

# The Bracken Control Group

## Asulam - Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Updated: 29 January 2012

1. These questions and answers are a first attempt to capture the main issues.
2. Updates will be added as the situation changes – watch out for the date above.
3. It is hoped that this list of questions can be developed with input from anyone seeking information or able to provide better or new answers to the questions.
4. This is a fast changing situation and the responses to these questions may change as the situation becomes clearer.

Question	Response
<b>Impact of the ban on Asulam</b>	
What has happened about Asulam?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• It has been banned in all parts of the EU from 31<sup>st</sup> December 2011.</li></ul>
What does the ban mean? (amended 29 Jan 12)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• It is now illegal to sell or transfer Asulam or to promote its use.</li></ul>
What happens to stocks of Asulam held after the ban takes effect? (amended 29 Jan 12)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• There is a use up period for Asulam that was purchased prior to 31st December 2011.</li><li>• The use-up period ends on 31st December 2012.</li></ul>
Stocks of Asulam remaining at 31 December 2012 (added 29 January 2012)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What is the safest most appropriate way to destroy stocks of Asulam?</li><li>• How much will it cost?</li><li>•</li></ul>
What must happen before 31 December 2012?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• All Asulam must be used up or destroyed prior to the end of the use-up period on 31 December 2012.</li><li>• From 1 January 2013, it will be illegal to store Asulam anywhere in the EU.</li></ul>
How do land managers obtain supplies of Asulam for application themselves in 2012? (amended 29 Jan 12)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Asulam is no longer available for sale.</li></ul>

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Question	Response
<b>Details of the Ban on Asulam</b>	
What is the background to the ban on Asulam?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Asulam is used throughout the world, but its main use is to provide broadleaved weed control in sugar cane.</li> <li>The use of Asulam as a selective control agent for bracken in the UK is a specialist, minority use.</li> <li>All chemicals have to be licenced for use in the EU and re-registration of Asulam was required.</li> <li>Because of the range of uses for Asulam it was decided that the re-registration should be based on its use for control of weeds in spinach.</li> <li>The European Food Standard Agency expressed concern about a possible human health risk and this ultimately led to the ban being imposed.</li> </ul>
What happens next?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>United Phosphorus Ltd. (UPL) is the owner of the brand <i>Asulox</i>, which is the main Asulam product in the UK.</li> <li>UPL has agreed to apply for re-registration and to accept the considerable cost of assembling all the necessary data.</li> <li>It will not be possible to achieve re-registration before 2016.</li> <li>Re-registration is not guaranteed.</li> </ul>
<b>Emergency Authorisations</b>	
What happens between now and re-registration, whenever that may be achieved? (amended 2012)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The regulations allow for an Emergency Authorisation to be applied for.</li> <li>The duration of the authorisation will be only for 120 days.</li> <li>The Chemicals Regulation Directorate (CRD) provided some guidance in January 2012. The Group will develop detailed advice during 2012.</li> </ul>
When can the Emergency Authorisation be applied for? (amended 29 Jan 12)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The application process cannot start until the product ban has come into force. It is expected that detailed discussions about the application cannot start until January 2013.</li> <li>The situation has been clarified by the guidance that was published by CRD on 19 January 2012. See the Documents page of the website.</li> <li>The Bracken Control Group will establish from CRD whether preliminary discussions could / should take place before January 2013.</li> </ul>
Who applies for the Emergency Authorisation? (amended 29 Jan 12)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Bracken Control Group will apply for the application for the use of Asulam to control bracken.</li> </ul>
Does the Emergency Authorisation cover all parts of the UK?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is anticipated that a single authorisation will apply to the whole of the UK, but this will be confirmed.</li> </ul>
If an Emergency Authorisation is granted: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>when will it start and finish?</li> <li>when will it be possible to sell, transfer or store Asulam for use during the Emergency Authorisation period?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This will be determined by the application. To make best use of the 120 days, the period could start at the beginning of June and finish at the end of September.</li> <li>This is not clear yet.</li> </ul>

<b>Question</b>	<b>Response</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>When will landowners need to apply for permission to control bracken.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This will be confirmed nearer the time in conjunction with the: conservation &amp; environment agencies and the ground based &amp; helicopter bracken contractors.</li> </ul>
<p>Will the Emergency authorisation apply to all uses? (amended 29 Jan 12)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The timing of application of Asulam for different uses will be different and therefore the ideal timing of the 120-day period will be different.</li> <li>For example, the application dates for horticultural use or use in grassland are likely to be earlier than the bracken season.</li> <li>Therefore, separate applications will be necessary for different uses.</li> <li>However, even if this is the case, it will be important that there is coordination between different applicants.</li> </ul>
<b>Aerial Application</b>	
<p>Is there any chance that the authorisation to apply Asulam from a helicopter will not be available in future?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The EU Sustainable Use Directive is introducing new provisions.</li> <li>Discussions are taking place to make sure that procedures are in place to ensure that there is no threat to the ability to apply Asulam from the air.</li> </ul>
<p>What advice is available to aerial application contractors about how and when to approach landowners in the era of Emergency Authorisations?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>More detail will be provided.</li> </ul>
<b>Bracken Contractor Issues</b>	
<p>How can contractors continue a bracken control programme? (amended 29 Jan 12)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contractors purchased the Asulam that they intended to apply in 2012 before 31 December 2011.</li> </ul>
<b>Farming Issues</b>	
<p>What are the implications for Single Farm Payments and environmental scheme payments?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This is an issue that the Bracken Control Group will investigate.</li> <li>Input from the government agencies to answer this question will be welcomed.</li> </ul>
<p>What is the effect on an agri-environment scheme where an agreement to control bracken using Asulam has been entered into?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Further information will be provided.</li> </ul>
<b>Forestry Issues</b>	
<b>National Parks</b>	
<b>Historic Environment</b>	
<p>Does bracken damage archaeological remains?</p>	<p>See the <a href="#">Historic Environment Answers to FAQs briefing</a></p>
<p>How can I clear bracken from archaeological sites?</p>	

Question	Response
How can bracken be kept off archaeological sites?	See the <a href="#">Historic Environment Answers to FAQs briefing</a>
Should I plough up bracken covering archaeology?	
Why is it important that bracken be removed from archaeological monuments?	