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# ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIONAL ACTION PLAN FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF DIRECTIVE 2009/128/EC AND THE PROTECTION OF HUMAN AND ENVIRONMENT

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Unofficial translation in English of the consolidated version of the Common Ministerial Decision num. 8197/90920/22-7-2013 (Government Gazette B' 1883)



JULY 2015

THE PRESENT COMMON MINISTERIAL DECISION ALONG WITH THE PROVISIONS OF LAW 4036/2012 DESCRIBES THE HELLENIC NATIONAL ACTION PLAN FOR THE SUSTAINABLE USE OF PLANT PROTECTION PRODUCTS

Ministry of Reconstruction of Production, Environment & Energy, Directorate of Plant Produce Protection

*Common Ministerial Decision 8197/90920/22-7-2013  
(Government Gazette B 1883)*

As modified by:

1. The Common Ministerial Decision 6669/79087/15-7-2015 (Government Gazette B 1582)



**Special Notice:** The implementation of the provisions of Directive 2009/12/EC consists of the provisions of articles 32-46 of law 4036/2012 (GG A 8) along with the provisions of the Common Ministerial Decision 8197/90920/22-7-2013 (GG B 1883)

*Disclaimer*

*The **unofficial translated text** of the Ministerial Decision below is provided for information only for which the Ministry of Reconstruction of Production, Environment & Energy shall not be held liable for any loss or damage incurred thereby and shall not be held otherwise liable.*

**Article 1**  
**Scope- Subject matter**

1. The scope of the present decision is:
  - a) the adoption of the National Action Plan (so on called NAP) regarding:
    - aa) training on sustainable use of pesticides,
    - bb) procedure for granting certificate which will evidence of sufficient knowledge of sustainable use of pesticides,
    - cc) Information and awareness-raising and information to the public,
    - dd) Inspection of equipment used for pesticide applications,
    - ee) Specific measures to protect the aquatic environment and drinking water,
    - ff) Reduction of pesticide use or risks in specific areas,
    - gg) Specific measures for handling and storage of pesticides and treatment of their packaging and remnants και
    - hh) Integrated pest management.
  - b) Setting the targets and indicators of NAP and
  - c) Setting of NAP Documentation Center,aiming to the implementation of Directive 2009/128/EC and the protection of human and the environment.
2. Provisions of the present decision are applied to the pesticides that are plant protection products, as these are defined in case a), paragraph 10 of article 17 of law 4036/2012 (G.G. A'8).

**CHAPTER I**  
**TRAINING ON SUSTAINABLE USE OF PESTICIDES**

**Article 2**  
**Training system review**

Up to December 31<sup>st</sup> each year, beginning in 2014, the Directorate of Plant Produce Protection of the Ministry of Rural Development and Food (Coordinating National Authority) compiles a report for the implementation progress of the training system.

**Article 3**  
**Training system on sustainable use of pesticides**

1. The training system on sustainable use of pesticides for the needs of NAP is called: "SYS.KA." (in English: "T.S." – Training System) . Professional users of pesticides can attend this system.
2. "SYS.KA." includes the following programs:
  - a) Trainers training program on sustainable use of pesticides,
  - b) Training program on sustainable use of pesticides and
  - γ) Program for additional training,

aiming to acquiring initial and additional knowledge of subjects listed in Annex B of 4036/2012 (A'8).

3. Ministry of Rural Development and Food keeps specific registry for training on sustainable use of pesticides, which is displayed on internet for the information of any interested and the registry includes the following:
  - a) Providers of trainers training programs on sustainable use of pesticides,
  - b) Providers of training programs on sustainable use of pesticides and
  - c) Providers of additional training programs on sustainable use of pesticides.
4. All pesticide professional users have access to "SYS.KA." and they can attend initial and additional programs listed in paragraph 2 above, as the programs are organized by Coordinating National Authority in cooperation with other competent authorities and legal entities of the Ministry of Rural Development and Food, according to paragraph 2 of article 33 of law 4036/2012 (A'8).

#### **Article 4**

##### **Providers of trainers training programs on sustainable use of pesticides**

1. Trainers training program on sustainable use of pesticides is provided by:
  - a) Universities and
  - β) Public sector services or legal entities of public sector which have the competence on one or more subjects listed in Annex B of 4036/2012 (A'8).
2. Providers of trainers training programs on sustainable use of pesticides of the above paragraph 1 are registered to the registry of case a), paragraph 3 of article 3. The programs may cover the full syllabus of the subjects listed in Annex B of 4036/2012 (A'8), or one or more the following Chapters of subjects listed in Annex B of 4036/2012 (A'8):
  - I. General training, consisting of subjects a), b) and m) (which correspond to topics number 1., 2., and 13. of Annex I, Directive 2009/129/EC),
  - II. Risks of pesticides, consisting of subjects g), st), z), i) and l) (which correspond to topics number 3., 6., 7., 10. and 12. of Annex I, Directive 2009/129/EC),
  - III. Integrated pest management, consisting of subjects d), e) and k) (which correspond to topics number 4., 5. and 11. of Annex I, Directive 2009/129/EC) and
  - IV. Application equipment, consisting of subjects h) and th) (which correspond to topics number 8. and 9. of Annex I, Directive 2009/129/EC)
3. In order to be registered, providers of trainers training programs on sustainable use of pesticides should be certified or accredited for this purpose and they should also:
  - a) Employ trainers or cooperate with trainers of other entities or universities, who have proven long experience in one or more of the training subjects listed in Annex B of 4036/2012 (A'8),
  - b) Have proper buildings and educational infrastructure in order to provide training in one or more of the training subjects listed in Annex B of 4036/2012 (A'8),
  - c) Have experience in training programs or relative activities regarding topics of sustainable use of pesticides (especially studies, workshops, symposiums, projects),
  - d) Have trainers auditing system and

