



CFOA
Chief Fire Officers
Association

The professional voice of the UK Fire & Rescue Service

BASIS Inspection Guidance for Fire and Rescue Services

**Inspection guidance for Fire and Rescue Services for premises registered with BASIS
(Registration) Limited**

Introduction

BASIS Registration Limited is a recognised independent organisation set up at the suggestion of the UK Government in 1978. It is a non-profit making charity and is recognised as a competent body for assessing and certifying pesticide stores, by the UK Government.

BASIS is responsible for a system of self-regulation by the agrochemical industry for the safe storage and transportation of pesticides.

Under part 3 of the Food and Environment Protection Act 1985 (FEPA) powers have been provided for strict controls on storage of pesticides, those controls are the Storage of pesticides under the Control of Pesticides Regulations 1986 and Control of Pesticides (amendment) Regulations 1997 both known as (COPR) and The Plant Protection Products (Sustainable Use) Regulations 2012 which require that all reasonable precautions should be taken to protect people, creatures, plants and the environment.

Everyone in the commercial sale, supply and storage for sale, of professional pesticides approved for agricultural use must comply with the Code of Practice for Suppliers of Pesticide to Agriculture, Horticulture and Forestry otherwise known as the Yellow Code.

The system works because suppliers acknowledge that they have a responsibility to supply only those purchasers registered through BASIS and the buyers are aware that it is in their interests to purchase from recognised, registered BASIS distributors.

Policy Statement

Policy

Fire and Rescue Services (FRS) will inspect premises registered with BASIS (Registration) Limited under Fire Safety Legislation and in line with Risk Based Inspection Programmes, where appropriate.

BASIS will be informed in writing by the FRS of the inspection outcome within four weeks from receipt of notification or notification by other circumstances.

Fire and Rescue Services (FRS) will gather operational intelligence and plan for incidents at premises registered with BASIS (Registration) Limited, under Section 7(2) (d) of the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004.

Fire Safety

The adequacy of the fire safety measures and the contingency arrangements in place for fire water retention must be assessed in accordance with legislative requirements using the principles of risk assessment.

Dimensions and use of the site will determine the extent and appropriateness of fire fighting equipment and fire alarm and detection systems, taking into account the physical and chemical properties of substances likely to be present, the equipment contained in the premises and the number of persons that may be present.

FRS business safety auditors will act fairly and reasonably in exercising their powers of enforcement in accordance with established procedures and principles of better regulation such as those set out within the HM Government's Regulators Code (April 2014).

Procedures

The procedures adopted by the FRS will follow the guidance in the 'Inspection and Approval of Agrochemical Stores in Connection with BASIS (Registration) Limited, referred to as the Inspecting Officers Guidelines.

Notification

BASIS (Registration) Limited will notify the FRS in writing of an initial application, a renewal or following a BASIS annual inspection where there has been a significant departure from safety procedures or damage to safety measures previously agreed.

This notification will be for two categories of storage:

- **High Risk** - Those stores that contain 60 000 litres or more of agrochemicals.
- **Medium to Low Risk** - Those stores that contain less than 60 000 litres of agrochemicals.

Standard letters will be used by BASIS to inform the FRS of the type of inspection required.

Audit and Inspection

All **newly registered** agrochemical sites should be audited by the FRS for the following purposes:

- Compliance with Fire Safety Legislation
- Compliance with the Dangerous Substances (Notification and Marking of Sites) Regulations 1990.
- Gathering of operational intelligence under Section 7(2) (d) of the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004.

A letter of approval should be issued once the FRS considers the site to be broadly compliant with the applicable legislation.

The FRS should maintain close liaison with BASIS and the Environment Agency regarding any registered agrochemical site which is discovered to have significant non-compliances which may affect its safe operation.

Existing Registered Sites

All **high risk** agrochemical sites that are registered with BASIS will be inspected by the FRS and a letter of approval issued once the FRS considers the site to be broadly compliant with the applicable legislation.

Where the premises are Medium to Low Risk, BASIS will notify the FRS of the status of the store annually. The decision whether to carry out an inspection of a medium or low risk agrochemical store lies with the FRS but it is strongly recommended that FRS carry out operational data gathering under Section 7(2) (d) of the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004. Acknowledgement of the site must be provided to BASIS within four weeks of the notification.

Environmental Considerations

At sites in environmentally sensitive locations an inspection should be carried out which **may** include:

- BASIS
- Environment Agency
- Fire Authority
- Site operator

Discussions should include:

- Actions that may need to be taken to overcome particular hazards on the particular site.
- Contingency planning.

The FRS should maintain close liaison with BASIS and the Environment Agency regarding any registered agrochemical storage site which is discovered to have significant non-compliances which may affect its safe operation.