

NPTC

by City & Guilds

April 2026

Pesticide Application and Pest Control

A guide to the new suite of products





Contents

Introduction	3
The qualification suite	5
Pest control	5
Pesticides application (PA)	6
Assessments	7
Outcomes	7
Refreshers	7
Funding	8



Introduction

NPTC by City & Guilds offers a full suite of licence-to-practise qualifications for individuals who apply professional pesticide products and/or carry out pest control.

These qualifications meet the standards set by the United Kingdom (UK) Pesticides National Action Plan (NAP) 2025, the Official Controls (Plant Protection Products) Regulations 2020, and the Campaign for Responsible Rodenticide Use (CRRU) stewardship. Holding an approved qualification is a legal requirement under the Plant Protection Products (Sustainable Use) Regulations 2012 and the CRRU stewardship.

We also offer a range of CPD Refresher Modules; under the Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations (PUWER), refresher training is recommended every 2–5 years.

As the UK's leading Land-based awarding organisation, NPTC by City & Guilds is the only body to offer the full suite of qualifications covering all recognised pesticide application and pest control methods in the UK. Our qualifications are designed to give learners the knowledge, skills, and confidence to work safely and competently, with guidance and support at every step.

We were delighted that the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) reviewed all of the work we put into update the assessments highlighting the benefits for those undertaking getting their CoC.





██████████

“HSE has reviewed the pesticide suite of assessment modules as part of the requirement for ensuring professional user accredited awards in relation to plant protection products by City & Guilds as a designated awarding body”

Health and Safety Executive

The qualification suite

Pest control

NPTC by City & Guilds offers the full suite of Pest Control qualifications for individuals who need to:

- Purchase and use rodenticides to control rats and mice
- Purchase and use aluminium phosphide for vertebrate pest control
- Use traps for vertebrate pest control

Qualification	Accreditation number	Available for delivery in
Level 2 Award in the Safe Use of Pesticides for Vertebrate Pest Control for Rats and Mice (PA-R&M) (0216-70)	610/6545/6	England, Wales, NI, Scotland
Level 2 Award in the Safe Use of Aluminium Phosphide for Vertebrate Pest Control (PA-AP) (0216-71)	610/6546/8	England, Wales, NI, Scotland
Level 2 Award in the Safe Use of Traps for Vertebrate Pest Control (TVPC) (0216-72)	610/6547/X	England, Wales, NI, Scotland





Pesticides application (PA)

Pesticides, also known as Plant Protection Products (PPPs), include insecticides, fungicides, herbicides, molluscicides, and plant growth regulators. Learners gain the knowledge and skills required to apply these products safely and effectively using a range of equipment, from hand-held applicators to specialist machinery and aerial delivery systems.

Qualification	Accreditation number	Available for delivery in
Level 2 Award in the Principles of Safe Handling and Application of Pesticides (PA1) (0216-73)	n/a	England, Wales, NI, Scotland
Level 2 Award in the Safe Application of Pesticides Using Self-Propelled, Mounted or Trailed Horizontal Boom Sprayers (PA2) (0216-74)	610/6548/1	England, Wales, NI, Scotland
Level 2 Award in the Safe Application of Pesticides Using Variable Geometry Boom or Broadcast Sprayers (PA3) (0216-75)	610/6549/3	England, Wales, NI, Scotland
Level 2 Award in the Safe Application of Pelleted or Granular Pesticides Using Mounted or Trailed Applicators (PA4) (0216-76)	610/6550/X	England, Wales, NI, Scotland
Level 2 Award in the Safe Application of Pesticides Using Boat Mounted Equipment (PA5) (0216-77)	610/6551/1	England, Wales, NI, Scotland
Level 2 Award in the Safe Application of Pesticides Using Pedestrian Handheld Equipment (PA6) (0216-78)	610/6552/3	England, Wales, NI, Scotland
Level 2 Award in the Safe Application of Pesticides from the Air (PA7) (0216-79)	610/6553/5	England, Wales, NI, Scotland
Level 2 Award in the Safe Mixing and Transferring of Pesticides (PA8) (0216-80)	610/6554/7	England, Wales, NI, Scotland
Level 2 Award in the Safe Application of Pesticide Mists, Fogs or Smokes (PA9) (0216-81)	610/6555/9	England, Wales, NI, Scotland
Level 2 Award in the Safe Dipping of Plant Material in Pesticides (PA10) (0216-82)	610/6556/0	England, Wales, NI, Scotland
Level 2 Award in the Safe Treatment of Seeds with Pesticides (PA11) (0216-83)	610/6557/2	England, Wales, NI, Scotland
Level 2 Award in the Safe Application of Pesticides to Plant Material During a Continuous Flow Process (PA12) (0216-84)	610/6558/4	England, Wales, NI, Scotland
Level 2 Award in the Safe Sub Surface Application of Liquid Pesticides (PA13) (0216-85)	610/6559/6	England, Wales, NI, Scotland
Level 2 Award in the Safe Application of Pesticides Using Specialist Equipment (PASC) (0216-86)	610/6560/2	England, Wales, NI, Scotland
Level 3 Award in Responsible Pesticide Management (PA-RPM) (0216-87)	610/6561/4	England, Wales, NI, Scotland



