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DECISIONS

No 9269/246316

National Action Plan under Article 18 of Law 4036/2012 (Government Gazette, Series I, No 8), for the purpose of implementing Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 October 2009 establishing a framework for Community action to achieve the sustainable use of pesticides (L 309)

**THE MINISTERS FOR
HEALTH / ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY /
RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND FOOD**

Having regard to:

1. the provisions of:

(a) Article 18(2), Article 32(1) and Article 50(4) of Law 4036/2012 on pesticide marketing, sustainable use and other provisions (Government Gazette, Series I, No 8);

(b) Article 90 of the Legislative Code on government and government bodies (Article 1 of Presidential Decree 63/2005, Government Gazette, Series I, No 98);

(c) Presidential Decree 97/2017 (Government Gazette, Series I, No 138) on the organisation of the Ministry of Rural Development and Food;

(d) Presidential Decree 83/2019 (Government Gazette, Series I, No 121) on the appointment of the Deputy Prime Minister, Ministers, Alternate Ministers and Deputy Ministers;

(e) Joint Ministerial Decision No 8197/90920/22.7.2013 (Government Gazette, Series II, No 1883) establishing a National Action Plan for the purpose of implementing Directive 2009/128/EC and protecting people and the environment, as amended by Law 6669/79087/15.7.2015 (Government Gazette, Series II, No 1791);

(f) Presidential Decree 62/2020 (Government Gazette, Series I, No 155) on the appointment of alternate ministers and deputy ministers;

(g) Ministerial Decision ref. No ΥΠΕΝ/ΥΠΠΓ/77267/7637 delegating powers to the Deputy Minister for the Environment and Energy, Mr N. Tagaras (Government Gazette, Series II, No 3296);

2. the fact that this Decision entails no expenditure under the national budget,
have decided as follows:

Article 1

Purpose - Scope

1. The purpose of this Decision is to revise the National Action Plan (NAP) under Article 18 of Law 4036/2012 (Government Gazette, Series I, No 8), for the purpose of implementing Article 4(1) and (2) of Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 October 2009 establishing a framework for Community action to achieve the sustainable use of pesticides (L 309), with regard to:

(a) training in the sustainable use of pesticides;

(b) the system for obtaining a certificate of knowledge of the sustainable use of pesticides;

(c) information to the public about pesticides;

(d) inspection of the pesticide application equipment in use;

(e) specific measures to protect the aquatic environment and drinking water;

(f) specific measures to reduce pesticide use or risks in specific areas;

(g) specific measures for the handling and storage of pesticides and the management of their packaging and remnants;

(h) integrated pest management; and

(i) setting the targets of the NAP and the indicators for measuring them.

2. This Decision shall apply to pesticides that are plant protection products as defined in Article 17(10)(a) of Law 4036/2012.

CHAPTER I

TRAINING IN THE SUSTAINABLE USE OF
PESTICIDES

Article 2

System for training in the sustainable use of
pesticides

1. The system for training in the sustainable use of pesticides shall include the following:

(a) a procedure for the certification of instructors who will provide training in the sustainable use of pesticides;

(b) initial and additional training programmes for the sustainable use of pesticides in order for professional users of pesticides to acquire or update knowledge of the subjects referred to in Annex B to Law 4036/2012, as such programmes are drawn up in accordance with Article 33(2) of the same Law.

2. The Coordinating National Authority (CNA) referred to in Article 3(1) and (2) of Law 4036/2012, in cooperation with the Directorate for e-Governance of the Ministry of Rural

Development and Food (MRDF), shall keep a register of training providers in the field of sustainable pesticide use, which shall be posted on the internet for the information of the persons concerned and which shall record the providers of initial and additional training in the sustainable use of pesticides.

3. The programme of initial training in the sustainable use of pesticides shall be mandatory for professional users of pesticides who do not hold a certificate of knowledge of the sustainable use of pesticides.

4. The programmes of initial and additional training shall be optional for professional users of pesticides who hold a certificate of knowledge of the sustainable use of pesticides.

Article 3

Certification of instructors providing training in the sustainable use of pesticides

1. The Directorate for e-Governance of the Ministry of Rural Development and Food shall create a database with a register of instructors in the field of sustainable use of pesticides, kept by the CNA.

