

4. OPERATOR TRAINING

This section of the Spreadmark Code of Practice contains the following material for groundspread fertiliser companies:

- 4.1 Spreader Operator Training Principles;
- 4.2 Spreader Operator Training Outcomes;
- 4.3 Approved Training Courses

4.1 SPREADER OPERATOR TRAINING PRINCIPLES

1. PHILOSOPHY

The Fertiliser Quality Council are committed to the implementation of the Spreadmark Code of Practice and to that end has supported the development of a training syllabus to assist with the successful achievement of the programme's objectives. The Council believes that the successful achievement of the objectives of the Code is dependant on sound knowledge and understanding within the context of the activity of placement of fertiliser in New Zealand, and that through training of the operator/driver such knowledge and understanding will be gained.

2. METHODOLOGY

Training outcomes have been determined which are based on the material contained in the Spreadmark Code of Practice. The training outcomes are focused on developing the understanding and knowledge that are required by a competent operator/driver in the activity of spreading fertiliser.

Training programmes have been developed based on these training outcomes. Relevant notes, extracts, explanations, demonstrations, worked examples and practical activities support the syllabus units. The material to be used is structured to suit a wide range of operator/drivers with varying levels of knowledge and understanding. In all training activities, the emphasis is on technically sound information and direction, and all essential information will be presented in clear, concise terms and supported by illustrative material and practical aids.

3. APPROVAL

Courses which the Fertiliser Quality Council accepts as meeting the operator training requirements of the Spreadmark Code of Practice are listed in this section of the Code.

4. COMPETENCY

Competency will be assessed at a number of points during the training using a range of appropriate instruments including:

- Written tests
- Multi-choice questions
- Non-verbal graphical interpretation
- Workshop activities
- Verbal recording
- Practical tests

The assessment methods will support and enhance the training with provisions having been made to identify at an early stage those participants

who may require extra assistance to achieve the training outcomes.

Each participant will be required to reach a minimum level of competency in all aspects of the training programme in order to achieve certification.

A sample of all assessment outcomes will be subjected to independent moderation relative to the training objectives stated in the syllabus.

Any person failing to meet the required standard will be advised of the areas of concern and given further coaching and re-tested to ensure he/she achieves the required standard.

5. ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

The Fertiliser Quality Council encourages all persons actively involved in, associated with, or interested in the placement of fertiliser in New Zealand to be trained in the requirements of the Spreadmark Code of Practice. To facilitate this there should be no limitations of prior learning or employment placed on people entering this training.

6. CERTIFICATION

Certification is only to be available upon the successful completion of an approved training course by an accredited provider. This includes all on-course activities and evaluation tasks, and any pre and/or post course activities.

4.2 SPREADER OPERATOR TRAINING OUTCOMES

SCOPE

This material describes the outcomes sought of an operator training programme to be acceptable as suitable training for operators involved in the Spreadmark scheme. The purpose of the training is to ensure that fertiliser spreading machinery operators are competent.

OUTCOMES OF TRAINING

The competence of fertiliser spreading machinery operators is ensured by them completing a training course with the following training outcomes:

1. FERTILISER KNOWLEDGE

This will involve a basic knowledge of fertilisers and lime.

- Types.
- Safety Data Sheets.
- Factors which could lead to problems e.g. mixes of fertilisers with very different particle sizes (SGN) or incompatible mixes.
- How the bulk density (BD), SGN and uniformity index (UI) of various fertilisers interact and affect how well various fertilisers can be spread.
- How to measure SGN and BD with sieve and volume boxes.

2. SPREADER SKILLS

The operator skills relating to spreaders are:

- Consequences of poor spreading (agronomic and environmental), awareness of the influence of wind.
- Choosing an appropriate bout width (BW) for particular loads of fertiliser.
- Interpreting information to be able to know what settings on spreading machinery are needed for various fertilisers and fertiliser characteristics in order to achieve the correct application and BW.
- Adjusting spreader equipment.
- Factors affecting the performance of the machine over time (build-up).
- Handling spillage.
- Being able to operate to a particular bout width.

3. COMMUNICATION SKILLS

Sufficient communication skills with farmers to ensure that the fertiliser is applied in the correct place and that local hazards are identified.

4. ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

An awareness of the consequences for stock health and of environmental damage from fertiliser, the actions taken to avoid this (waterways, riparian areas and soakage zones) and the effect of wind drift.

4.3 APPROVED TRAINING COURSES

The following training courses are recognised by the Fertiliser Quality Council as meeting the operator training requirements of the Spreadmark System Standard:

1. Stage One of the National Certificate in Commercial Road Transport (Ground Spreading) of the NZ Road Transport Logistics. Industry Training Organisation comprising the following Unit Standards:
 - **1732** Select and record routes as a road transport operator.
 - **1737** Drive a heavy vehicle on unsealed road surfaces.
 - **1738** Drive heavy vehicles in off-road environments.
 - **6257** Operate a front end loader mounted on a tractor.
 - **15164** Demonstrate knowledge of driving hours law and complete driving hours logbook.
 - **17973** Drive a heavy rigid motor vehicle.
 - **19370** Demonstrate knowledge of the Spreadmark Code of Practice as it applies to fertiliser spreading.
 - **19373** Demonstrate knowledge of fertiliser and the implications for handling and spreading fertiliser.
 - **19374** Describe fertiliser spreaders and fertiliser spreading and demonstrate driving skill.

2. The Spreader Operator Training Course previously operated by the Fertiliser Quality Council (no longer offered).