

Co-op crop protection policy



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1	<p>Supporting suppliers</p> <p>Support Co-op suppliers to reduce pesticide use and adopt genuine Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approaches through the following actions:</p>
1.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Co-op will work with its strategic supply base to share best practise regarding 'Integrated Pest Management' techniques. - Co-op will investigate how it can support research in to 'Integrated Pest Management' techniques in association with its strategic supplier base. - Co-op will make the above publicly available.
1.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Co-op will work with its supply base to provide training and/or develop practical guidance documents on pesticide reduction and IPM.
1.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Co-op will work with its supply base to offer bespoke advice to farmers and growers on how to adopt IPM techniques.
1.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Co-op will work with its supply base to enable farmers and growers to come together and share learnings on IPM with each other by establishing Co-op Crop Protection groups / grower groups.
1.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Co-op will encourage all suppliers to put in place measures to reduce the post-harvest use of pesticides, for example, ensuring that fresh produce is stored in a way to minimise food waste.
1.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Co-op will incorporate sources of information such as 'the PAN International List of Highly Hazardous Pesticides' and other relevant sources in to their "monitored, restricted and prohibited lists". See section 3 for details. - Co-op will encourage the use and development of IPM strategies by its supply base to replace active substances included in the PAN International List of Highly Hazardous Pesticides. The list can be found at the following link: http://pan-international.org/wp-content/uploads/PAN_HHP_List.pdf

2	<p>Residues in food</p> <p>Stringently monitor pesticide residues and take action to reduce residues in food through the following actions:</p>
2.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Co-op will pesticide residue test the following categories: fresh produce, frozen produce, cereal products (mainly bread), nuts, dairy (milk and yoghurt), wine, rice popcorn and categories as determined by risk assessment. - Co-op will risk assess all other food / non-food categories to determine annual pesticide residue testing requirements - Co-op will residue test for nitrates in higher risk products which will be determined by risk assessment
2.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Co-op will include within its residue testing screening the following actives which includes pesticides such as glyphosate: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Those listed in the PAN International List of Highly Hazardous Pesticides - Those banned for use by the EU for which permissible residue levels are set at 0. - Possible, probable, and known carcinogens and Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals (EDCs)
2.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Co-op will include random sampling of products from across the global supply chain in our residue testing programmes to encourage good agricultural practice by suppliers.
2.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Co-op will require all suppliers to have in place action plans for dealing with problems of high residue levels, including working with its suppliers to reduce pesticide use and adopt non-chemical alternative approaches. - All suppliers will be expected to have in place mitigation plans for the use of pesticides with MRLS which have been set at the 'Limit of determination' LOD. In these instances, alternatives or plans to minimise the risk of a residue exceedance will be expected to be in place.

3	<p>Hazardous pesticides</p> <p>Phasing out the most hazardous pesticides:</p>
3.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Co-op will issue monitored, restricted, prohibited lists of pesticides that are of most concern / most hazardous (Co-op Pesticide List). These lists will detail supplier requirements by food category. - For fresh produce suppliers use of actives from restricted and prohibited lists will require appropriate supplier risk assessment and the implementation of appropriate action plans to minimise the risks. - Co-op will encourage all other processed food category and horticultural suppliers to risk assess the use of pesticides and comply with the principles stated above and to use suitable lower risk alternatives or implement action plans to mitigate risks.
3.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Co-op will review a range of sources and the PAN International list of highly hazardous pesticides to generate the “monitored, restricted and prohibited lists”.

