

Groundwater Protection Code

Use and disposal of sheep dip compounds

August 2001 (reprinted June 2006)



This is a reprint of the Groundwater Protection Code approved by Ministers and originally published in 2001, incorporating updated contact details and document cross-references.

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Chapter 1: Why a code?	1
1.1 Why you should follow the code	1
1.2 The Groundwater Regulations 1998	1
1.3 What the code covers	2
1.4 Where it fits in with existing guidance	2
1.5 How to use the code	3
Chapter 2: Environmental risks	4
2.1 Facts	4
2.2 Your responsibilities	4
Chapter 3: Before you dip sheep	6
3.1 Training	6
3.2 Siting and design of dip baths and drain pens	7
3.3 Purchase and transport of dip concentrate	9
Chapter 4: When you dip sheep	10
4.1 Preparations for dipping	10
4.2 Filling the dip bath	10
4.3 Dipping procedure	11
4.4 Drain pens	11
4.5 Additional precautions necessary for mobile dipping, showering, jetting or spraying	11
4.6 Using mobile equipment	12
Chapter 5: After you have dipped sheep	13
5.1 Emptying the dip bath	13
5.2 Storage of used dip	14
5.3 Treatment of used dip	14
5.4 Disposal of used dip	15
5.5 Authorisation to dispose of used dip to land	15
5.6 Contractor agreement	16
5.7 Disposal of containers	16
5.8 Record keeping	16
Chapter 6: Emergencies	17
Chapter 7: References	18
Chapter 8: Glossary of terms	20

Why a code?

- **Sheep dip compounds are extremely toxic.**
- **Careless use and disposal of sheep dip compounds can pollute groundwater and has done so on a number of occasions.**
- **Groundwater is a valuable drinking water resource which, once contaminated, is very difficult and expensive to make good, and for this reason there are UK and EC laws to protect it.**
- **This code aims to help people using or disposing of sheep dip to avoid polluting groundwater and to comply with regulations.**

1.1 Why you should follow the code

If you are using dangerous substances such as sheep dip you must comply with the Groundwater Regulations 1998. If not, you could cause groundwater to be contaminated for many years and risk serious penalties and costs.

This code of practice will help you to comply with the Regulations when you dip sheep. You are strongly advised to follow it before, during and after sheep dipping since even small amounts of sheep dip can be dangerous to the environment.

A separate Code of Practice for the use of sheep dip exists for Scotland. The Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) is responsible for enforcement of the Groundwater Regulations 1998 in Scotland, and contact details are given in the Reference section on page 18.

1.2 The Groundwater Regulations 1998

The purpose of these Regulations is to protect groundwater – that is to say, water lying below the water table or in aquifers – from contamination. Groundwater is an important resource for drinking water and can feed into streams and springs.

The Regulations control both direct and indirect discharges to groundwater. A direct discharge is one straight into groundwater, such as through a pipe or borehole. An indirect discharge may occur after percolation through the soil.

You are prohibited from:

1. Discharging “List I” substances (which include substances normally found in sheep dips designed to kill parasites) to groundwater.
2. Disposing of “List I” substances to land unless you have obtained an authorisation to do so from the Environment Agency beforehand.
3. Discharging to groundwater, or disposing to land, “List II” substances (which include substances normally found in “purl” or “bloom” dips) without an authorisation from the Environment Agency.

When considering an application for an authorisation the Agency will consider whether groundwater might be contaminated.

Chapter 1: Why a code?

The Groundwater Regulations provide the Environment Agency with the power to serve a Notice to prevent, or place conditions upon, activities which threaten to pollute groundwater and to prosecute if pollution occurs. For example a Notice could be served to improve dipping facilities if these represent a risk of polluting groundwater.

1.3 What the code covers

You need to comply with the Groundwater Regulations if you are jetting, spraying, showering, or carrying out conventional sheep dipping. For the purpose of this code the term “sheep dipping” includes all these activities. Equally the code applies to static on-farm baths and mobile systems. The use of pour-on products for external parasite control also falls under the Regulations since the products contain some of the same compounds as used in dips.

1.4 Where it fits in with existing guidance

Existing codes of practice and advisory documents do not generally provide full guidance to ensure that sheep dipping activities comply with the Groundwater Regulations, since most were written before the Regulations came into force. This code addresses this shortfall. It is not intended to replace existing codes, but to complement them. You should continue to refer to other relevant codes of practice where you require additional information. You should be particularly careful to follow the advice in Health and Safety Codes.