2. The natural persons involved in the certification of instructors must hold a degree in agronomy from a higher education establishment (AEI) or a degree from the Department of Plant Production or the Department of Management of Agricultural Holdings of the School of Agricultural Technology, or from the Department of Greenhouse Crops and Floriculture of the Faculty of Agriculture in technological education establishments (TEI), or an equivalent degree or diploma in a corresponding field from schools in an EU Member State or in a non-EU country.

3. The certification shall relate to the subjects referred to in Annex B to Law 4036/2012 and the procedure shall be determined in accordance with Article 50(o) and (r) of Law 4036/2012.

Article 4

Providers of initial and additional training in the sustainable use of pesticides

1. Training in the sustainable use of pesticides shall be carried out by public and private bodies that meet the conditions set out in paragraph 4 of this Article.

2. Public providers of training in the sustainable use of pesticides shall be:

- (a) the Hellenic Agricultural Agency (ELGO) 'DIMITRA',
- (b) higher education establishments and
- (c) the Benaki Phytopathological Institute.

3. Private providers of training in the sustainable use of pesticides shall be:

(a) lifelong learning providers offering non-formal adult education that have been licensed by the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs, and

(b) vocational training centres certified by the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs.

4. Public and private providers of training in the sustainable use of pesticides, as described in paragraphs 2 and 3 of this Article, shall be entered in the register referred to in Article 2(2) upon application to the CNA. To be entered in the register, training providers must:

(a) employ a sufficient number of instructors, who are certified and entered in the register in accordance with

Article 3, in order to cover the subjects listed in Annex B to Law 4036/2012;

(b) provide theoretical and practical training; and

(c) have the necessary facilities and technical equipment and supplies to provide training.

5. Training providers shall offer initial training programmes for the sustainable use of pesticides, covering all the subjects listed in Annex B to Law 4036/2012.

6. Training providers shall offer additional training programmes for updating the knowledge of professional users of pesticides, covering all the subjects listed in Annex B to Law 4036/2012.

Article 5

Evaluation of training in the sustainable use of pesticides

Participants shall evaluate the initial and additional training in the sustainable use of pesticides by filling in a questionnaire which is distributed to them by the training provider after completion of each training programme.

Article 6

Review and improvement of the system for training in the sustainable use of pesticides

Scientific bodies, inspection authorities, training providers and participants may submit to the CNA, in writing and by electronic means, proposals to improve the training provided to professional users of pesticides.

CHAPTER II

SYSTEM FOR OBTAINING A CERTIFICATE OF KNOWLEDGE OF THE SUSTAINABLE USE OF PESTICIDES

Article 7

Procedure for obtaining a certificate of knowledge of the sustainable use of pesticides

1. Professional users of pesticides shall be required to hold a certificate of knowledge of the sustainable use of pesticides, in respect of the subjects listed in Annex B to Law 4036/2012, in order to be able to purchase plant protection products approved for professional use.

2. A degree in agronomy from a higher education establishment (AEI) or a degree from the Department of Plant Production or the Department of Management of Agricultural Holdings of the School of Agricultural Technology, or from the Department of Greenhouse Crops and Floriculture of the Faculty of Agriculture in technological education establishments (TEI), or an equivalent degree or diploma in a corresponding field from schools in an EU Member State or in a non-EU country, shall serve as a certificate of knowledge of the sustainable use of pesticides, valid for an indefinite period.

3. Certificates of knowledge of the sustainable use of pesticides shall be awarded following examinations carried out in the examination centres referred to in Article 8 of this Decision, through a dedicated electronic application and in accordance with the regulation on examinations for the award of a certificate of knowledge of the sustainable use of pesticides; such regulation shall be drawn up by the CNA and posted on the MRDF's website. For the examinations, the CNA shall set up and keep up to date a database of multiple-choice questions, which have only one correct

answer. The questions entered shall cover each point of Annex B to Law 4036/2012. The examinees shall be asked to answer forty (40) questions within a certain time, randomly selected from the database, as follows:

- (a) points (a), (b) and (m): four (4) questions;
- (b) points (c), (f), (g), (j) and (l): twelve (12) questions;
- (c) points (d), (e) and (k): twelve (12) questions; and
- (d) points (h) and (i): twelve (12) questions.

At least twenty-eight (28) questions must be answered correctly to obtain the certificate.

4. After the examination, the examinees shall be informed immediately of the number of questions they have answered correctly and of whether or not they will be awarded the certificate. Following the CNA's approval, the certificate shall be printed and shall bear a unique code. The register referred to in paragraph 6 shall be updated accordingly.