- e) Submit to Coordinating National Authority: the training program, the data of the responsible person for the trainers training program, the data of the trainers, as well as the documentation proving the above mentioned qualifications.
4. The training material covers all topics of Annex B of 4036/2012 (G.G. A'8)<sup>1</sup>.

**Article 5**  
**Duration and Certification of training for trainers**

1. The sessions of the train-the-trainer programs regarding the risks of pesticides, integrated pest management and application equipment include theoretical and practical sessions. The sessions of the train-the-trainer programs regarding of general training does not necessarily include practical session.
2. The total number of training hours (courses) for each subject of Annex B of 4036/2012 (G.G. A'8) should not exceed six (6) hours per chapter regarding theoretical sessions. The total number of training hours of practical sessions should not be more than two (2) hours per chapter.
3. After the successful completeness of trainers training programs, a certificate is granted proving that they have been adequately evaluated for affording training on sustainable use of pesticides. The full data of the attendees (name, surname, father's name, tax number), the time and chapters of attendance should be recorded on the certificate. Certificates are valid for ten (10) years beginning from the date of the end of training.

**Article 6**  
**Providers of training programs on sustainable use of pesticides**

1. Training on sustainable use of pesticides is delivered by providers in public and private sector that have adequate structure and qualifications for this purpose.
2. The public sector providers of training programs on sustainable use of pesticides are:
  - a) EL.G.O. «Dimitra» (Training organization of the Ministry of Rural Development and Food),
  - b) Universities,
  - c) Benaki Phytopathological Institute,
  - d) Any other public sector legal entity capable to deliver training program on sustainable use of pesticides.
3. The private sector providers of training programs on sustainable use of pesticides are:
  - a) Regulated private sector legal entities accredited for life-long adults training by the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs and
  - b) Accredited by the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs centers of professional training.
4. Both public and private sector providers of training programs on sustainable use of pesticides of the above 2 and 3 paragraphs are registered to the registry of case b), paragraph 3 of article 3. In order to be registered, the providers should:
  - α) Employ enough number of trainers having the qualifications of paragraph 7, with a syllabus covering contents of Annex B of 4036/2012 (A'8),

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<sup>1</sup> Modified by paragraph 1, article 1 of the Common Ministerial Decision num. 6669/79087/15-7-2015 (Government Gazette B 1582)

- β) provide theoretical and practical sessions and
  - γ) have suitable building and infrastructure for providing training.
5. Providers of training programs on sustainable use of pesticides may cover the full syllabus of the subjects listed in Annex B of 4036/2012 (A'8), or one or more the following Chapters of subjects listed in Annex B of 4036/2012 (A'8):
- I. General training, consisting of subjects a), b) and m) (which correspond to topics number 1., 2., and 13. of Annex I, Directive 2009/129/EC),
  - II. Risks of pesticides, consisting of subjects g), st), z), i) and l) (which correspond to topics number 3., 6., 7., 10. and 12. of Annex I, Directive 2009/129/EC),
  - III. Integrated pest management, consisting of subjects d), e) and k) (which correspond to topics number 4., 5. and 11. of Annex I, Directive 2009/129/EC) and
  - IV. Application equipment, consisting of subjects h) and th) (which correspond to topics number 8. and 9. of Annex I, Directive 2009/129/EC)
6. Education material covers all topics of Annex B of 4036/2012 (A'8)<sup>2</sup>.
7. In order to be employed as educators in training programs on sustainable use of pesticides, interested persons should have:
- a) University degree of agronomist or degree issued by a technical educational institute of the Department of Plant Produce Department or Agricultural Entities Management Department or Greenhouse Cultivars and Floriculture Department or equivalent degree from another Member State or third country University or Institute.
  - b) Experience on sustainable use of pesticides, proved by at least 5 years professional experience in pesticides or conducting studies or integrated pest management or work in public sector or public sector legal entity with competence relevant to the above mentioned chapters of Annex B of 4036/2012 (A'8).
  - c) Certificate or certificates of competence issued by providers of trainers training programs on sustainable use of pesticides, which cover the chapters of Annex B of 4036/2012 (A'8). This qualification becomes mandatory one (1) year after the beginning of the training system on sustainable use of pesticides.

## **Article 7**

### **Providers of additional training programs on sustainable use of pesticides**

Additional training is delivered by providers of initial training to update knowledge of all topics of Annex B of 4036/2012 (A'8).