A summary of other relevant guidance is shown below. Details of how to obtain them are given at the end of this code.

Design and maintenance of dipping facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ADAS Note No CGN 006 July 2000: Guidance on Construction, Repair and Maintenance of Sheep Dip Handling Facilities and Drainage Yards
Health & Safety – use and storage of dips	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Health and Safety Executive AS29 (Revision 2) March 1998 – “Sheep Dipping”• Health and Safety Executive Agricultural Information Sheet No 16: “Storage of Approved Pesticides”
Foot and mouth disease – measures that would apply in the event of an outbreak of the disease	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Restrictions on operation of mobile sheep dipping teams• Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs guidance: “FMD: Advice on disposal of sheep dip”
General	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Defra Water Code, 1998 (a Welsh version is also available – details at end of this code). NB. Currently under revision.

1.5 How to use the code

This code is a practical document. It describes acceptable and desirable activities as well as some of those considered unacceptable. An accompanying Sheep Dip Checklist, intended for reference when on site, is available (on the Defra Website). Use this checklist before, during and after sheep dipping.

Environmental risks

- **Sheep dip compounds are designed to kill external parasites.**
- **They are very toxic and must be handled with caution.**
- **Careless sheep dipping can cause considerable environmental damage, especially to river life.**

2.1 Facts

Sheep dip compounds effective against external parasites are highly toxic to aquatic life. Most contain organophosphorus (OP) or synthetic pyrethroid (SP) compounds which can leach through the soil and pollute groundwater.

Once groundwater becomes contaminated with sheep dip compounds it will be unfit for drinking without prior treatment, which can be costly and may not always be feasible. This has happened in cases of careless use of sheep dip and disposal of used sheep dip.

Bloom and purl dips, which are used for cosmetic purposes, are not designed to kill parasites but can still contaminate groundwater.

A moment of carelessness can have severe consequences for the environment, water supplies and your own safety. For example:

- Washing protective clothing in a small stream can wipe out aquatic life for several hundred metres down-stream;
- Spilled dip or used dip disposed of to unsuitable land can percolate down to the watertable and make groundwater unfit for drinking, and could pollute your own or neighbours drinking water supply.

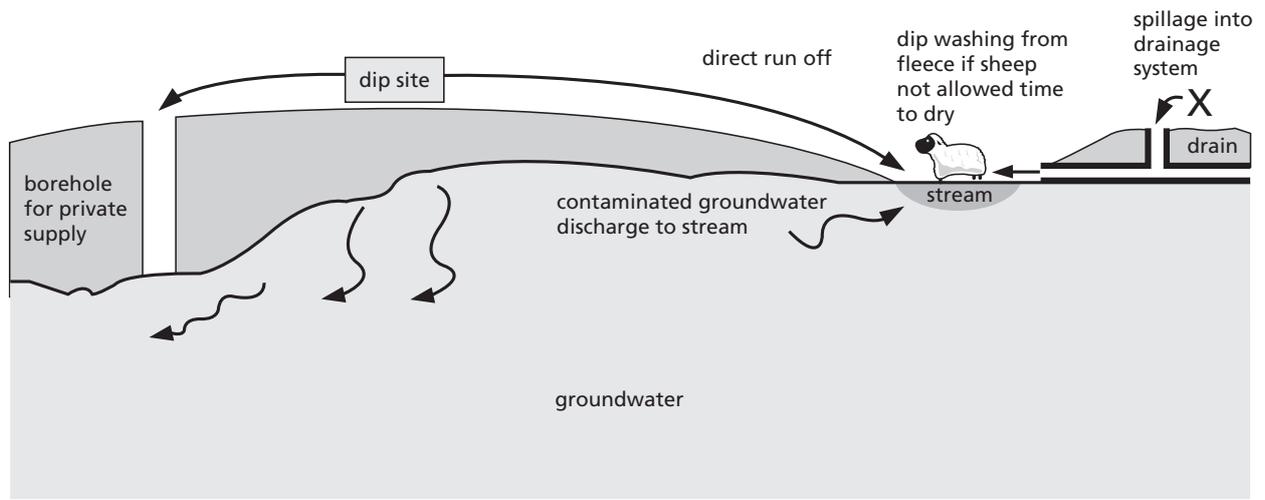
2.2 Your responsibilities

You should consult your veterinary surgeon on the most appropriate treatment for the external parasites that are a problem on your farm. It is in your own interest to be sure that you only dip when you need to and that sheep dip compounds are handled appropriately.

