

GROWSAFE CALIBRATION COURSES 2018

GENERAL INFORMATION

Calibration Course

One day courses will be delivered in a small number of locations throughout New Zealand depending on demand. Existing GROWSAFE Registered Calibrators and new candidates who have met the pre-course requirements will attend the same course. The course is also designed for growers who are wanting to calibrate their own spray equipment and contract sprayers. Rural retail staff wishing to know more about spray application may also be interested.

The course is focused on how to meet spray specifications for different crops by coming to a consensus on setup. Crops will be selected to match regional requirements. It is expected that each course will cover a minimum of three types of crops (eg brassica, grapes, apples) and a minimum of two types of equipment (eg boom and airblast), depending on attendees.

The course will cover the following topics:

- Objectives/reasons for calibration
- Why sprayers don't work properly sometimes
- Measurements, calibrating calibrators
- Knowledge of impacts of spray coverage
- Spraydrift minimisation technologies
- Equipment checks
- Client records
- Crop specific set ups (eg apples, kiwifruit, grapes, broadacre)
- Current industry issues
- New equipment
- Information sources.

Existing GROWSAFE Registered Calibrators

Renewal of a GROWSAFE Registered Calibrator Certificate requires:

1. Attendance at a GROWSAFE calibration course
2. Post-course assessment

Post-course Assessment

A formal assessment is required as part of the renewal process.

- Existing calibrators are required to submit details of three calibrations undertaken for clients covering:
 - o Minimum of two different types of crops
 - o Minimum of two different types of equipment
- These calibrations must be an actual calibrations (not just theory/desktop) of parameters such as speed, flow rate
- For each calibration a copy of the report given to clients is to be provided
- Calibrations must be submitted within three months of the calibration course to an assessor appointed by GROWSAFE.

New Calibrators

There are four stages to gaining your GROWSAFE Registered Calibrator Certificate:

1. Demonstrate practical competence of calibration skills (see details below)
2. Prior to the calibration course, complete a written assessment covering the theory of calibration and demonstrating competency in the basic calibration calculations.
3. Attend a GROWSAFE calibration course
4. Submit three calibrations as for existing calibrators (details above).

Evidence of Practical Competency

You must be working under the supervision of an experienced sprayer calibrator who is able to provide basic training on calibration prior to attending a calibration course. You will need to provide examples of practical experience including maintenance checks on equipment. An assessor will be required to sign off on your practical competency.

- The assessor will be appointed by GROWSAFE (it may be your employer or mentor)
- The assessment must be undertaken within six months of calibration course (it can be done prior to the course).

Recommended Resources for New Calibrators

There are a number of online resources available along with industry information such as nozzle catalogues:

- Spraywise Broadacre Application Handbook by Jorg Kitt (available from Croplands)
- Croplands Spraywise Nozzle Chart and Spraywise Dilute wallchart (available from Croplands)
- Industry catalogues for spray equipment eg Teejet, Silvan, Bertolini, C-DAX, Hardi, Albuz
- Ministry for Primary Industries Australia training video on calibration of boomspray sprayers <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RupuG5oQJhg>
- Airblast sprayer calibration – thoughts from Extension Educators from Penn State University working in this sector in America and the importance of calibration <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5kIXGYVlus4>

In addition, you will receive a GROWSAFE Calibration Manual at the calibration course.

Farm/Orchard Managers and Sprayers

If you are not a commercial calibrator but you undertake calibration for your own agrichemical application then you can attend this course. You cannot gain a Registered Calibrator certificate but you can complete the Calibration module towards your GROWSAFE Advanced certificate. In most industries, this will cover any GAP requirements relating to “qualified calibrator”.

Completion of this module requires you to:

1. Prior to the calibration course, complete a written assessment covering the theory of calibration and demonstrating competency in the basic calibration calculations.
2. Attend a GROWSAFE calibration course
3. Complete two real calibrations for your own farm/orchard, either two different crops, two different crop stages or one crop application and one weed control.

We recommend you look at the resources listed for New Calibrators in the section above prior to attending the course.

Course Details

Region	Location	Date
Hawkes Bay	Green Shed, Hastings	14 August
Bay of Plenty	The Orchard, Te Puke	15 August
Auckland/Waikato	TBA, Pukekohe	16 August
Top of the South	Kono Horticulture, Motueka	17 August

Courses may be held in other venues if demand exists. Please advise interest to info@growsafe.co.nz

There will be a mix of classroom and practical training. Specialist trainers will be delivering these courses.

The cost of the course is \$495 plus GST. This includes resources, marking of the post-course assessment and issue of the certificate when course requirements have been met. To register, complete the course registration form and email to info@growsafe.co.nz