

Additional procedures for treated plants

- ❑ 38 Keep treated plants and materials away from rest and eating places, stored personal clothing and the personnel areas of vehicles.
- ❑ 39 Always open plant storage bags on site to ventilate for at least one hour before removing the plants.
- ❑ 40 Cut away or roll back the upper part of plant storage bags to provide easy access to the plants.
- ❑ 41 Where feasible, place the storage bag of plants in the planting bag. Otherwise, transfer the plants from the storage bag to the planting bag.
- ❑ 42 Handle plants carefully to minimise personal contamination.
- ❑ 43 Make unusable and safely dispose of all used storage bags.
- ❑ 44 Keep planting bags clean by emptying and washing them out daily. Wash empty containerised seedling trays.
- ❑ 45 Wash planting tool handles daily.
- ❑ 46 **Do not touch the face or any other exposed skin with the gloved hand or forearm sleeve.**
- ❑ 47 If you feel unwell report the symptoms and seek medical advice as soon as reasonably practicable, giving details of the work concerned and the full name of the pesticide product used.

NOTES

FURTHER READING

<i>Pre-planting spraying of container-grown seedlings</i>	FISA102
<i>Application of pesticides by hand-held equipment</i>	FISA202
<i>ATV quad bikes</i>	FISA701
<i>All-terrain vehicles</i>	FISA702
<i>Emergency planning</i>	FISA802
<i>Training and certification</i>	FISA805
<i>First aid at work: Your questions answered</i>	INDG214
<i>Managing health and safety in forestry</i>	INDG294

These publications are available from the FISA and HSE websites.

NOTES

Name:.....

Checklist verified by:.....

Date:

Further information

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Copies of this guide and all other FISA priced and free publications are available by mail order from the FISA office or through the FISA website www.ukfisa.com. From here you will also be able to access a wide range of additional forestry safety information including frequently updated safety alerts.

This guide sets out evidence of good practice for a specific forestry task. Deviation from the guide should only be considered after a full risk assessment has been undertaken by competent persons. Health and safety obligations MUST be met at all times.

THINK SAFE / STAY SAFE

This publication is based on guidance previously published by HSE in AFAG103 Planting, which was withdrawn in 2013.

For more general information about health and safety, please visit the Health and Safety Executive website www.hse.gov.uk



Planting



Image courtesy of UPM Tihill

INTRODUCTION

This leaflet covers the measures to be taken to ensure that the risk of injury is minimised when using manual tools for tree-planting operations.

You can use this leaflet as part of the risk assessment process to help identify the controls to put in place when tree planting.

You must also assess the effect of the site and the weather as well as following this guidance.

All operators must have had appropriate training in how to carry out the tasks required (see FISA leaflet 805 *Training and certification*).

GENERAL

- ❑ 1 Follow best practice during any manual handling operation.
- ❑ 2 Organise the delivery of plants to minimise manual handling, eg use mechanised unloading or teamwork at a prepared site.
- ❑ 3 Organise the layout of plants on the site to minimise carrying. Where practical use an all-terrain vehicle (ATV).
- ❑ 4 Do not attempt to carry too much and adjust the load to suit the plant size and site conditions.

PLANTS WHICH HAVE NOT BEEN TREATED WITH PESTICIDE

Personal protective equipment (PPE)

- ❑ 5 Use the following PPE:
 - Gloves (when planting Sitka spruce or similar species).
 - Non-snap outer clothing.
 - Protective boots or safety wellingtons with good grip (complying with EN 345-1).
- ❑ 6 Carry a personal first-aid kit including a large wound dressing (see HSE leaflet INDG214 *First aid at work: Your questions answered*). Know the symptoms of heat stress and the methods required to treat it.
- ❑ 7 Hand-cleaning material such as waterless skin cleanser or soap, water and paper towels should be readily available.

Equipment required

- ❑ 8 Suitable planting tools.
- ❑ 9 A waterproofed planting bag or plant harness and container.
- ❑ 10 A suitable file with a handle for sharpening tools.