The MAFF booklet, *'Sheep Scab – A Farmer's Guide'*, offers advice on how to minimise the risk of flocks becoming infested with sheep scab.

As figure 1 shows, the routes by which groundwater (as well as surface waters) can become polluted are not always obvious and can include leakage through the soil, direct run-off to streams, discharge into boreholes and drainage systems. Groundwater feeds surface water and some times vice versa. You must be aware of these potential routes when siting sheep dip facilities, during dipping, when managing sheep which have been dipped and in handling and transporting dip concentrate and used dip.

Figure 1: Possible routes for contamination



Before you dip sheep

You must make careful preparations well in advance of the dipping season. In particular you will need to:

- **read and understand this code and other relevant guidance listed in the introduction;**
- **carry out suitable training;**
- **ensure that dip baths and drainage pens are properly sited and constructed and in good working order;**
- **ensure that you have suitable equipment and protective clothing;**
- **consider carefully how you will carry out your dipping and post-dipping activities;**
- **in particular, consider how you will dispose of used dip and obtain in advance any necessary authorisation for disposal to land;**
- **have emergency procedures in place, including supplies of absorbent material;**
- **ensure that dip can be stored and transported safely.**

3.1 Training

All people managing or carrying out the dipping process must be trained in the safe use of sheep dips and disposal of used sheep dips. Training is essential to ensure adequate knowledge of:

- personal health and safety;
- animal welfare;
- environmental impacts.

To purchase dip concentrate, you must hold a 'NPTC Certificate of Competence in the safe use of sheep dips.' (Requirements relating to purchase and use are expected to change in October 2006. Please check the VMD website (www.vmd.gov.uk) for further details).

The Certificate of Competence covers the subjects listed above at all stages of the dipping process, from the purchase of concentrate, to the disposal of used dip. For details of how to obtain this Certificate see "Health and Safety Executive AS29 (Revision 2) March 1998" or contact the NPTC (tel. 024 7685 7300).

Training of those working for you can be provided by:

- Agricultural colleges;
- Some local agricultural training organisations;
- LANTRA.

The NPTC can only issue Certificates of Competence after local assessment. Colleges and agencies are exclusively responsible for issue of Certificates of Training.

3.2 Siting and design of dip baths and drain pens

Siting

Baths and drain pens and mobile systems must be sited:

- as far away as possible and a minimum of 10 metres from a watercourse (including rivers, streams and ditches, drains, land drains and wetlands);
- at least 50 metres from any well, spring or borehole.

Baths and drains pens must not be sited:

- on or at the top of slopes where there is a risk that spillage might drain directly to a watercourse, or on roads or tracks.

Sites of special scientific interest

- In order to protect vulnerable statutory conservation interests, where watercourses adjacent to a site drain into rivers or wetland Sites of Special Scientific Interest, mobile systems or static dips and associated drain pens or areas should not be sited within 30 metres of that watercourse.
- In addition, where it is intended to use such dipping equipment within a SSSI, advice should be sought from English Nature or the Countryside Council for Wales.