4	Customer engagement Proactively communicate with customers to drive a change in attitudes which enables a reduction in pesticide use. Specifically, encourage customers by:
4.1	- Co-op will sell fruit and vegetables which aren't cosmetically perfect and will communicate on pack that these are still good to eat
4.2	- Co-op will encourage customer acceptance that they may occasionally find a 'bug' (either a pest or a beneficial) in fresh produce they buy.
4.3	- Co-op will encourage the supply of UK fresh produce when available and has signed the NFU fruit and veg pledge

5	Bees and other pollinators Reduce the harm caused to bees and pollinators
5.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Co-op will restrict / prohibit the use of the three neonicotinoids clothianidin, imidacloprid and thiamethoxam. The Co-op encourages the use of suitable alternatives or the use of action plans to mitigate risks to pollinators. - For fresh produce suppliers use of actives from restricted and prohibited lists will require appropriate supplier risk assessment and the implementation of appropriate action plans to minimise the risks to pollinators. - Co-op will encourage all other processed food category and horticultural suppliers to risk assess the use of these pesticides and comply with the principles stated above and to use suitable lower risk alternatives or implement action plans to mitigate risks to pollinators.
5.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Co-op will identify and list pesticides which may be harmful to all pollinators including bees. On fresh produce use of these actives will require appropriate supplier risk assessment and the implementation of appropriate action plans to minimise the risk to pollinator species. These plans must be available for the Co-op to assess on request. - Co-op will encourage all other processed food category and horticultural suppliers to risk assess the use of these pesticides and to use suitable alternatives or action plans to mitigate risks to pollinators. - The pesticides acetamiprid, fipronil, sulfoxaflo, flupyradifurone and permethrin amongst others will be included on the Co-op Pesticide lists
5.3	- Co-op in collaboration with its suppliers will investigate how it can provide support such as training, guidance documents and advice to all suppliers to adopt pollinator-friendly practices such as leaving field margins uncultivated.
5.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Co-op will encourage suppliers to monitor pollinator activity. - Co-op encourages all farmers / suppliers to use beekeeper notification systems such as the beconnect system which can be found at https://beeconnected.org.uk/. This system involves farmers informing beekeepers of an intention to apply an insecticide. see section 9.7
5.5	- Co-op will investigate how it can collaborate / support research on the effect of pesticides on pollinators, pollinator-health on suppliers' farms and alternative non-chemical practices.
5.6	- Co-op will facilitate the provision of forums to bring farmers together to share tips and advice on protecting pollinators.
5.7	- Co-op will engage in the process around the UK Government's National Pollinator Strategy to help provide support where applicable.

6	Transparency
	Making a range of information publicly available, including but not limited to:
6.1	- Co-op will annually publish detailed results of its residue testing programme.
6.2	- Co-op will publish its crop protection policy, including plans for reduction.
6.3	- Co-op will publish any banned / monitored / restricted pesticide lists
6.4	- Co-op will publish case studies of best practice by suppliers to reduce pesticide use and adopt non-chemical alternatives.
6.5	- Co-op will publish a summary of the annual report as detailed in section 11.3

7	Garden range Crop Protection and Pet Care Pesticide Products sold in store
7.1	<p>Crop protection products:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Co-op will only sell organic, natural or benign crop protection pesticides in its stores. Benign pesticides include many natural pesticides and a small number of synthetic pesticides that are of low risk. - Co-op will risk assess the sale of any crop protection products sold in its stores according to the process defined below: <p>Crop protection products sold in Co-op stores must be defined in EU Regulations as “Basic Substances”, “Low Risk Substances” or “Annex IV actives”.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basic Substances are defined as substances which are not predominantly used as plant protection products but may be of value for plant protection. • Low Risk Substances are those which have been evaluated as having a low risk. These include many microbiological active substances and other chemicals such as Aluminium ammonium sulphate, Ascorbic acid and Fatty acids C7 to C20. • Annex IV actives are actives substances which are considered to have a low risk and for which there is no requirement for an EU Maximum Residue Level. Some pesticides may fall into one or more of these groups.
7.2	<p>Pet care products:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Supplier and Co-op will risk assess products they intend to sell in Co-op stores.

8	Organic
8.1	- Co-op will provide a range of certified organic products.

9	Certification requirements / Supplier and farm supply requirements
9.1	<p>Fresh produce suppliers Good Agricultural Practice (GAP) certification requirements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Co-op requires all UK Fresh Produce Suppliers to have current 'Red Tractor' or Organic certification (and registration number). - Fresh produce sourced from outside UK should be produced to standards that meet GLOBALGAP standards or equivalent.