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<sup>2</sup> Modified by paragraph 2, article 1 of the Common Ministerial Decision num. 6669/79087/15-7-2015 (Government Gazette B 1582)

## **Article 8**

### **Evaluation of training system on sustainable use of pesticides**

The evaluation of initial and additional training programs on sustainable use of pesticides is conducted from the attendees by completing a questionnaire supplied by the training providers after the end of each course.

## **Article 9**

### **Review and improvement of the training system on sustainable use of pesticides**

The Coordinating National Authority keeps electronic service, where scientific organizations, control authorities, training providers and attendees of training programs may freely submit proposals of improvement for the training system of professional users.

## **CHAPTER II**

### **PROCEDURE OF GRANTING CERTIFICATE OF KNOWLEDGE ON SUSTAINABLE USE OF PESTICIDES**

## **Article 10**

### **Review of procedure of granting certificate of knowledge on sustainable use of pesticides**

Up to December 31<sup>st</sup> each year, beginning in 2014, the Directorate of Plant Produce Protection of the Ministry of Rural Development and Food (Coordinating National Authority) compiles a report for the implementation progress of the procedure of granting certificate of knowledge on sustainable use of pesticides.

## **Article 11**

### **System of granting certificate of knowledge on sustainable use of pesticides**

1. The system of granting certificate of knowledge on sustainable use of pesticides, for the purposes of the NAP is called: "SYS.CHO.PIS" (in English "S.G.C.": System for Granting Certificate).
2. The Ministry of Rural Development and Food keeps a specific registry of holders of certificate of knowledge on sustainable use of pesticides, which is displayed on internet for the information of any interested and the registry includes:
  - a) Persons holders of certificate of knowledge on sustainable use of pesticides and
  - b) Legal entities employing as responsible for pesticide use, person that holds certificate of knowledge on sustainable use of pesticides.

## **Article 12**

### **Procedure for granting certificate of knowledge on sustainable use of pesticides**

1. All professional users of pesticides are obliged to hold a certificate of knowledge on sustainable use of pesticides for the topics of Annex B of 4036/2012 (A'8), in order to be able to buy pesticides approved for professional use after November 26<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

2. Holding university degree of agronomist or degree issued by a technical educational institute of the Department of Plant Produce Department or Agricultural Entities Management Department or Greenhouse Cultivars and Floriculture Department or equivalent degree from another Member State or third country University or Institute, is equivalent to holding certificate of knowledge on sustainable use of pesticides.

3. Certificates of paragraph 1 are issued by the Coordinating National Authority through an electronic application, after the successful examination of candidates in the specific examination centers of article 13, made on questions from a data-base operated by Coordinating National Authority Database contains multiple choice questions, where only one answer is correct. Coordinating National Authority can ask the assistance of training providers for compiling the questions.

Both public and private sector providers of training programs on sustainable use of pesticides of paragraph 2 of article 6 of Chapter I, may grant certificates mentioned in paragraph 1, after written exams of the interested persons in questions from the database maintained by the Coordinating National Authority. In such case the provisions of paragraph 1 of Article 13 of Chapter II are not applied.<sup>3</sup>

4. The Coordinating National Authority is responsible for the data-base with multiple choice questions, where only one answer is correct. Questions are divided per chapter of Annex B of 4036/2012 (A'8).

5. Candidates have to answer forty (40) questions in specific time, randomly selected from the database of paragraph 3, per chapter of Annex B of 4036/2012 (A'8), according to the following numbers:<sup>4</sup>

I. Subjects a), b) and m) (which correspond to topics number 1., 2., and 13. of Annex I, Directive 2009/129/EC): Four (4) questions,

II. Subjects g), st), z), i) and l) (which correspond to topics number 3., 6., 7., 10. and 12. of Annex I, Directive 2009/129/EC): Twelve (12) questions,

III. Subjects d), e) and k) (which correspond to topics number 4., 5. and 11. of Annex I, Directive 2009/129/EC): Twelve (12) questions and

IV. Subjects h) and th) (which correspond to topics number 8. and 9. of Annex I, Directive 2009/129/EC): Twelve (12) questions

In order to grant the certificate, the candidates should give the correct answer at least to thirty five (35) questions.

6. After the completeness of the examination procedure, candidates are directly informed about the total number of the questions they have correctly answered and about certificate granting. Certificate is printed along with a unique code number and the certificate holder is registered to the registry of paragraph 2 of article 11.

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<sup>3</sup> Added by paragraph 3, article 1 of the Common Ministerial Decision num. 6669/79087/15-7-2015 (Government Gazette B 1582)

<sup>4</sup> Modified by paragraph 4, article 1 of the Common Ministerial Decision num. 6669/79087/15-7-2015 (Government Gazette B 1582)



### **Article 13**

#### **Examination centers and participation fees**

1. Entities of public and private sector interested to register as examination centers for granting certificate of knowledge on sustainable use of pesticides on topics of Annex B of law 4036/2012 (A'8) should afford proper building and infrastructure and especially adequate number of classes with computers connected to internet.
2. In each class they should be not more than twenty (20) candidates and a supervisor. The supervisor should have not participated, for at least a year, as educator or educator trainer in training programs on sustainable use of pesticides. The supervisor may assist candidates only to internet connection problems.
3. Fees for the participation of candidates to examinations for the purpose of granting certificate of knowledge on sustainable use of pesticides on topics of Annex B of law 4036/2012 (A'8), are defined according to case c), paragraph 3 of article 50 of law 4036/2012 (A'8).

