of the risk, the actions of the defendant in disregarding their health and safety had undoubtedly placed his employees at risk of exposure. Similarly the breach of minimum harvest intervals gave rise to the possibility of active substances being passed to the public through the food chain.

It also highlights a number of general lessons. Firstly, users of pesticides need to ensure that pesticides are only used if they have been granted approval for use in the UK and then only in full compliance with the general Consent conditions and the product-specific conditions of approval. All statutory conditions must be adhered to - failure to do so may result in prosecution.

Information on the approval status and on the related conditions of approval of pesticide products may be obtained from agronomists, merchants/suppliers etc and from the product label and the appropriate registration authority. Detailed and practical guidance on the safe use of pesticides and on compliance with the general Consent conditions and conditions of approval may be found in the Green Code published by MAFF. An update of approved pesticides can be found in Pesticide Monitor, published monthly by PSD.

Secondly, users should note that arrangements do exist for approval in the UK of imported pesticides, so-called parallel imports, but that application needs to be made to and approval granted by the relevant registration authority before the product is taken into use. Again if approval has been granted, the product must be used in compliance with the general Consent conditions and also with the product-specific conditions of approval which include in particular arrangements for record keeping, the identification and marking of containers, the provision of information to users, crop harvest intervals, and personal protective equipment (PPE) etc.

Thirdly, users are reminded that arrangements exist for the approval of specific pesticides to be extended to cover uses additional to those originally approved, ie 'Off-Label Approvals' and any such approval may carry additional statutory conditions of use. Off-label use is undertaken at the user's choosing and commercial risk. Again products should not be applied to crops until the extension of use has been approved. Details of the arrangements for the approval of imported pesticides and for the extension of use (Off-Label) of pesticides may be found in the relevant 'Registration Handbooks' issued by PSD and BPAU. Information on 'Off-Label' approvals is published in the 'Pesticides Monitor' and can be obtained from PSD or BPAU.

Fourthly, it reinforces the need for maintaining accurate, truthful records of the application of pesticides. Although acknowledging that pesticides had been used illegally to minimise financial loss, rather than maximise profit, and that the evidence of harm was limited, the court was concerned that the deception had placed the public at risk of exposure of non-approved pesticides via the food chain. The court stated that the penalties imposed reflected that concern.

Finally, it is important to note the opinion of the court in passing sentence that 'a message should be sent out that disregard of vital regulations should not be tolerated.'

Appendix 1: Pesticide Incidents Appraisal Panel classification scheme

During 1999/2000 the panel consisted of:

Dr J Osman (Chairman)	HSE Health Directorate
Dr A Scott	HSE Employment Medical Advisory service
Mr G Walker	HSE Field Operations Directorate
Dr P Edwards	Department of Health
Dr V Murray	National Poisons Information Service
Miss F Northall	National Poisons Information Service
Miss G Cullen	National Poisons Information Service
Dr A Robertson	Institute of Occupational Medicine
Dr R Ferner	West Midlands Centre for Adverse Drug Reaction Reporting
Dr T C Aw	Institute of Occupational Health
Dr S Bradberry	National Poisons Information Service

The secretary is from HSE's Health Directorate.

New classification scheme as from 1 April 1994

Confirmed	There are clinical symptoms and signs typical of exposure to the cited pesticide formulation combined with either: ■ corroborating medical and (where appropriate) biochemical evidence; or ■ evidence of overexposure
Likely	The balance of evidence based on reported exposure circumstances, clinical symptoms and signs or biochemical evidence (where appropriate) is consistent with ill health due to exposure to the cited pesticide formulation.

Open assessment	(i) The reported ill health is not consistent with the known potential ill-health effects of the cited pesticide formulation given the reported exposure circumstances but the implied association cannot be entirely discounted in the light of current knowledge; or (ii) the evidence is consistent with pesticide exposure being the cause of the reported ill health but alternative explanations, eg pre-existing disease, are also present.
Unrelated	There is strong evidence, eg evidence about exposure or from medical reports, that the reported ill health is not pesticide-related.
Insufficient information	The available data are insufficient, incomplete or conflicting and the panel are unable to classify a case for one or more of these reasons.

Appendix 2: Summary of PIAP decisions on cases identified as 'pending' in the 1998/99 pesticide incidents annual report

PIAP decision	*Number of incidents*
Confirmed	2
Likely	9
Open assessment (i)	0
Open assessment (ii)	2
Unrelated	8
Insufficient information	18*
Pending	4*
Not an incident	2
Total	45*

*Includes four cases originally reported in the 1997/98 annual report, one of which has been assessed as 'insufficient information' and three of which are still pending.

Appendix 3: Health and Safety Executive offices

Wales and West Region

Government Buildings, Ty Glas, Llanishen, Cardiff CF14 5SH
Tel: 029 2026 3000

Inter City House, Mitchell Lane, Victoria Street, Bristol BS1 6AN
Tel: 01179 886000

The Marches House, Midway, Newcastle under Lyme, Staffs ST5 1DT
Tel: 01782 602300

Home Counties Region

14 Cardiff Road, Luton, Beds LU1 1PP
Tel: 01582 444200

Priestley House, Priestley Road, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG24 9NW
Tel: 01256 404000

39 Baddow Road, Chelmsford, Essex CM2 OHL
Tel: 01245 706200

London and South East Region

St Dunstans House, 201-211 Borough High Street, London SE1 1GZ
Tel: 020 7556 2100

3 East Grinstead House, London Road, East Grinstead, West Sussex RH19 1RR
Tel: 01342 334200

Midlands Region

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Belgrave House, 1 Greyfriars, Northampton NN1 2BS
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1st Floor, The Pearson Building, 55 Upper Parliament Street,
Nottingham NG1 6AU
Tel: 0115 971 2800

National Agriculture Centre, Stoneleigh, Kenilworth, Warwickshire CV8 2LZ
Tel: 024 7669 6518

Yorkshire and North East Region

Woodside House, 261 Low Lane, Horsforth, Leeds LS18 5TW
Tel: 0113 283 4200

8 St Paul's Street, Leeds LS1 2LE
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Sovereign House, 110 Queen Street, Sheffield S1 2ES
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Arden House, Regent Centre, Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne NE3 3JN
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North West Region

Quay House, Quay Street, Manchester M3 3JB
Tel: 0161 952 8200

The Triad, Stanley Road, Bootle, Merseyside L20 3PG
Tel: 0161 952 8200

Victoria House, Ormskirk Road, Preston PR1 1HH
Tel: 0161 952 8200

Scotland

Belford House, 59 Belford Road, Edinburgh EH4 3UE
Tel: 0131 247 2000

375 West George Street, Glasgow G2 4LW
Tel: 0141 275 3000

Further information

MAFF and HSC *Code of Practice for the safe use of pesticides on farms and holdings* (the Green Code), available from MAFF Publications, ADMAIL 6000, London SW1A 2XX Tel: 0645 556000

Reporting incidents of exposure to pesticides and veterinary medicines INDG141(rev1), available free of charge from HSE Books (see back cover for details).

Pesticides 1999: Your guide to approved pesticides ISBN 0 11 243048 1 The Stationery Office (see back cover for details).

Guidance on storing pesticides for farmers and other professional users AIS16, available free of charge from HSE Books (see back cover for details).

The Control of Pesticides (Amendment) Regulations 1997, ISBN 0 11 063695 3 available from The Stationery Office (see back cover for details).

While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the references listed in this publication, their future availability cannot be guaranteed.

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