9.2	<p>Horticultural suppliers GAP certification requirements</p> <p>- All horticultural products supplied to the Co-op must be certified to GAP standards or an equivalent standard. Accepted standards include: Global Gap, MPS Gap, OHAS Grower, KFC.</p>
9.3	<p>Frozen mono and multi component fruit and vegetables GAP certification requirements</p> <p>- All mono or multi component frozen produce supplied to the Co-op should be certified to GAP standard or an equivalent standard.</p>
9.4	<p>Other food categories / risk assessment / GAP certification requirements (Includes: Multi component food products, Meat, fish and dairy, bread, pasta, rice and other starchy foods (including cereal-based products such as popcorn), dried fruit, Other dried produce (including dried herbs, dried spices and tea), Fruit juices, Alcohol (including beer and wine) & other groceries</p> <p>- Co-op encourages all other food categories to work towards a GAP certification standard for their whole food ingredients.</p>
9.5	<p>All organic fresh produce certified by accredited UK organic certifier</p> <p>- All organic fresh produce supplied to the Co-op must be certified by an accredited UK organic certifier</p>
9.6	<p>Biodiversity regeneration schemes - LEAF Marque and / biodiversity schemes / or equivalent standards / practises - to be encouraged</p> <p>- Co-op encourages all of its supply base to implement schemes or approaches which support biodiversity regeneration such as: Organic production techniques, LEAF Marque standards, biodiversity development schemes, or equivalent for the fresh produce / food ingredients supplied</p>
9.7	<p>Bee keeper notification systems such as Beeconnected / and others</p> <p>- Co-op encourages all farmers / suppliers to use bee keeper notification systems such as the beconnect system which can be found at https://beeconnected.org.uk/ . This system involves farmers informing beekeepers of an intention to apply an insecticide.</p>

10	KPIs and targets
10.1	<p>Co-op in house Residue analysis - fresh produce target < EU / UK survey data</p> <p>- Co-op will target to have less than the statutory (UK) survey MRL exceedance % as a proportion of the total number of residue tests conducted per annum. - Co-op will make this information public as part of the annual reporting process.</p>
10.2	<p>Ongoing development of KPI's</p> <p>- Co-op will investigate the implementation of other KPI targets that help to drive continuous development in the field of crop protection.</p>

11	<p>Co-op Crop Protection Board (CCPB)</p> <p>- Monitoring of annual policy commitment compliance, policy review and ongoing development, end of year reporting sign off</p>
11.1	<p>NGO / stakeholder consultation</p> <p>- To ensure the Policy is 'Current' and 'Innovative' the CCPB will consult key stakeholders on an annual basis.</p>
11.2	<p>Co-op will create a "Co-op Crop protection board" whom will be responsible for review and development of the policy</p> <p>- Members will comprise of representatives from the CCPG's, the Co-op SME, Co-op Policy lead, Co-op Senior sponsor and other key stakeholders.</p> <p>- CCPB responsibilities include monitoring of annual policy commitment compliance, policy review and ongoing development, reporting compliance.</p> <p>- Developments made by the board will be made public.</p>
11.3	<p>Co-op Annual report (how are we doing document)</p> <p>- Co-op will produce an annual report on how they are performing against the Co-op Crop Protection policy. This policy will be reviewed as part of the CCPG and CCPB activity and actions noted.</p> <p>- The Co-op SME and the Co-op policy representative will produce the annual report and will manage the review process at the annual CCPB meeting</p>

12	<p>Ongoing policy management process and compliance</p>
12.1	<p>Expert service:</p> <p>- The Co-op may contract services with an external 'Expert' to assist in the implementation of the policy.</p>
12.2	<p>Co-op policy management</p> <p>- The Co-op policy development, compliance and management requirements will be managed by the 'Co-op SME for Integrated Crop management'</p>