### **Article 14**

#### **Validity duration and renewal procedure of certificate of knowledge on sustainable use of pesticides**

1. The certificate of knowledge on sustainable use of pesticides on topics of Annex B of law 4036/2012 (A'8) is valid for a five (5) years period, beginning from the date of successful granting examination.
2. At least six (6) months before the expiry of certificate validity, interested holders can be examined according to article 12, in order to renew the validity, which is issued for other five (5) years beginning from the expiry date of the previous certificate.

### **Article 15**

#### **Certificate recall**

Certificate of knowledge on sustainable use of pesticides is recalled by Coordinating National Authority, in case of infringements in having and using pesticides, proved during official controls made according to article 44 of law 4036/2012 (A'8). The certificate can be re-granted according to the procedure of article 12.

## **CHAPTER III**

### **GENERAL INFORMATION TO THE PUBLIC ABOUT PESTICIDES**

### **Article 16**

#### **Targets of information to the public procedures about pesticides and measurements**

1. The targets of the information to the public procedures about pesticides is to reduce 10% per year the accidental acute poisoning incidents and to reduce 20% per year animal deaths of acute poisoning incidents caused by pesticides.
2. Up to December 31<sup>st</sup> each year, beginning in 2014, the Directorate of Plant Produce Protection of the Ministry of Rural Development and Food (Coordinating National Authority) compiles a report for the implementation progress of the public information procedures about pesticides.

**Article 17**  
**Information to the public about pesticides**

Information to the public about pesticides is mainly related to:

- a) The profits of sustainable use of pesticides for the production of healthy food,
- b) the risks to human related to the use of pesticides and the protective measures for sensitive human groups against non professional use or intended exposure to pesticides,
- c) the risks related to the use of pesticides for the environment, soil and surface water, non target organisms (e.g. birds, beneficial insects, water organisms), the flora and fauna,
- d) the recognition of pollution sources caused by the use of pesticides and relative precaution measures,
- e) first aid measures in cases of accidental or of professional use exposure to pesticides and
- f) the presentation of biological agriculture implementation possibilities, in cooperation with Biological Agriculture Directorate of the Ministry of Rural Development and Food.

**Article 18**  
**Information to the public about pesticides and their impacts to bees**

For the purpose of information to the public about pesticides and their impacts to bees, Ministry of Rural Development and Food in cooperation with the Benaki Phytopathological Institute keeps specific internet site, where:

- a) Recommendations are given for the reduction of the impacts of pesticides to bees and
- b) The capability is given to any interested to report negative impacts to bees caused by pesticide use.

**Article 19<sup>5</sup>**  
**Information to the public about pesticides and treatment of cases caused by poisoned baits using pesticides**

For the purpose of information to the public about poisoned baits using plant protection products, which may end to animal deaths and have negative effects to ecosystems, and also regarding their control, Ministry of Reconstruction of Production, Environment and Energy in cooperation with the Benaki Phytopathological Institute keeps specific internet site, where:

- a) Specific protocols are included for the collection and management of poisoned baits with plant protection products,
- b) The cases of wildlife poisoning from poisoned baits with plant protection products are recorded,
- c) Recommendations to address animal poisonings by plant protection products are included and
- d) It is allowed to any person to reports in written cases of poisoning domestic and wild animals which have come to his attention.

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<sup>5</sup> Modified by paragraph 5, article 1 of the Common Ministerial Decision num. 6669/79087/15-7-2015 (Government Gazette B 1582)

## **Article 20**

### **Information to the public about pesticides and preservation of natural resources**

For the purpose of information and awareness-raising to an increasing percentage of the public about pesticides and the awareness-raising of agricultural societies about pesticides aiming to the achievement of a satisfactory preservation of natural resources, species and ecosystems, the activation and support of local entities is required, such as centers of environmental education, schools and culture clubs.

## **Article 21**

### **Information to the public about pesticides and incidents of acute poisoning**

For the purpose of information to the public about pesticides and the treatment of incidents of acute poisoning caused by pesticide use, the faster clinical diagnosis and therapeutical treatment, Coordinating National Authority in cooperation with the Poisoning Center of the Ministry of Health organize training programs with the participation of pesticide authorization holders as well as local authorities to agricultural doctors or doctors employed to local hospitals, who are the expected to be the first to treat these incidents caused by pesticides. Specific significance is given:

- a) to accidental acute poisoning incidents and
- b) to acute poisoning incidents caused by toxic substances with very bad prognosis in case of acute poisoning.

