Pesticide Label
Approval holders are required to submit a draft of their label with their application for approval. The required wording, format and presentation of the label are explained in PSD’s guidance, ‘The Labelling Handbook’.

From 2000, information given on the label split into the distinct areas of ‘Approved Text’, which is the content controlled under UK pesticide legislation and agreed by PSD (as part of its regulatory function), and ‘Other Text’, containing advice and information not required under pesticide legislation, but included by the applicant (Company Advisory Information - CAI).

The text agreed by PSD has four main sections – **Product Identity**, **Statutory Area**, **Safety Information** and **Directions for Use**. A condition of the approval is that the product must be sold or supplied with this text and, in that sense, the label is ‘statutory’ apart from CAI.

A short summary of the key “approved text” of the label is set out below:

**Product Identity**
This part of the label sets out the core product information so that everyone can easily identify the product and its intended purpose:

(a) Product trade name.
(b) The product registration number.
(c) Name and address of approval holder and marketing company.
(d) The formulation type.
(e) Name and amount of the active substance.
(f) Identity of ‘dangerous’ coformulants.
(g) Net quantity of product.
(h) Product batch number.
(i) Biological use phrase.
(j) The COSHH phrase.

**Statutory Area**
At present, this lists some of the controls on use, as given in the approval. Its purpose is to highlight some of the areas of compliance.

It consists of a separate boxed area of the label containing:

(a) Conditions of use about the application of the pesticide to the target crop or situation in addition to those in the Safety Precautions section (see (b) below).
(b) A statement that the user must comply with the conditions in (a) above and specific precautionary phrases in the Safety Precautions section.
(c) A statement that the user must read all other Safety Precautions and the Directions for Use.
PSD has recognised the possibility that users may assume from the current “statutory” heading that only those items displayed in this area require compliance. This is not the case. The whole label must be taken into account for the product to be used safely with all reasonable precautions.

To correct this misunderstanding, PSD issued Regulatory Update 20/2006 on 24/10/2006. The main purpose of this Update was simply to require the title of the area be changed to ‘Important Information’, or something similar. PSD allowed 3 years to affect these changes so all labels should be in the new format by November 2009.

Safety Information
These comprise the following (as appropriate to the product):

(a) Hazard symbol and associated risk phrases.
(b) Safety (precautionary) phrases to ensure safety of the operator and other parties, the environment/non-target organisms and storage and disposal.
(c) Medical advice/First aid (subject to the classification/type of product).

Directions for Use
This contains detailed claims, recommendations and instructions for the use of the product. Compliance with these instructions should ensure that the product is used safely and efficaciously. It is acceptable for the product to be used differently (such as use of different water volumes, application equipment, or a different application regime) as long as the user follows all specific restrictions, does not exceed the statutory conditions of use and takes ‘all reasonable precautions’, e.g. uses the guidance in the ‘Code of Practice for using plant protection products’ and makes appropriate COSHH assessments. Enforcement action is still possible where ‘all reasonable precautions’ have not been taken.

The following type of information should appear in this section:

(a) crops/situations;
(b) pests/weeds controlled;
(c) dose rates;
(d) number of treatments per crop/year/situation;
(e) recommended timing of application, intervals between applications and harvest interval;
(f) specific agricultural, plant health and environmental conditions about use;
(g) following-crop recommendations;
(h) soil type, variety and climatic restrictions;
(i) warnings on phytotoxicity, resistance, adjacent crops etc;
(j) ‘positive’ and ‘convenience’ tank-mix recommendations;
(k) methods of application;
(l) water volumes;
(m) mixing instructions;
(n) any other information about product application for safe and efficacious use.

More details can be found in “The Labelling Handbook” with is available on-line at www.pesticides.gov.uk/psd_pdfs/registration_guides/labelling_handbook/labelling_handbook_2005.pdf