5. In specific cases where it is not possible to carry out the examinations online, certificates of knowledge of the sustainable use of pesticides may be awarded following written examinations, with the examinees answering questions taken from the database referred to in paragraph 3.

6. The CNA, in cooperation with the Directorate for e-Governance, shall keep a register of holders of a certificate of knowledge of the sustainable use of pesticides. The register shall be posted on the internet for the information of interested parties and shall record:

- (a) the natural persons holding a certificate of knowledge of the sustainable use of pesticides; and
- (b) the legal persons that employ a person responsible for the use of pesticides, who holds a certificate of knowledge of the sustainable use of pesticides.

Article 8

Examination centres and examination fees

1. Upon application to the CNA, the public and private bodies referred to in Article 4(2) and (3) shall be entered in the MRDF's dedicated digital application as examination centres for the award of a certificate of knowledge of the sustainable use of pesticides, provided that they have appropriate facilities, technical equipment and supplies and suitable rooms for that purpose.

2. No more than twenty (20) examinees may be present in each examination room, plus one invigilator from the provider concerned. The invigilator must not have participated as an instructor in programmes under the system for training in the sustainable use of pesticides for a period of at least one year. The invigilator may assist the examinees only where there are issues of connection to the examination database.

3. The fees for those interested in taking examinations for obtaining a certificate of knowledge of the sustainable use of pesticides shall be set in accordance with Article 50(3)(c) of Law 4036/2012, as in force, and Decision No 13631/159106/20.12.2013 (Government Gazette, Series II, No 3410) laying down the examination fee for the award of a certificate of knowledge of the sustainable use of pesticides and the fee for notifying commencement of operation of the bodies responsible for the initial training of pesticide marketing managers, as amended by Decision No 11118/127128/9.11.2015 (Government Gazette, Series II, No 2518).

Article 9

Validity period and renewal of the certificate of knowledge of the sustainable use of pesticides

1. The certificates of knowledge of the sustainable use of pesticides shall be valid for seven (7) years from the date of issue. From the entry into force of this Decision, the validity period of existing certificates shall be set at seven (7) years from the date of issue.

2. The persons concerned may, before their certificates expire, take the examination referred to in Article 7 with a view to renewing them for a further seven (7) years.

Article 10

Withdrawal of the certificate of knowledge of the sustainable use of pesticides

If the checks referred to in Article 44 of Law 4036/2012 reveal an infringement regarding the possession and use of pesticides, the certificate of knowledge of the sustainable use of pesticides shall be withdrawn by decision of the MRDF's Director-General for Agriculture. The persons concerned may try to reobtain a certificate in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 7.

CHAPTER III
INFORMATION TO THE
PUBLIC ABOUT
PESTICIDES

Article 11

Information to the public about pesticides

The information provided to the public about pesticides shall mainly concern:

- (a) the benefits of the sustainable use of pesticides for the production of safe food;
- (b) the risks posed by the use of pesticides to people and the measures to protect vulnerable groups from non-occupational or unintentional exposure to pesticides;
- (c) the risks posed by the use of pesticides to the environment, underground and surface water resources, non-target organisms (in particular birds, beneficial insects, aquatic organisms), flora and fauna in agrosystems;
- (d) the identification of sources of pollution from the use of pesticides and the prevention measures;
- (e) first aid in the event of exposure to pesticides resulting from an accident or occupational exposure; and
- (f) the presentation of the applicability of organic farming, in cooperation with the MRDF's Directorate for Quality Systems and Organic Farming.

Article 12

Information to the public about pesticides and their effects on bees

To inform the public about pesticides and their effects on bees, the MRDF, in cooperation with the Benaki Phytopathological Institute, shall set up a dedicated webpage on the internet. The webpage shall:

- (a) provide recommendations to reduce the effects of pesticides on bees, and
- (b) enable any interested party to report adverse effects on bees from the use of pesticides.

Article 13

Information to the public about baits poisoned with pesticides and how to deal with them

The MRDF, in cooperation with the Benaki Phytopathological Institute, shall set up a dedicated webpage to provide information to the public about baits poisoned with pesticides, which lead to the death of animals and may adversely affect and contaminate the ecosystems in which they are detected, and also about how to deal with them. The webpage shall:

- (a) include specific protocols for the collection and management of baits poisoned with pesticides;
- (b) record cases of wild animal poisoning from baits

poisoned with pesticides;

(c) provide recommendations for dealing with animal poisoning from pesticides; and

(d) enable any person concerned to report incidents of poisoning of domestic and wild animals, which have come to his/her attention.