## **Article 22**

### **Information to the public for spray drift**

1. Obligation of the professional user of pesticide is to minimize the possibility of spray drift and to minimize the possibility of human exposure to spray drift. For this purpose, the following measures should at least be taken:
  - a) To investigate the possibility and the financial potentiality of non chemical methods for the protection of his crop.
  - b) To investigate the possibility and the financial potentiality of applications using suitable spray equipment, reducing drift.
  - c) The application should be made on days and hours that reduce the possibility of exposing persons to the spray drift.
  - d) Application nozzles should be either special type that reduce drift (drift reduction nozzles), or be adequate cleaned and function reliably to reduce drift.
  - e) The application should be made while there is not a strong wind. If wind velocity changes and especially if there is a significant increase during application, the application should stop until wind falls down. /in case of continuous change of wind velocity, the spray should start after the stabilization of low wind velocity. Spray drift can be affected by more factors apart from wind, such as droplet size, spray pressure, formulation type, nozzle type etc. Therefore, pesticide applications should be made when wind and other factors reduce the possibility to human and environment of exposure to spray drift.
  - f) The application should be in accordance with Good Agricultural Practices Codes.

2. The pesticide application is possible to cause drift especially when made with high pressure machinery.
3. The professional user is obliged to inform in paper residents, professionals and permanent region visitors in case of possible exposure to spray drift at least 48 hours before application. In case that only passing-by persons are possible to be exposed to spray drift, information is given before starting the application.
4. a) Information to residents and permanent region visitors about spray drift is given in paper by the professional user and consists of:
  - aa) the expected time that application starts,
  - bb) the crop region to be sprayed,
  - cc) plant protection products that are going to be used (tradenames) and
  - dd) plant protection products toxicity classification τη σήμανση τοξικότητας (Xn, Xi, etc) as written on label along with the relative phrases (e.g. "Irritates respiratory system" etc.).

β) Information to professionals (especially bee-keeper, slug keepers and cattle farmers) that are possible to be exposed to spray drift, is given in paper by the professional user and consists, in addition to the above mentioned in paragraph a), with the possible effects to their activity as written on pesticide label.
5. The type of information form of paragraphs 3 and 4, that professional users are obliged to use, is issued by a circular of the General Secretary of the Ministry of Rural Development and Food, after a relevant proposal made by the Coordinating National Authority The information form contains drawings or pictures for the purpose to be well understood by foreigners, not speaking Greek language.
6. With the responsibility of the professional user, the information form is hung on doors of every house or professional building possible to be affected by spray drift, or dispatched if possible by the professional user or hung to stable or mobile places for the purpose of information to the public.
7. Local Directorates of Agricultural Economy and Veterinary of Regional Units and Regional Centers of Crop Protection and Quality Control in cooperation with the Coordinating National Authority may specialize the information measure of the present article depending on local conditions and needs. For this purpose documented proposals by interested parties for information measures are taken into account.

## CHAPTER IV

### INSPECTION OF SPRAY APPLICATION EQUIPMENT

#### Article 23<sup>6</sup>

##### Units for inspection of spray application equipment

1. The inspection of spray application equipment according to article 22 of law 4036/2012 (A'8) is conducted by public sector units or/and private sector units belonging to legal entities, called Inspection Stations for Pesticide Spray Application Equipment (so on "Inspection Stations").
2. Institute of Agricultural Machinery of the Hellenic Agricultural Organization "Dimitra" (named "EL.G.O. DIMITRA") is defined as the National Inspection Laboratory.

#### Article 24<sup>7</sup>

##### Classification of inspected spray equipment

After finalizing the inspection of pesticide spray application equipment, the inspected equipment is classified in one of the following categories, according to the provisions of the decision issued under Articles 38 paragraph 3 and 50 par. 1 case. o of the law 4036/2012:

- a) «Category I»: Equipment that fulfills the requirements of Annex C of law 4036/2012. An Inspection Certificate is issued for the equipment of this category and a suitability sign – sticker is glued on a visible position.
- b) «Category II»: Equipment for the application of pesticides with minor deviations of the requirements of Annex C of law 4036/2012. An Inspection Certificate is issued for the equipment of this category where the minor deviations are reported and the obligation to fix them up to the next inspection, according to the provisions of paragraph 1 of article 22 of the law 4036/2012, along with a suitability sign – sticker which is glued on a visible position of the application equipment.
- c) «Category III»: Equipment for the application of pesticides with significant deviations of the requirements of Annex C of law 4036/2012. No suitability sign – sticker is issued for the equipment of this category and its use is forbidden. The deviations are reported in the Inspection Certificate which should be fixed if this equipment is inspected again prior to the programmed date of inspection according to the provisions of paragraph 1 of article 22 of the law 4036/2012, in order to be classified in one of the above a) and b) categories. By the delivering of the Inspection Certificate, the owner of the equipment submits to the "Inspection Station" a law declaration which is sent to the Regional Inventory Service of Agricultural Machinery (P.Y.A.A.M.) that he will not use the pesticide application equipment until its successful inspection.
- d) «Category IV»: Pesticide application equipment that has been included in category III and its owner of a law declaration attests that he wants to delete the equipment by the Pesticides Application Equipment Register of the article 38 of law 4036/2012, and that it does not intend to repair it nor use it.

