

POTATO GROWERS AND THE LAW RELATING TO  
SULPHURIC ACID

Dear Customer

The Health and Safety Executive, Agricultural Inspectorate have reminded us of the "Conditions of use of Sulphuric Acid used as a Pesticide" contained in their July 1990 publication, THE USE OF SULPHURIC ACID IN AGRICULTURE.

**There is a responsibility to give at least 24 hours written notice of an intention to spray Sulphuric Acid and the likelihood of hazard existing for some time (96 hours) after application to the occupants of premises and to the owner, or his agent, of any livestock or crops within 25 metres of any boundary of the land intended to be treated with Sulphuric Acid.**

**We expect Growers to inform** "occupants, owners etc" of the intention to spray as per the guidelines and will supply notices for that purpose, (copy enclosed). If a grower is unable to distribute notices then we will distribute notices on the day of spraying, but however a delay in distribution will mean a delay in spraying.

We as application contractors also require reasonable notice prior to application and to be informed as to houses or livestock within 25 metres of the potato crop and of any footpath or road in the area. We will post a notice on the gate of each field, after the spraying is completed to warn the public to "KEEP OUT, this field is sprayed with Sulphuric Acid".

Unprotected persons must be kept out of treated area for minimum of 96 hours following treatment. ***We cannot and will not be held responsible for failure to inform neighbours*** and where we are aware or made aware that neighbours have not been informed we cannot and will not spray or continue to spray said field.

We would point out that if we or any other contractor fails to comply with the relevant legislation and guidelines that the Health and Safety Executive retain the right to suspend all operations.

***Post this notice to your neighbours or sign post in field.***

FOOD & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT, 1985

As required under the terms of the above act, we hereby give notice that the potato crop adjacent to this property will be sprayed with sulphuric acid tomorrow or after as weather conditions permit and that every care will be taken to minimise inconvenience during this operation. Unprotected persons and livestock - including domestic pets - should be kept out of the treated area for 4 days following spraying and it would be a sensible precaution to keep children and pets indoors when spraying is in progress.