City & Guilds have worked together with industry partners in highlighting the importance of maintaining a competent workforce that can demonstrate up-to-date knowledge and skills within their day-to-day working practices.

Assessments

The PA1 unit is assessed through an online multiple-choice test (MCQ), while all other Pesticide Application and Pest Control suite are evaluated through one-to-one practical observation and oral questioning. Candidates are required to register and book their training and assessment through a local Certificate of Competence (CoC) Assessment Centre.

Outcomes

On successful completion, learners will:

- Meet legal requirements for purchasing and using professional pesticide or pest control products
- Demonstrate competence and safe working practices in real-world environments
- Hold nationally recognised licence-to-practice
- Support compliance with CRRU and UK pesticide regulations.



CPD and Refresher training provide opportunities to learn something new, refresh existing knowledge, improve skills and keep up-to-date with the latest developments in the industry.

Refreshers

NPTC by City & Guilds also offers a range of pesticide refresher products. Under the Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations (PUWER), updating is recommended every 2–5 years. Refreshers support learners to:

- Maintain legal compliance
- Refresh existing knowledge and skills
- Learn about new legislation, technology, and best practice
- Keep up to date with industry developments.





Funding

Please note that we have submitted the following new Pesticide/Pest Control qualifications to DfE for funding approval. We should know the outcomes by mid-April. We will communicate this to you once we get confirmation.

Qualification	Available for delivery in
Level 2 Award in the Safe Application of Pesticides Using Self-Propelled, Mounted or Trailed Horizontal Boom Sprayers (PA2)	England, Wales, NI, Scotland
Level 2 Award in The Safe Application of Pesticides Using Pedestrian Hand-held Equipment (PA6)	England, Wales, NI, Scotland
Level 2 Award in the Safe Use of Pesticides for Vertebrate Pest Control for Rats and Mice (PA-R&M)	England, Wales, NI, Scotland

In the meantime, funding for the most popular legacy qualifications (where available) continues as previously until the funding for the new qualifications is available. If you want to check which qualifications are funded, please visit [find a learning aim](#).



Next steps

Want to know more about our full suite of qualifications, CoCs and CPD courses?

[Speak to one of the team](#)

About NPTC

NPTC is part of City & Guilds, the UK's largest awarding organisation in the land-based sector.

Our land-based services include agriculture, horticulture, forestry, animal care, conservation, machinery and more. We offer qualifications developed in consultation with industry experts, across a range of levels and to suit all learning needs. These give learners the opportunity to develop the skills and occupational competence employers need, to the highest standard, and in many cases provide workers with a licence to practice.

Contact us

Giltspur House
5-6 Giltspur Street
London EC1A 9DE

information@cityandguilds.com

+44 (0) 1924 930 800

www.nptc.org.uk

Every effort has been made to ensure that the information contained in this publication is true and correct at time of going to press. However, NPTC products and services are subject to continuous development and improvement, and the right is reserved to change products and services from time to time. City & Guilds Limited cannot accept responsibility for any loss or damage arising from the use of information in this publication.