Article 14

Information to the public about pesticides and the conservation of natural resources

Local bodies, such as environmental education centres, schools and cultural associations, must be mobilised and provide support in order to inform and raise awareness among the general population about pesticides and to raise awareness among farmers about the need to sufficiently achieve the conservation of natural resources, animals and ecosystems.

Article 15

Information to the public about pesticides and acute poisoning incidents

To inform the public about pesticides and how to deal with acute poisoning incidents caused by the use of pesticides and how to achieve a faster clinical diagnosis and treatment, the CNA, together with the Poison Centre of the Athens General Paediatric Hospital 'Panagiotis and Aglaia Kyriakou', shall organise educational programmes, with the involvement of holders of pesticide marketing authorisations and local bodies, for rural doctors or doctors in local hospitals who are expected to be on the frontline of incidents of acute poisoning from pesticides.

Article 16

Information to the public about spray drift

1. Professional users shall have the obligation to minimise the likelihood of spray drift arising and to minimise the likelihood of people being exposed to spray drift, which is why they shall take at least the following measures:

- (a) explore the option and cost-effectiveness of applying non-chemical methods to address the problem that their crop is facing;
- (b) explore the option and cost-effectiveness of using sprayers that do not create spray drift;
- (c) spray on days or at times that minimise the likelihood of people being exposed to spray drift;
- (d) ensure that the sprayer nozzles used are either of a special type that reduce spray drift (drift reduction nozzles) or are sufficiently maintained and adjusted to reduce spray drift;

(e) spray on days and at times when strong wind is not blowing. When wind strength changes and in particular when it increases significantly during application, spraying shall be stopped immediately until wind strength decreases. When wind strength constantly changes, application shall start after wind strength has stabilised at low levels. In addition to wind strength, various other factors also affect spray drift when applying pesticides, in particular the size of the drop, the pressure of the sprayer, the form of the preparation and the type of nozzle. Consequently, for pesticides to be applied, the wind strength, together with the other factors, must be such that undesirable spray drift is not caused;

- (f) follow the rules on good agricultural practice.

2. Forty-eight (48) hours before the time of spraying, in accordance with paragraph 5, the professional user shall inform in writing the residents, professionals, workers and temporary residents in the area that is likely to be affected by the spray drift, who may be exposed to it. Where only passers-by may be exposed to a spray drift, information as per the first subparagraph shall be provided before spraying begins.

3. (a) The information referred to in paragraph 2 shall concern:

- (aa) the estimated start time of spraying,
- (ab) the location of the crop to be sprayed,
- (ac) the trade name of the plant protection products to be used, and

(ad) the hazard pictograms indicated on the packaging and the corresponding hazard statements.

(b) The professional user shall provide professionals, in particular beekeepers, snail farmers and livestock rearers, who may be exposed to a pesticide spray drift, with information in writing, in addition to the information referred to in paragraph (a), about the effects on their activity that are indicated on the packaging of the plant protection product to be used.

4. The information form referred to in paragraphs 2 and 3, which is used by professional users, is available on the MRDF's website and contains drawings and illustrations so that it can also be understood by foreigners who do not understand Greek.

5. The professional user shall see to it that the information form is displayed at the entrances of all residential or business premises in the area likely to be affected by the spray drift, and also at fixed locations (e.g. columns) or mobile points (e.g. posts), so that passers-by are informed as well. The professional user shall also have the option of delivering the information form, if this is feasible.

6. The Directorates for Rural Economy and Veterinary Affairs of regional units and the Regional Plant Protection, Quality and Phytosanitary Control Centres of the MRDF's Directorate for Food Quality and Safety, in cooperation with the CNA, may adopt more specific measures relating to the information referred to in this Article, depending on the circumstances and needs in each area. To adopt more specific information measures, the CNA may take into consideration any substantiated proposals, submitted by interested parties, for taking additional information measures.

CHAPTER IV

INSPECTION OF THE PESTICIDE APPLICATION EQUIPMENT IN USE

Article 17

Bodies responsible for implementing inspection systems

1. The inspections of the pesticide application equipment in use that are referred to in Article 22 of Law 4036/2012 shall be carried out by public and/or private bodies that belong to natural or legal persons and are called Pesticide Application Equipment Inspection Stations.

