



Spraying of windthrown forest involves risks in the handling of the pesticides. The Work Environment Authority considers that preference should be given to methods other than chemical pesticides for preventing attack by harmful insects.

This brochure deals with the Work Environment Authority requirements for spraying windthrown forest. It is aimed at employers, those who employ hired manpower and those who, either alone or together with family members, run commercial operations without employees.

The National Chemicals Inspectorate has approved three pesticides that may be used against insect attack on unbarked timber:

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- Cyper Plus
- Decis
- Merit Forest

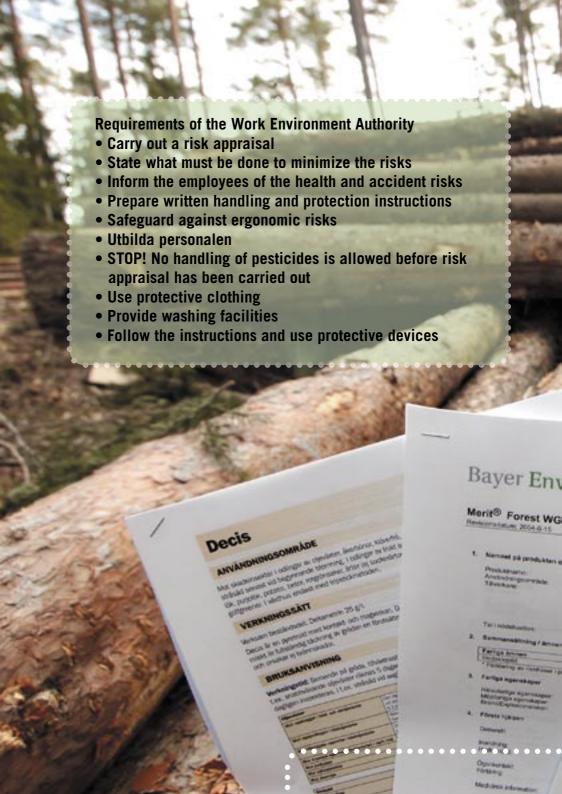
The pesticides used may affect the human nervous system. They may trigger skin allergies, may cause serious skin irritation, and may give rise to stinging sensations and numbness of the skin. They may also irritate the eyes. Avoid inhalation of and skin contact with all three substances.

The Swedish Board of Agriculture requires anyone who handles the three pesticides to have class 2L authorization for handling pesticides. For some applications, a one-day training course may be sufficient for those who carry out pine weevil control on coniferous tree plants. This also applies to manpower from abroad. For further information concerning training requirements, see the Swedish Board of Agriculture web site www.sjv.se.

Requirements of the Work Environment Authority

Before spraying

- The employer or equivalent person shall carry out risk appraisal of the work of spraying unbarked timber. The risk appraisal shall comprise all conceivable risks of occupational accidents and occupational illnesses.
- In the risk appraisal of chemicals handling, consideration shall be given to the properties of the pesticide, the way of handling, the working equipment and other matters that may affect the risks of illness or accidents. With the risk appraisal as the basis, the employer shall then determine what must be done to reduce the risks.
- The employer shall inform the employees of the health and accident risks posed by the pesticides and what must be done to avoid these risks. Information on the risks is included in the safety data sheet for the pesticide. The employer shall also ensure that the employees have understood the information.
- The employer shall prepare written instructions for handling and protection in the work of spraying the pesticide on unbarked timber. The instructions shall clearly specify how the various work operations are to be carried so that those who work on spraying will sustain the least possible exposure to the pesticide. The handling and protection instructions shall be written in a language that the employees can understand.





- Safeguards should also be made against other risks, such as ergonomic risks related to unsuitable and fatiguing working positions, lifting of heavy loads, and risks of falling and slipping. Appliances may be necessary for lifting and transporting materials. Loading ergonomy risks shall be taken into account when selecting the spraying method and equipment. Job rotation and controlled breaks may be necessary to reduce the physical loading on personnel. Lifting appliances and work platforms may be necessary for reaching up to the timber stacks.
- Employers or users of hired manpower must ensure that those who handle pesticides have the necessary training and adequate instructions in accordance with Chapter 3, Section 3 of the Working Environment Law.
- No handling of pesticides may be started before risk appraisal has been carried out and the relevant safety data sheets are available for the employees concerned. Safety data sheets are available at the Work Environment Authority web site www.av.se.

When spraying

- Use moisture-repellent protective clothing, protective gloves of a suitable material, rubber boots and face protection. Use a respiratory protective device during spraying. This should preferably be a full-face mask that also protects the eyes. Information on respiratory protective devices is available in the safety data sheet.
- Washing facilities shall be provided close to the place in the terrain where the pesticide is used. Have water and a suitable cleaning agent available. Wash immediately if pesticide should come into contact with your skin. It is particularly important to wash yourself before breaks, meals, visits to the toilet and smoking.
- Employees are responsible for following the employer's instructions, for using protective devices and for being as careful as necessary for avoiding occupational injury or illness.

What rules are applicable?

Work Environment Authority regulations on pesticides (AFS 1998:6), on chemical occupational risks (AFS 2000:4) and on systematic environmental work (AFS 2001:1).

In the regulations on chemical working environment risks, an employer is regarded as equivalent to anyone who uses hired manpower or anyone who, alone or together with a family member, pursues commercial operations without employees.

If you want to know more about pesticides in the forest, read more at:

www.kemi.se

www.nv.se

www.sjv.se

www.svo.se

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