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<sup>6</sup> Modified by paragraph 6, article 1 of the Common Ministerial Decision num. 6669/79087/15-7-2015 (Government Gazette B 1582)

<sup>7</sup> Modified by paragraph 6, article 1 of the Common Ministerial Decision num. 6669/79087/15-7-2015 (Government Gazette B 1582)

**CHAPTER V**  
**SPECIFIC MEASURES TO PROTECT THE AQUATIC ENVIRONMENT AND DRINKING WATER**

**Article 25**

**Measures to protect the aquatic environment and drinking water**



1. For the purpose of protection of the water environment and drinking water, the Ministry of Rural Development and Food conducts controls of the chemical quality of waters, both surface and ground, that are going to be used in agriculture.
2. For the purpose of protection of the water environment and drinking water, Special Water Secretary of the Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change conducts controls, through the National Control Net, of the quality and the quantity of the national ground and surface water resources, approves protocols of authorities cooperation, the sampling and analysis methods and the data analysis αναλύσεων, supervises the correct conduction of sampling and analysis, indicates the results analysis and report, is responsible and competent for the publicity of the results and is appointed to take all necessary measures for the suitable operation of the net.
3. For the purpose of protection of the water environment and drinking water from the use of pesticides (plant protection products), the Coordinating National Authority:
  - a) Informs professional users through the system of Agricultural Warnings or via local control authorities about the profits of using low-drift nozzles,
  - b) Informs professional users about issued risk reduction measures and motives according to Common Agricultural Policy,
  - c) Establishes procedures for:
    - i. Giving preference of using pesticides that are not registered as priority hazardous substances, as mentioned in law 3199/2003 (A'280),
    - ii. Giving preference to the most efficient application techniques such as the use of low-drift pesticide application equipment especially in vertical crops such as those found in orchards and vineyards,
    - iii. Use of mitigation measures which minimize the risk of off-site pollution caused by spray drift, drain-flow and run-off. These shall include the establishment of appropriately-sized buffer zones for the protection of non-target aquatic organisms and safeguard zones for surface and groundwater used for the abstraction of drinking water, where pesticides must not be used or stored and
    - iv. Reducing as far as possible or eliminating applications on or along roads, railway lines, very permeable surfaces or other infrastructure close to surface water or groundwater or on sealed surfaces with a high risk of run-off into surface water or sewage systems.

**CHAPTER VI**  
**Reduction of pesticide use or risks in specific areas**

**Article 26**  
**Pesticide use in specific areas**




1<sup>8</sup>. A. For the specific areas provided in case a), article 26 of law 4036/2012, biologic control measures and low risk pesticides are primarily preferred. The distances that should be kept between spray zone and protected areas are defined as following:

a) For preparations with classification, packaging and labelling according to the Common Ministerial Decision 265/September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2002 (Government Gazette B-1214) [transposition to Hellenic law of the Directive 1999/45/EC], as valid:

Area to be protected	Use of low spray drift application equipment			Use of mistblowers except electrostatic mistblowers
	Pesticides classified T or T+ 	Pesticides classified Xn or Xi 	Pesticides different classified than previous columns	
Hospitals, charitable institutions, playgrounds, camping, schools and nurseries, sporting grounds, national parks	200 meters	80 meters	20 meters	200 meters
Hotels, army camps, archeological and touristic places	200 meters	80 meters	No restriction	200 meters
Houses outside the city plan or housing estate or zone	50 meters	10 meters	No restriction	50 meters
Houses inside the city plan or housing estate or zone	200 meters	50 meters	No restriction	80 meters
Amenity places (apart of parks)	50 meters	10 meters	No restriction	200 meters

b) For preparations with classification, packaging and labelling according to Regulation (EC) num. 1272/2008 :

<sup>8</sup> Modified by paragraph 7, article 1 of the Common Ministerial Decision num. 6669/79087/15-7-2015 (Government Gazette B 1582)

Area to be protected	Use of low spray drift application equipment			Use of mistblowers except electrostatic mistblowers
	Pesticides with pictogram  or 	Pesticides with pictograms 	Pesticides with different pictograms than previous columns	
Hospitals, charitable institutions, playgrounds, camping, schools and nurseries, sporting grounds, national parks	200 meters	80 meters	20 meters	200 meters
Hotels, army camps, archeological and touristic places	200 meters	80 meters	No restriction	200 meters
Houses outside the city plan or housing estate or zone	50 meters	10 meters	No restriction	50 meters
Houses inside the city plan or housing estate or zone	200 meters	50 meters	No restriction	80 meters
Amenity places (apart of parks)	50 meters	10 meters	No restriction	200 meters

- B. When the spray distance are applicable to houses, the distance to the closest building is measured.
- C. In case there are more safety precautions on the pesticide label, defining stricter than paragraph A. specifications of use, those are applied.
- D. Where demonstrably low drift nozzles (90%) are used and not stricter than those in paragraph A. are set in the authorization of a pesticide, the spray distances of paragraph A can be reduced to twenty (20) meters for formulations required to be sprayed at a greater distance, unless a bigger distance is defined from the spray nozzle of the manufacturer used for the sprayer.
- E. Taking into account the specifications set on plant protection product label, the distances mentioned in the above paragraphs A. and D. are not applied:



- i. In cases of spraying plant protection products to protected crops (particularly glasshouses), when at least during the time of application and up to when the spray liquid is dried, the windows of the sprayed area close to protected areas are closed.
  - ii. In cases of bait spray of plant protection products carried out under the supervision of the competent authorities in accordance with applicable law provisions.
  - iii. In cases of applying plant protection products out of working hours of facilities and business premises of the protected areas of the above tables or during the absence of people from their homes as long as the application of plant protection products lasts.
  - iv. In cases of applying herbicides and other plant protection products, where the distance of the spray nozzle from the ground being less than forty centimeters (40cm).
  - v. In cases where by the side of the protected area, a compact series of non-sprayed vegetation (trees or high shrubs) or safety net (shading, wind break nets or anti-hail) which prevents movement of the droplets of the spray drift.
2. For the specific areas provided in case b), article 26 of law 4036/2012 (A'8), local competent authority of the Regional Unit prepares a specific crop protection plan, where is mentioned:
- a) The crops of the specific area and their plant protection needs,
  - b) Biological measures for the control of pests, diseases and weeds,
  - c) Low risk pesticides that can be used,
  - d) The necessity justification of using other pesticides apart of those of low risk,
  - e) The ecosystem and risks of using pesticides,
  - f) The data and studies related to the negative effects of pesticides use to the specific area,
  - g) The control measures for the use of pesticides in cooperation with the management organizations of the protected areas and
  - h) The specific indicators for the control of pesticide use in these areas.

Aerial pesticide spraying is forbidden in the specific areas provided in case b), article 26 of law 4036/2012 (A'8).

The specific crop protection plan is submitted to the Coordinating National Authority for approval and reviewed every 5 years or earlier if necessary.

3. For the specific areas provided in case c), article 26 of law 4036/2012 (A'8), the professional users should prevent access to people unless the spray liquid is dried or the pesticide is incorporated to soil, in order to minimize the possibility of negative effects to human health. Especially when pesticide application is made to under cover crops, as greenhouses, the access to people should be prevented until the place is well ventilated.

In case that pesticide application is made inside urban areas, measures for maximizing the time between pesticide treatment and access of the area to the public should be adopted, especially for sensitive groups as define in article 3 of Regulation (EC) 1107/2009.

## **CHAPTER VII**

### **SPECIFIC MEASURES FOR HANDLING AND STORAGE OF PESTICIDES AND TREATMENT OF THEIR PACKAGING AND REMNANTS**

#### **Article 27**

##### **Targets of specific measures for handling and storage of pesticides and treatment of their packaging and remnants**

Target of specific measures for handling and storage of pesticides and treatment of their packaging and remnants to minimize risks to humans, non-target organisms and the environment by promoting safe working practices for storing, handling and mixing pesticides, and disposing of empty packaging, other contaminated materials and surplus pesticides (including tank mixes), whether in concentrate or dilute form.

#### **Article 28**

##### **Treatment of pesticides and their application**

1. Best practices are defined by circular issued by the Coordinating National Authority regarding:
  - a) Storing, handling and mixing pesticides prior to application taking into account good agricultural practice codes, international organizations and EC recommendations, national and international standards of integrated crop production as well as results of pilot projects,
  - b) Treatment of pesticide packaging and remnants,
  - c) Disposal of tank mixtures after application and και
  - d) Cleansing of application equipment after use
2. Best practices are incorporated to the training material for training programs on sustainable use of pesticides
3. Best practices also refer to procedures for public awareness, professional users obligations, distributors obligations especially in aspects of safe storage and disposal.

#### **Article 29**

##### **Disposal of empty pesticide containers**

1. The disposal of the empty pesticide containers after their usage and if they contain pesticide residues (code 15 01 10\*), should be according to the provisions of law 2939/2001 (A'179), as valid.

For the effective disposal of those empty containers, it is at least needed:

- a) The professional user must wash the empty containers just after empty them (triple rinse by hand or specific washing pressure machinery and washing water must be emptied to the spray tank)
- b) A structure for the specific collection of these containers, apart of other empty containers, in collection basins, which should be the nearest possible to the places of pesticide use where they are emptied and
- c) Further collection and transport to suitable licensed companies for their management in terms of recycling or energy regaining. In case of recycling, care should be taken for the permitted

use of recycled material, in order to prevent risks to public health, according to the provision of the relative legislation.

The organization of pesticide container disposal is conducted by a system of alternate disposal, according to the provisions of law 2939/2001 (A'179), as valid.

2. The disposal of pesticide containers that are not in direct contact with the formulation (secondary, third part containers), that are not polluted by the pesticide (because of accident or linkage) is made according to the provisions of law 2939/2001 (A'179), as valid, no special disposal is needed and can be collected along with other containers during the operation of systems of alternative disposal.
3. The targets for containers recycling – energy regaining are those mentioned in the Common Ministerial Decision num 9268/469/2007 (B'286) “Modification of quantitative targets for containers recycling – energy regaining according to article 10 (par. A1, last part) of law 2939/2012 (A'179), as well as other provisions of the same law, in compliance to the provisions of directive 2004/12/EC for the modification of directive 94/62/EC about containers and containers disposal”, as valid.

## **CHAPTER VIII INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT**

### **Article 30**

#### **Information to professional users about Integrated Pest Management**

Integrated Pest Management Guides, compiled by the scientific groups formed by the decision of the Minister of Rural Development and Food num. 4012/45395/11.4.2012 are published on internet site of the Ministry of Rural Development and Food, in order to be provided to pesticide professional users all necessary information regarding:

- a) Cultivation techniques they should apply,
- b) General principles,
- c) Cultivation techniques they may voluntarily apply and
- d) Specific recommendations.

