

## Restrictions on products containing the active ingredient triclopyr

Issued to: **Environment and Sustainability mailing list**

Ref: ENV21-03

Date of issue: 20/09/2021

Location: National

Contact: [Neil Strong](#)  
[Graham Owen](#)  
[Rachel Furniss](#)  
[Ben Kettle](#)  
[Dave Cornish](#)



## Overview

Chemicals are used across the network in a targeted approach to control plants that can adversely affect the infrastructure.

These products undergo regular reviews by the authorities. This can result in changes to the way they are used. Triclopyr is the active ingredient in a chemical we use to treat a broad range of plants. It is applied both by the national weedspray train and by manual spraying teams.

As a result of a recent review, **all** products containing triclopyr are subject to new restrictions. The review proposed changes in order to reduce accumulation in the environment. This means some major changes to the timing and number of applications that are allowed on the railway.

### Changes:

- 1 September to 1 March – no use
- 1 March to 31 May – one application per year
- 1 June to 31 July – one application in a two year period
- 1 August to 31 August – one application in a three year period

### Impact:

- Regions will no longer be able to 'roll over' spraying programmes from one year to the next (for either weedspray train or manual teams).
- In practice, only 50% of regional ELRs will be able to be treated by the weedspray train per year due to these restrictions.
  - This is in addition to existing timetable and train access constraints.
- The type of chemical and the timing of applications will require review for chemical treatments following vegetation works.
- An increased focus on reporting of herbicide use (using NR/L3/TRK/003/TEF3069) will be required to demonstrate compliance to the new restrictions, alongside existing legal requirements.
- Seek advice from Ben Kettle or Dave Cornish on alternative products that may be used.

## Discussion points

- Who will be responsible for reviewing the current scrub treatment plan?
- Hand spray delivery programmes **need** to be reviewed in conjunction with the national scrub treatment plans
- Discuss with teams and suppliers if triclopyr is utilised in hand spray programmes to make sure the chemical is not used in conflict with the new limits.