Preparing to work

- ❑ 11 Plan the work to maintain a safe working distance from other workers.
- ❑ 12 Check that the tool head is secure and the handle is free from splinters and cracks.
- ❑ 13 Report any defects in tools and equipment.
- ❑ 14 Ensure the cutting edges of tools are sharp.
- ❑ 15 Adjust the planting bag or harness for comfortable working and do not overload it.
- ❑ 16 Do not carry food or sharp tools in the planting bag.

Planting

- ❑ 17 Maintain a balanced stance.
- ❑ 18 Try to avoid striking any hard obstructions.
- ❑ 19 Keep the blade clear of feet and shins.
- ❑ 20 Carry planting tools safely.

After work

- ❑ 21 Return any plastic/polythene storage bags to the store.
- ❑ 22 Check and clean tools before returning to the store.

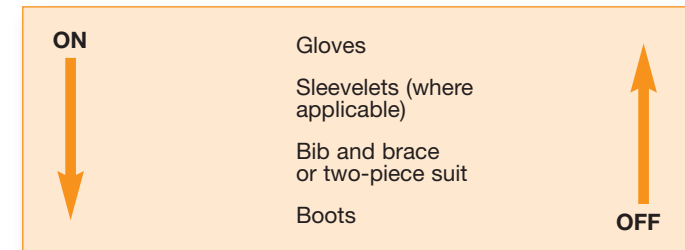
PLANTS WHICH HAVE BEEN TREATED WITH PESTICIDE

- ❑ 23 Where plants have been treated with a pesticide, you should carry out a risk assessment as required under the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002 (COSHH).

Personal protective equipment (PPE)

- ❑ 24 Use the following PPE:
 - a suitable protective bib and brace overall (see the selection table in FISA leaflet 102 *Pre-planting spraying of container-grown seedlings*) and suitable protective elbow-length gloves, or wrist-length gloves (Nitrile, minimum 0.5 mm thickness, complying with EN 374) with cuffs inside protective (plastic) elasticated elbow-length sleevelets; or
 - a suitable two-piece suit and wrist-length gloves with cuffs inside the jacket sleeves; and
 - safety wellingtons or water-repellent boots with a good grip (complying with EN 345-1), to be worn inside trouser legs.
- ❑ 25 Store personal clothing away from sources of contamination.

- ❑ 26 Ensure all protective clothing is clean at the start of each work period. Replace damaged items promptly. Pay particular attention to gloves.
- ❑ 27 Always put on and take off protective clothing in the correct order to avoid contact with contaminated surfaces.



- ❑ 28 Whenever gloves or sleevelets have to be removed, thoroughly wash their outsides with soap and water and wipe off surplus moisture before removal. Replace gloves regularly to minimise exposure to pesticides from any internal contamination.
- ❑ 29 Always remove gloves and thoroughly wash hands in soap and water before smoking or attending to personal needs.
- ❑ 30 At the end of each work period:
 - thoroughly wash the outsides of gloves in soap and water and wipe off surplus moisture;
 - thoroughly wash down the overall/suit;
 - remove protective clothing in the correct order;
 - thoroughly wash hands in soap and water and dry well.
- ❑ 31 Where reasonably practicable, use a running artificial water supply for washing. Ensure that different water and different wash bowls are used for protective clothing and for personal washing.
- ❑ 32 Ensure washing waste does not contaminate watercourses.
- ❑ 33 Use disposable paper towels for drying/wiping off surplus moisture.
- ❑ 34 Always put on, take off, hang to dry and store protective clothing away from rest and eating places, stored personal clothing, the personnel areas of vehicles and sources of contamination.
- ❑ 35 Store protective clothing in ventilated accommodation.
- ❑ 36 At the end of each working day make unusable and safely dispose of gloves and plastic sleevelets unless thoroughly effective cleaning can be guaranteed.
WARNING: Immersion in water is likely to contaminate the inside surfaces.
- ❑ 37 Replace damaged items promptly.