### **Article 31**

#### **Usage of Agricultural Warning System**

1. The Agricultural Warning System of the Regional Centers of Plant Protection and Quality Control (R.C.P.P. & Q.C.) of Kavala, Thessaloniki, Ioannina, Magnesia, Achaia, Argolida and Herakleio of the Ministry of Rural Development and Food, under the supervision of the Coordinating National Authority, monitors crops in real time, evaluates the data in a scientific way and issues officially and in time Agricultural Warning Bulletins.
2. For the implementation of the above mentioned in paragraph 1, the following should be applied:
  - a) The expansion of the Agricultural Warning System in all regions of Greece,
  - β) The expansion of the Agricultural Warning System in all annual crops with the involvement of the Directorates of Rural Economy and Veterinary of the Regional Units and the Offices for the Agricultural Development (O.A.D.) of the Municipalities,

- γ) The improvement of delivering Agricultural Warning Bulletins in order to inform every farmer in time, by using mass media, consultants, internet and any other technologies and
  - d) The strengthening of the system by the improvement of the Automatic Meteorological Stations (A.M.S.) and the condensing of the net by the establishment of new, along with the necessary prognosis software supply.
3. The Coordinating National Authority dispatches to the competent thematic Research Centers, programs with specific research subjects, related to precautionary methods and effective management of harmful organisms, especially with non chemical management methods.

## CHAPTER IX

### TARGETS DEFINITION AND INDICATORS OF THE NATIONAL ACTION PLAN

#### Article 32

##### Targets definition and general national indicators

1. The General National Indicators regarding the monitoring of general factors influencing agricultural safety are defined as follows:

Code	General National Indicator	Target
GNI1	Number of professional pesticide users holding certificate of knowledge on sustainable use of pesticides	Up to November 26, 2015, all pesticide professional users should hold certificate of knowledge
GNI4	Percentage of Maximum Residue Limits exceedances in relation to the total number of samples	Reduction 10% up to year 2015
GNI5	Incidents of poisoning caused by professional use of pesticides	Reduction 5% every year
GNI6	Spray drift control (use of low drift nozzles)	Increase of low drift nozzles usage 5% annually

2. The achievement of the above targets mentioned in paragraph 1 is published to the Ministry of Rural Development and Food internet site, at least annually.
3. Statistical data are collected for the monitoring of the General National Indicators:
- a) According to Regulation (EC) 1185/2009 regarding pesticide statistics,
  - β) By the special system of the electronic registration of retail sales of plant protection products,
  - γ) By the statistical data received by the Registry of Pesticide Plants,
  - δ) By the Poisoning Center and
  - ε) By any other source that is evaluated as suitable by the Coordinating National Authority

**Article 33**  
**Definition of specific national indicators**

The Specific National Indicators for monitoring specific environmental factors related to special characteristics and sensitivity of different regions, include the evaluation of environmental quality by using behavioral pesticide statistical models for the environment and the prediction of pollution levels caused by pesticide use up to the farm level and to the linkage basins level, as well as to the chemical definition of pollution levels and bioassays in samples taken from different country regions, with the collaboration of the Coordinating National Authority and the Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change.

**CHAPTER X**  
**FINAL PROVISIONS**

**Article 34**  
**National Action Plan Documentation Center**

1. The NAP Documentation Center is established and operates in Benaki Phytopathological Institute of the Ministry of Rural Development and Food, for the purpose of the collection evaluation and exploitation of research studies, programs results, technological improvements and innovations or any other material relevant with subjects of NAP.
2. The NAP Documentation Center develops infrastructure for open access to knowledge in order to encourage and support research activities in the field of protecting human health and environment against possible risks of pesticide use. In emergency situations where immediate action is needed, the NAP Documentation Center can invite scientific associations to contribute with scientific and other material in order to manage the emergency situations.
3. The material that is kept in the NAP Documentation Center is evaluated in order to confirm its relevance with NAP on sustainable use of pesticides. The evaluation is made every 5 years beginning on the date of valid of this decision or earlier if necessary, following the relevant request of the Coordinating National Authority.
4. The material that is kept in the NAP Documentation Center is used every 5 years in order to review NAP, or earlier in case of emergency measures necessity.
5. The Benaki Phytopathological Institute compiles and submits to the Coordinating National Authority, at least every 5 years beginning on the date of valid of this decision, proposal for review of the NAP, according to the material kept and evaluated in the NAP Documentation Center. In case of emergencies and for the purpose of designing and implementing suitable measures regarding NAP subjects, the Coordinating National Authority may call, after relevant request of the Minister of Rural Development and Food, the Benaki Phytopathological Institute to submit a proposal for the review of the NAP, based on the material kept and evaluated in the NAP Documentation Center. Taking account this proposal, the Coordinating National Authority propose the suitable measures to the Scientific Pesticide Committee of article 5 of law 4036/2012 (A'8) for expert opinion.

**Article 35**  
**Date of valid**

This decision is valid since its publication to the Government Gazette.  
This decision should be published to the Government Gazette.