2. The Department of Agricultural Engineering of the Soil and Water Resources Institute (former Institute of Agricultural Machinery and Constructions) within the ELGO

'DIMITRA' shall be designated as the Inspection Reference Laboratory.

Article 18

Classification of the inspected equipment

Once the inspection has been completed in accordance with Decision E8 1831/39763/7.4.2015 of the Alternate Minister for Productive Reconstruction, Environment and Energy (Government Gazette, Series II, No 671), the inspected pesticide equipment shall be classified into one of the following categories.

(a) CATEGORY I: pesticide application equipment that fully meets the requirements of Annex C to Law 4036/2012, as such requirements are classified and listed in detail in the technical inspection reports referred to in Annexes VI and VII to Article 11 of Decision No E8 1831/39763/7.4.2015. Equipment in this category shall be issued with an inspection certificate and a suitability sticker to be affixed to the equipment in a conspicuous place.

(b) CATEGORY II: pesticide application equipment that presents minor deviations from the requirements of Annex C to Law 4036/2012, which means that it does not meet at least one or more requirements, as such requirements are classified and listed in detail in the technical inspection reports referred to in Annexes VI and VII to Article 11 of Decision No E8 1831/39763/7.4.2015, provided that they are considered 'minor'. Equipment in this category shall be issued with a certificate stating the deviations and the obligation to correct them until the next regular inspection referred to in Article 22(1) of Law 4036/2012, and with a suitability sticker to be affixed to the equipment in a conspicuous place.

(c) CATEGORY III: pesticide application equipment that presents major deviations from the requirements of Annex C to Law 4036/2012, which means that it does not meet even one of the 'major' requirements classified and listed in detail in the technical inspection reports referred to in Annexes VI and VII to Article 11 of Decision No E8 1831/39763/7.4.2015. Equipment in this category shall not be issued with a suitability sticker and the use of such equipment shall be prohibited. The inspection certificate issued shall state the deviations that must be corrected when the equipment is re-inspected, in order to be classified into one of the categories referred to in points (a) and (b) of this Article. Upon delivery of the inspection certificate, the owner of the equipment shall submit a solemn declaration to the Pesticide Application Equipment Inspection Station, which shall be sent to the Regional Office for the Inventory of Agricultural Machinery of the regional unit concerned, stating that he or she will not use the pesticide application equipment until it has been successfully inspected.

(d) CATEGORY IV: pesticide application equipment that cannot be repaired or has been classified in Category III and the owner certifies, in a solemn declaration, that he or she does not intend to repair it or use it from now on and wishes to have such equipment removed from the Register of Pesticide Application Equipment referred to in Article 38(2) of Law 4036/2012.

CHAPTER V
SPECIFIC MEASURES TO PROTECT
THE AQUATIC ENVIRONMENT AND
DRINKING WATER

Article 19

Measures to protect the aquatic
environment

1. With a view to protecting the aquatic environment, including water intended for human consumption, and without prejudice to Article 7 of Joint Decision ref. No Γ1(δ)/ΓΠ οικ.67322/6.9.2017 of the Minister for Internal Affairs, the Minister for the Economy and Development, the Minister for Health and the Minister for the Environment and Energy (Government Gazette, Series II, No 3282), the Secretariat-General for the Natural Environment and Water at the Ministry of the Environment and Energy shall, in accordance with Joint Decision No 140384/19.8.2011 of the Minister for Finance, the Minister for Development, Competitiveness and Shipping, the Minister for the Environment, Energy and Climate Change, the Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Networks, the Minister for Health and Social Solidarity, and the Minister for Rural Development and Food (Government Gazette, Series II, No 2017): be responsible for the development and systematic functioning of the National Monitoring Network (NMN) for the qualitative and quantitative status of surface water and groundwater in Greece; coordinate and supervise the NMN bodies that have undertaken sampling and analyses; have the responsibility and competence to make the monitoring results available to the public, and the ability to take all necessary steps for the smooth functioning of the NMN.

