

No spread zones

The aim of these rules is to protect water against pollution and run-off from agricultural sources. They apply to you if you apply manufactured nitrogen fertiliser and organic manure¹.

A. You must not

1. apply manufactured nitrogen (inorganic) fertiliser within 2 metres of surface water²;
2. apply organic manure within 10 metres of surface water, except on land managed for breeding wader birds or as species rich semi-natural grassland and under certain other restrictions;
3. apply organic manure within 50 metres of a spring, well or borehole.

If you apply organic manure

B. You must

1. produce and keep a map³ of your holding showing:
 - all surface waters on your holding and land within 10 metres of them;
 - all springs, wells and boreholes on your holding, and within 50 metres of the boundary of your holding, and land within 50 metres of them;
2. update the map with any changes within 3 months from the date of the change.

If you have land in a Nitrate Vulnerable Zone and you are meeting the requirements under SMR 4 Nitrate Vulnerable Zones (NVZs) you will also meet the rules under this standard in respect of that land.



Further information

To protect water quality Defra is strongly encouraging farmers to consider placing 6 metre buffer strips next to vulnerable watercourses. Buffer strips can contribute to the reduction of pollution from farming activities. Details of the use of these can be found at section 6 of the *Cross Compliance Guidance for Soil Management 2010 edition*.

- 1 'Organic manure' means any nitrogen fertiliser or phosphate fertiliser derived from animal, plant or human sources and includes livestock manure.
- 2 Surface waters include lakes, rivers, streams and ditches which contain free water and also temporarily dry ditches and blind ditches.
- 3 This may be the risk map produced for regulation 18 of the Nitrate Pollution Prevention Regulations 2008, that is, your NVZ map.





Further advice and guidance

Advice on locating and managing buffer strips is available from Catchment Sensitive Farming Officers, Natural England advisers, Campaign for the Farmed Environment and other farm advisers.

Payments for buffer strips are available under Entry Level Stewardship (ELS).

Detailed information on the creation and establishment of buffer strips is in the ELS handbooks at

<http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/farming/funding/es/els/default.aspx>

To understand the threats to the aquatic environment on and around your farm, including the main threats to water quality in your area, you can check available information on the Environment Agency website. The 'What's in your backyard' pages give local information based on your postcode.

<http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/homeandleisure/37793.aspx>

You can find more information on soil management and assessment in relation to diffuse pollution in the *Thinksoils handbook* which you can order from the Environment Agency website at

<http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/business/sectors/soils.aspx>

Fertiliser Manual (RB209) helps farmers and land managers better assess the fertiliser required for the range of crops they plan to grow. The manual helps to make sure that proper account is taken of both mineral fertilisers and other sources of nutrients such as manures and slurries. To get a copy visit

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/publications/2011/03/25/fertiliser-manual-rb209/>

Cross compliance advice line: 0845 345 1302

Defra helpline: 08459 33 55 77

Environment Agency: 03708 506506

Natural England: 0845 600 3078

RPA Customer Service Centre: 0845 603 7777

