



Asulam (Asulox) for Bracken Control 2020

Introduction

Asulam is the active ingredient in the product Asulox, which is manufactured by UPL Europe Ltd.

This leaflet has been prepared to brief distributors and end-users of Asulox about the status of the product and the new requirement for end-users to supply records about how Asulox is used.

The future of Asulox is uncertain, and providing the authorities with some feedback about how the product has been used is essential if its future is to be secured as an invaluable tool for the control of bracken.

Registration of Asulam (Asulox)

In 2011, the EU authorities did not approve the registration of Asulam under the latest regulations. After collecting supporting data, a new application to register the use of Asulam for bracken control under the EU regulations was submitted in 2016. As a result of calls for additional information to support the application, a decision about the registration application is unlikely to be made until 2021, at the earliest.

If successful, the approval will only relate to the active ingredient, Asulam. To complete the registration process, a further application must then be submitted and approved for the product, Asulox. This could take up to two years. Until successful completion of this process, annual Emergency Authorisations will be required to maintain the availability of Asulox.

As the UK will be adopting all the EU regulations relating to the use of herbicides, in the short-term, Brexit will not introduce any changes to the regulations or the process that has to be followed.

Emergency Authorisation

Since the 2013 bracken control season, Asulox has been available under the terms of a succession of annual Emergency Authorisations (EA), which the Bracken Control Group has applied for.

The Chemicals Regulation Division (CRD) of HSE has granted an authorisation for the 2020 season to allow application of Asulox for bracken control from 1st July until 14th September. Storage of stocks can continue, and stocks can be moved for disposal, until 31st October, but Asulox cannot be applied after this date. It will be illegal to store Asulox after this date.

The BCG submitted a further application with more information to challenge the restrictions that were included in this year's approval. The revised restrictions on the use of Asulam for bracken control during the 2020 season are:

- Aerial application of Asulox from a helicopter will be permitted subject to observing a buffer zone to protect surface water bodies that is 90m wide. *This has been increased from 50m in previous years.*
- Ground-based application of Asulox will be allowed on 'land designated for conservation' or that is covered by an agri-environment scheme. *This is a change: under the earlier approval, no ground-based application was permitted.*
- CRD has requested an increase in the amount of information provided by end users about how and where Asulam is applied.

The Bracken Control Group

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Full details of the revised approval will be available on the BCG's website¹. It is essential that anyone planning to apply Asulam for bracken control during 2020 reads and fully understands all the restrictions that have been agreed. If there are any queries, there is a contact form on the BCG website.

Amidosulfuron Products

These products are authorised for use as an alternative to Asulam for ground-based control of bracken, and they have been shown to provide effective control.

However, their use is discouraged, particularly on designated or sensitive land, because of uncertainties over their impact. Research into these issues is in progress.

Livestock Exclusion

Paragraph 5 of the Other Specific Restrictions Section of the EA contains details of the requirement to remove livestock from areas to be treated and that livestock must not be allowed to return until at least 1 month after treatment.

This is to make sure that the Maximum Residue Limit in the livestock is not exceeded; livestock products from areas where bracken control has taken place can be tested to establish the residue levels.

CRD Requirements for Information

CRD has asked for details of the habitats and environments where Asulox is sprayed. While it is appreciated that this places an extra burden on end users, if Asulam is to be available in the future, providing this information to CRD is essential.

The information required is set out in the attached form. However, it would be preferred if details could be provided using the online form, available on the link below².

Product Label

The Label is being revised to reflect the terms of the approval. It will be supplied with the Asulox container and it will be possible to download it from the BCG website.

Permit System

Prior to aerial application of Asulox, the helicopter contractor must apply to CRD for a permit. For designated sites, the relevant conservation agency will be invited to comment. To allow time for the permit to be granted, landowners and land managers must contact the helicopter contractor far enough in advance.

Containers

Asulox will be available in 20 litre and 1,000 litre IBCs.

The returns system will also operate this year. UPL Europe Ltd will accept the return of unused, unopened containers, if they are in a clean condition; a full refund will be given.

Additional information:

UPL Website - <http://www.upl-ltd.com/>

Bracken Control website - <https://www.brackencontrol.co.uk/>

Bracken Briefings - <https://www.brackencontrol.co.uk/bracken-briefings-2019> (these are a series of short briefings that have been prepared to summarise the current situation)

¹ <http://www.brackencontrol.co.uk/asulam>

² Online form: <https://forms.gle/c7zNji8VyEhSVY1d7>



ASULAM APPLICATION RECORDS
(version for printing and completing by hand)

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The Chemicals Regulation Division (CRD) of the Health & Safety Executive controls the use of Asulam throughout the UK.
- 1.2 The Bracken Control Group has submitted the successful applications for an annual Emergency Authorisation that started with the 2013 season.
- 1.3 To support further applications for an Emergency Authorisation, and the eventual registration of Asulam under the latest regulations, CRD has asked for details about where Asulam is applied.

2 Purpose

- 2.1 To ensure the continued availability of Asulam in the future, all users of Asulam (landowners, land managers or contractors) are asked to complete this form and return it to the Bracken Control Group. Details below.
- 2.2 With this information available to support the future applications, it is more likely that CRD will grant further Emergency Authorisations, and this may also affect the eventual decision about registration of Asulam (and Asulox).

3 Submitting Information

- 3.1 Records for similar types of ground can be submitted on one form regardless of how many separate areas are treated.
- 3.2 There are three ways to submit the information. In descending order of preference, these are the options:
 - 3.2.1 Complete the on-line version of the form – available on the link¹ below.
 - 3.2.2 Download the Word version of the form from the website and complete it on a PC / Mac computer (but not on a tablet) and return it to info@brackencontrol.co.uk
 - 3.2.3 Complete the printed version of the form provided by the distributors of Asulam. After completion, the form can be scanned / photographed for return electronically, or returned by post to the address below.

¹ <https://forms.gle/soB35TgyXucBzHdV8>



ASULAM APPLICATION DETAILS 2020

1. LOCATION	
County	
Country	
Description of area – upland / lowland	
2. HABITAT DETAILS <i>(select the closest description)</i>	
Grassland	
Heathland	
Woodland	
3. DESIGNATED SITE <i>(covering part of the treated area)</i>	
Yes / No	
SSSI / ASSI	
SPA / SAC	
National Nature Reserve	
National Park	
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty	
National Scenic Area (Scotland)	
Scheduled Monument	
Other designation + details	
4. AGRI-ENVIRONMENT SCHEME FUNDING	
England	
• Countryside Stewardship	
• Higher Level Stewardship	
• Environmental Stewardship	
• Other support scheme + details	
Scotland	
• Agri-environment Climate Scheme	
• Other support scheme + details	
Wales	
• Glastir	
• Other Support scheme + details	
Northern Ireland	
• Environmental Farming Scheme	
• Other Support scheme + details	
5. LAND TREATED WITH ASULAM	
Area part of a designated site (Hectares)	
Undesignated area (Hectares)	
Asulam Application rate (Litres/ha)	

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6. TREATMENT METHOD	
Aerial spray	
Ground boom sprayer	
Ground single-point sprayer	
Vehicle mounted lance	
Hand-held equipment	

Thank you for completing this form