2. In order to protect the aquatic environment and drinking water from the use of pesticides that are plant protection products, the CNA shall:

a) inform producers through the agricultural warning system or through local inspection authorities about promoting the use of low-drift nozzles;

(b) inform professional users of the risk reduction measures adopted and of the incentives under the agri-environmental measures of the Rural Development Programme;

(c) establish procedures for:

(ca) giving preference to pesticides that are not registered as priority hazardous substances, as defined in Law 3199/2003 (Government Gazette, Series I, No 280);

(cb) giving preference to application techniques such as the use of low-drift pesticide application equipment, especially in vertical crops such as those found in orchards

and vineyards;

(cc) mitigation measures which minimise the risk of off-site pollution caused by spray drift, drain-flow and run-off. These shall include the establishment of appropriately-sized safeguard and vegetation zones for the protection of non-target aquatic organisms and safeguard and vegetation zones for surface and groundwater used for the abstraction of drinking water, where pesticides must not be used or stored; and

(cd) reducing as far as possible or prohibiting pesticide applications on or along roads, railway lines, very permeable surfaces or other infrastructure close to surface water or groundwater or on covered surfaces, such as storage spaces, with a high risk of run-off into surface water or sewage systems;

(d) inform the Ministry of Health's department responsible for the quality of drinking water of the active substances in formulations of plant protection products placed on the market in each regional unit in Greece during the previous year, so that targeted laboratory analysis of these substances can be carried out by water supply operators, in accordance with the requirements of Joint Ministerial Decision Π(δ)/Γ.Π.ΟΙΚ.67322/6.9.2017 (Government Gazette, Series II, No 3282).

3. Based on data on sales of plant protection products, data on analyses of the country's groundwater, surface water and drinking water, and on sampling results under national and EU programmes for residue control in plant products, the CNA shall:

3.1 propose a restriction or even a ban on the use of active substances in specific areas;

3.2 propose that the monitoring of specific active substances of plant protection products be included in the current programmes for the monitoring of Greece's groundwater, surface water and drinking water;

3.3 propose official controls of residues in plant products;

3.4 propose any appropriate measure aimed at protecting the environment and human health.




CHAPTER VI

SPECIFIC MEASURES TO REDUCE
PESTICIDE USE OR RISKS IN SPECIFIC
AREAS

Article 20

Pesticide application in specific areas

1. (a) For the specific areas referred to in Article 26(a) of Law 4036/2012, priority shall be given to biological pest control measures and low-risk pesticides. The minimum distances that must be kept between the pesticide spraying area and the specific area are set as follows:

Areas to be protected	Application to arable crops, directed towards the ground (boom sprayer)		Application to arboriculture and viticulture, using air pressure and directed towards the plant crown (broadcast air-assisted applications)	
	Preparations with a hazard pictogram			Preparations without any of the previous pictograms
				
Hospitals, charitable foundations, playgrounds, camp sites and other recreation grounds, schools and educational establishments, sports grounds, public parks Hotel establishments, military camps, archaeological and tourist sites Dwellings within a town plan, within a settlement and within a zone	100 metres 200 metres	50 metres 100 metres	20 metres 50 metres	10 metres 20 metres
Urban green spaces (except parks)	50 metres 200 metres	20 metres 100 metres	10 metres 50 metres	50 metres
Dwellings outside a town plan, a settlement or a zone	50 metres	20 metres 50 metres	10 metres 20 metres	10 metres

(b) The spraying distances, if the area to be sprayed is close to a dwelling, refer to the distance from the nearest building.

(c) If different safety instructions are mentioned in the marketing authorisation of a pesticide, such instructions shall apply.

(d) If it is demonstrated that low-drift nozzles are used (90%) and the marketing authorisation of a pesticide does not provide for distances that are stricter than those referred to in point (a), the spraying distances referred to in point (a) may be reduced to twenty (20) metres for preparations required to be sprayed at a longer distance, provided that no greater spray radius is provided for by the nozzle manufacturer for the spraying machine used.

(e) Without prejudice to the labelling of each plant protection product used, the distances referred to in points (a) and (d) shall not apply to:

(ea) cases where plant protection products are sprayed on crops under shelter, in particular greenhouses, provided that during application and until the spray liquid has dried out, at least the windows of the area to be sprayed, which are close to the areas to be protected as referred to in the above tables, remain closed;

(eb) cases where plant protection products are applied by means of bait spraying carried out under the supervision of the competent authorities in accordance with the provisions in force;

(ec) cases where plant protection products are applied outside the operating hours of the facilities and undertakings listed as areas to be protected in the table in point (a), or while people are not in their dwellings for as long as the application of the plant protection products lasts;

(ed) cases where herbicides are applied by spraying and cases where other plant protection products are sprayed and the distance of the spray nozzle from the ground is less than forty centimetres (40 cm);

(ee) cases where on the side adjacent to the specific area there is a compact line of vegetation that is not to be sprayed, such as trees or high bushes, or a protective net such as a shading, windbreak or anti-hail net, preventing spray drift, or cases where the ground is sloping and there is a difference in height between the spraying area (lower point) and the specific area (higher point).

