

Risk Assessment – Herbicide Application Using Hand-Held Applicators

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Client:	Middleton Sheet Metal	Site Address:	1 Hanson Close, Middleton, M24 2HD
Description of Work Activities:	Application of herbicide to surface plant growth.	Persons at Risk:	JKSL Site Operatives, clients and contractors, residents of the site, members of the public.
Are vulnerable persons at risk? (Delete as applicable) Who?	Consult the COSHH assessment for the herbicide used. Application itself poses no additional hazards to vulnerable groups.	If any of these groups are at risk, an additional Risk Assessment must be undertaken to address the risks to the groups identified.	

This risk assessment is for the use of herbicide applicators only – it does not cover the herbicide itself; see relevant COSHH assessment. A site-specific RAMS should be in place and should be read along with other relevant documents like manual handling risk assessment.

Vans should be locked at all times and all herbicide and equipment must be locked in the safe in the van when not in use.

Working areas should be appropriately fenced, signed, or other measures should be in place to prevent people from entering the working area. JKSL's Site Foreman will not go ahead with works or will stop and inform the client's site manager and JKSL head office if they deem the safety measures on site to be insufficient to protect persons at risk from on-site hazards associated with the work activities.

Staff will wear the following PPE for herbicide application: wellington boots to EN ISO:20345 and EN 13832-3 with good tread; full-length hard-wearing PPE; Cat III type 5 & 6 chemical resistant suit (to ISO 13982-1 and ISO 13034); EN 374 gloves and both goggles and solid full-face visor to EN166. For mixing, wear all of the above PPE plus an EN 14605 apron. Alternative / equivalent PPE to items specified below may be provided or used if it has been deemed suitable for the task.

The x and y listed below for the "severity" of herbicide can be found in JKSL's COSHH assessment. "x" is for concentrate, "y" for dilute.

Hazard	Potential Consequences	Risk Rating (see notes)			Actions Required	Residual Risk (see notes)		
		Severity (1-5)	Likelihood (0-5)	Risk Rating		Severity (1-5)	Likelihood (0-5)	Risk Rating
Concealed / unidentified objects, dips or bumps, slippery surfaces etc.	Ground-level slips/trips/falls, twists, sprains, broken ankle/leg etc.	4	4	16	JKSL site foreman will carry out a visual survey of the working areas and cut access channels if required to achieve safe working conditions. Use a long lance to spray from a distance if this provides a safer working area. Continually assess your footing whilst working or moving around the site and exercise due care to avoid both known and unidentified hazards. Where the site has significant trip hazards, use “move-spray-move” (don’t spray and walk at the same time).	4	2	8
		Also see site-specific RA				Also see site-specific RA		

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Manual handling (misc. equipment, knapsack sprayer, herbicide containers, opening hydrants etc.)	Back injuries, WRULDs; cuts, abrasions; impact injuries from falling objects	3	3	9	See manual handling risk assessment. Avoid manual handling where possible. Work according to training and direction and all relevant points in the manual handling RA. Adjust knapsack sprayers before you first fill them and again after filling to check fit. Take regular breaks when wearing a knapsack for extended periods and consider part-filling the knapsack to reduce the weight. When using the electric sprayer, leave this on the ground where feasible, rather than carrying it on your back. Use the electric sprayer with extendible lances and handle the lance with both hands in a side-on stance, as per training.	3	2	6
Overhead services (particularly when using long or extendible lances)	Contact with overhead services causing electrical discharge, electrocution. Causing outages to local buildings.	5	2	10	Carry out a visual survey of the site before starting work. Note locations of overhead services and, where these fall within 5m of spraying areas or haul routes, the locations should be marked on the ground using paint. If these are potentially high voltage cables, JKSL's MS must be reviewed by JKSL's project manager (and the site manager) to provide a safe system of work, considering: potential for electricity to arc from overhead cables; the length of the spray lance used; whether a smaller lance can be used; whether the cables can be deactivated.	5	1	5
		Also see site-specific RA				Also see site-specific RA		
Use of electrical equipment (battery-powered sprayer & charger)	Faulty equipment or cables causing electric shock, electrocution or fire.	5	1	5	Check that thorough inspection & testing has been completed for the power pack in past three 3 months (or in line with HSE guidance). Only trained operatives to use the batter-powered sprayer. Carry out pre-use checks.	5	1	5
Stem injection	Dilute or concentrated herbicide "backfiring" into Operative's face or eyes. See COSHH assessment for potential effects.	x	3	3x	See COSHH Assessment. Ensure full face protection is in place at all times. Wear PPE as above. Look directly at the injection gun on each application. Clean or dispose of contaminated PPE in accordance with training, product label and COSHH.	x	1	1x
Handling and diluting concentrated herbicide	Contact with herbicide on unprotected skin. See COSHH assessment for potential effects.	x	4	4x	See COSHH Assessment. Follow safe dilution method as trained. Wear PPE as above, including apron. Deal with spills immediately, as per training & Emergency Contingency Plan. Clean or dispose of contaminated PPE in accordance with product label and COSHH.	x	1	1x

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Spraying activities (using knapsack or battery-powered sprayer)	Contact with dilute herbicide on unprotected skin. See COSHH assessment for potential effects.	y	5	5y	See COSHH Assessment. Assess weather conditions before and during spraying. Only spray if there are no unauthorised persons in the working area. Take all available steps to minimise spray drift. Use 2m long lance when spraying over waist height. Wear PPE as above. Remove PPE and wash hands after spraying. Clean or dispose of contaminated PPE in accordance with product label and COSHH. Cease spraying if any unauthorised persons approach the application area.	y	1	1y
Further information: JKSL Health & Safety Policy; COSHH Assessment (and MSDS); Safe System of Works; Risk Assessment Notes								
	Name:	Position:			Signature:	Date:		
Carried out by:	Chris Oliver	Operations Manager				28/04/2019		
Last review by:	Simon Prato-Scarlett	Operations and Business Development Manager				09/01/2024		
Checked by:	Phil Whelan	Construction Director				04/10/2024		
Next review due before:		01/05/2025						