2. For the specific areas referred to in Article 26(b) of Law 4036/2012, a specific plant protection plan shall be drawn up by the competent authority of the regional unit concerned. The plan shall provide details about:

(a) the crops grown in these specific areas and their plant protection needs;

(b) the biological control measures for pests, diseases and weeds;

(c) the low-risk pesticides that may be used;

(d) why there is a need to use pesticides other than low-risk pesticides;

(e) the ecosystem and the risks associated with the use of plant protection products;

(f) the data and the studies relating to the adverse effects of pesticide use within these specific areas, taking also into

account the programmes of measures under the river basin management plans in Greece's water districts;

(g) the use control measures in cooperation with the bodies managing protected areas, and

(h) the specific indicators for monitoring the use of pesticides in these areas.

Aerial spraying of plant protection products shall be banned in the specific areas referred to in Article 26(b) of Law 4036/2012.

The specific plant protection plan shall be submitted for approval to the CNA and shall be revised every five (5) years or earlier if deemed necessary.

3. For the specific areas referred to in Article 26(c) of Law 4036/2012, care shall be taken to ensure that people access the area after the spray liquid has dried out or after the pesticide has been absorbed into the ground, so as to minimise the likelihood of adverse effects on human health. Particularly when pesticides are applied to crops under shelter, such as greenhouses, sufficient ventilation shall also be required.

4. Where pesticides are applied within urban areas, care shall be taken to maximise the interval between the application of a pesticide and the use of the space by the general population and in particular by vulnerable groups as per the definition in Article 3 of Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 October 2009 concerning the placing of plant protection products on the market and repealing Council Directives 79/117/EEC and 91/414/EEC (L 309).

CHAPTER VII

SPECIFIC MEASURES FOR THE HANDLING AND STORAGE OF PESTICIDES AND THE MANAGEMENT OF THEIR PACKAGING AND REMNANTS

Article 21

Objectives of the specific measures for the handling and storage of pesticides and the management of their packaging and remnants

The specific measures for the handling and storage of pesticides and the management of their packaging and remnants are aimed at minimising the risks to people, non-target organisms and the environment, by promoting safe working practices for storing, handling, diluting and mixing pesticides.

Article 22

Handling and storage of pesticides

1. Pesticides shall be handled and stored in accordance with Guideline No 10373/103613/8.10.2012 of the Ministry of Rural Development and Food (<http://www.minagric.gr/index.php/el/for-farmer-2/crop-production/fytoprostasiamenu/elenxoifitoprostateytikonmenu/525-ethniko-sxe-drashs/1589-apoblita-fytoprostasia>).

2. The Guideline referred to in paragraph 1 shall be included in the educational material for the training in the sustainable use of pesticides.

Article 23

Management of empty pesticide packaging

1. Packaging waste resulting from use of the content and containing remnants (EWC code 15 01 10*) shall be managed in accordance with Law 2939/2001 (Government Gazette, Series I, No 179), as in force.

Minimum requirements for the efficient management of such packaging:

(a) the professional user must wash the packaging waste immediately after using it and emptying the contents, and more specifically triple rinsing by hand or mechanical high-pressure cleaning must be performed and the waste water from washing must be emptied into the spray tank, in accordance with the MRDF's Guideline No 10373/103613/8.10.2012; and

(b) when packaging waste is further collected and transported to appropriately licensed undertakings for treatment to recover materials or energy, care shall be taken with regard to the permitted uses of the recycled packaging material in order to safeguard public health, in accordance with the provisions in force.

2. Packaging waste which does not come into contact with the pesticide (secondary and tertiary packaging) and has not been contaminated by it as a result of an accident or leakage shall be managed in accordance with Law 2939/2001, as part of the operation of approved alternative management systems.

3. For the recovery and recycling of pesticide packaging waste, the targets set out in Joint Decision No 9268/469/2.3.2007 of the Minister for Internal Affairs, Public Administration and Decentralisation, the Minister for the Economy and Finance, the Minister for the Environment, Spatial Planning and Public Works and the Minister for Justice (Government Gazette, Series II, No 286) shall apply.

CHAPTER VIII

INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT

Article 24

Information to professional users about integrated pest management

Scientific groups shall be set up by decision of the Minister for Rural Development and Food (as per Article 38(4) of Law 4622/2011), to draw up guides to integrated pest management. The CNA shall see to it that the guides to integrated pest management are kept up to date and posted on the MRDF's website, so that professional users of pesticides can access information about the general principles and specific guidelines on integrated pest management.

Article 25

Use of the agricultural warning system

1. The Regional Plant Protection, Quality and Phytosanitary Control Centres of Kavala, Thessaloniki, Ioannina, Volos, Achaia, Nafplio and Heraklion, coming under the MRDF's Directorate for Food Quality and Safety, shall monitor the crops in real time and evaluate the data scientifically, by issuing agricultural warning bulletins in a

reliable and timely manner, through the agricultural warning system with the cooperation of the CNA.

2. For the purposes of applying paragraph 1:

(a) the system must be spatially extended to areas where agricultural warnings are not applied:

(b) the system must be extended to cover all annual crops, by involving the Directorates for Rural Economy and Veterinary Affairs of the regional units and the Agricultural Development Offices of the municipalities;

(c) the dissemination of agricultural warning bulletins must be improved, so that the information can reach all producers in a timely manner, through the media, agricultural advisors, the internet and other modern technologies; and

(d) the system must be strengthened by improving the existing automatic weather stations and adding new ones to reinforce the network, and also by supplying the necessary weather forecast software.

3. The CNA shall provide the relevant thematic research centres with programmes about the more specific topics to be researched, relating to methods for the prevention and effective treatment of harmful organisms, particularly in the field of non-chemical control methods.

CHAPTER IX

SETTING OF THE TARGETS AND INDICATORS OF THE NATIONAL ACTION PLAN

Article 26

Setting of the targets and the general national indicators

1. The following NAP targets and general national indicators for monitoring the general factors contributing to safety in agricultural production shall be set:

Code	General national indicator (GNI)	Target
GNI 1	Reduction of harmonised risk indicator 2. Harmonised risk indicator based on the number of authorisations granted under Article 53 of Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009.	2.5% reduction of the harmonised risk indicator each year.
GNI 2	Increase in the use of plant protection products classified as low-risk (Article 47 of Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009).	5% increase in use each year.
GNI 3	Use of plant protection products containing macroorganisms in Greece	2% increase each year.
GNI 4	Reduction of the percentage of exceedances of maximum permissible residue levels in the national and Community residue control programme.	Reduction of the percentage of exceedances by 2% each year.

2. The progress made in achieving the targets referred to in paragraph 1 shall be posted on the MRDF's website, at least on a yearly basis.

3. For the purpose of monitoring the general national indicators, the MRDF shall collect statistical data:

(a) in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 1185/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 November 2009 concerning statistics on pesticides (L 324);

(b) from the electronic recording of the retail sales of plant protection products;

(c) from the statistical data extracted from the register of pesticide manufacturing industries and craft industries referred to in Article 34 of Law 4036/2012;

(d) any other source deemed appropriate following assessment by the CNA.

CHAPTER X

Working group for the National Action Plan

Article 27

Working group for the National Action Plan on the sustainable use of pesticides

By decision of the Secretary-General for Rural Development and Food, and in accordance with Article 44(3) of Law 4622/2019 (Government Gazette, Series I, No 133) on the 'Executive State: operation and transparency of the government, government bodies and central public administration', a 'working group for the National Action Plan on the sustainable use of pesticides' shall be set up to study, collect and process the data concerning the NAP.

CHAPTER XI

REPEALED PROVISIONS - ENTRY INTO FORCE

Article 28

Repealed provisions

Joint Decision No 8197/90920/22.7.2013 of the Minister for Health, the Minister for Rural Development and Food and the Minister for Environment, Energy and Climate Change establishing a National Action Plan for the purpose of implementing Directive 2009/128/EC and protecting people and the environment (Government Gazette, Series II, No 1883), as amended and in force, shall be repealed with effect from the entry into force of this Decision.

Any reference to the repealed Decision shall be construed as a reference to this Decision.

Article 29

Entry into force

This Decision shall apply from the date of its publication in the Government Gazette.

This Decision shall be published in the Government Gazette.

Athens, 8 September 2020

The Ministers for

Health

VASILIOS KIKILIAS

Rural Development and Food

MAVROUDIS VORIDIS

Deputy Minister for Environment and Energy

NIKOLAOS TAGARAS