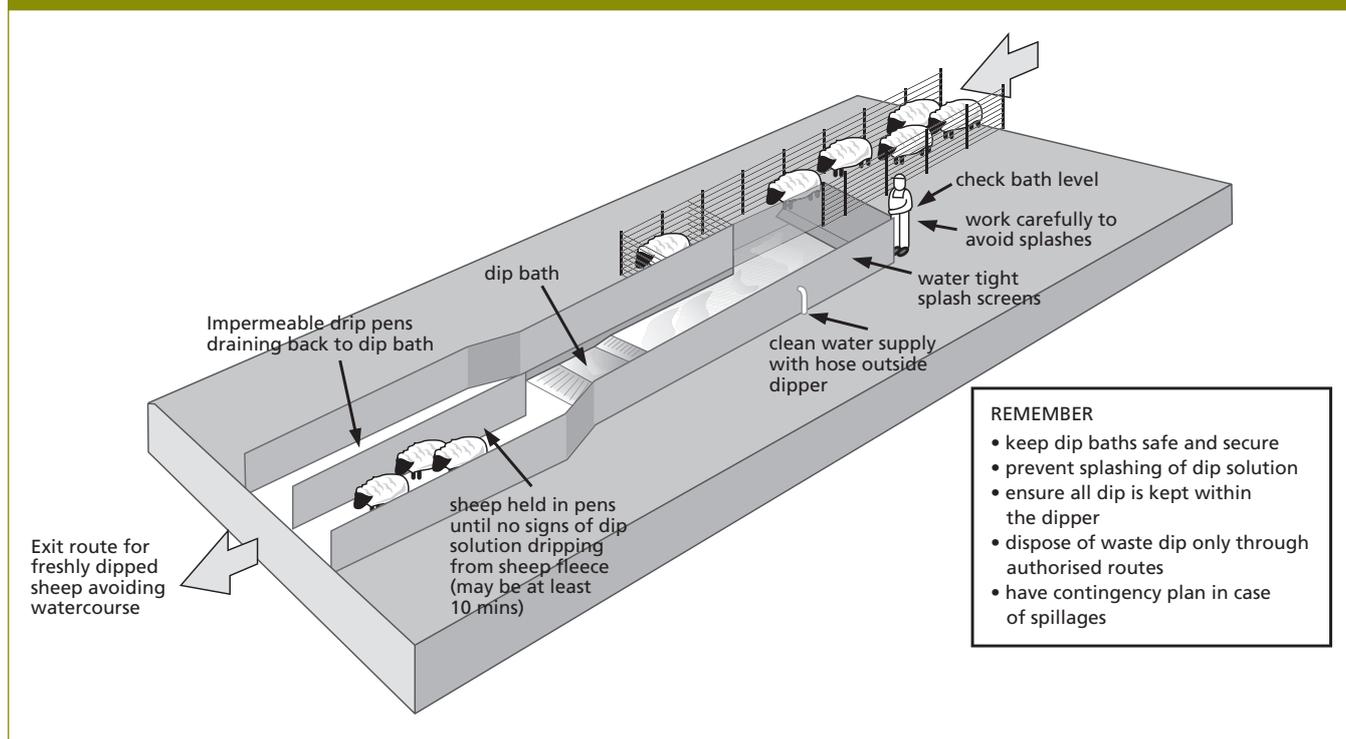
If you are in doubt about the siting of existing facilities and mobile systems, and certainly before installing a new dip bath, contact your local Environment Agency office for advice.

Dip baths must be designed and constructed

- To be free of leaks.
- With no drain holes.
- To prevent splashes escaping from the dip bath (fit splash screens and lips if necessary).
- New dip baths should be designed with reference to ADAS Note No CGN 006 July 2000: Guidance on Construction, Repair and Maintenance of Sheep Dip Handling Facilities and Drainage Yards. They may be circular or rectangular.
- New dip baths should preferably be of one-piece construction; which if made of plastic must be UV resistant.

Chapter 3: Before you dip sheep

Figure 2: The dip bath



Drain pens must be designed:

- to be large enough to hold the batch of sheep being dipped for at least 10 minutes after dipping;
- with properly sealed floors and built-in slopes to allow excess dip to drain back to the bath, not soaking into the ground, soil or into a surface water drain;
- to ensure that clean water from yards, roofs or land does not run into drain pens or into the dip bath. A roof over the dip bath and drain pens will help to reduce risks;
- to preferably have a filter/trap arrangement to prevent dirt draining back into the bath, along with dip.

Piped water supply

Direct pollution of a water supply can occur by back-siphoning of dip during filling. Therefore the hose used for filling the bath should:

- be positioned so that the hose-pipe end cannot be submerged in the dip bath;
- have a double check valve to ensure back siphoning of dip cannot occur.

Never use the same hose pipes for sheep dipping and domestic water supply purposes.

3.3 Purchase and transport of dip concentrate

- **Purchasing more dip than is needed means dangerous substances are stored unnecessarily on the farm.**
- **Spillages during transportation can enter groundwater directly or when washing vehicles, clothing and equipment.**

Purchase

You should only purchase:

- products authorised by the Veterinary Medicines Directorate suitable for controlling the external parasite problem affecting your sheep (ask your veterinary surgeon for advice);
- sufficient dip concentrate required for each dipping season, to avoid any pollution risks when having to store for long periods.

Transporting dip concentrate to the farm and around the farm

You should ensure that:

- containers are secure and there is no risk of them being punctured;
- partly used containers are securely closed and kept upright to prevent spillage or leakage;
- dip concentrate is stored and transported in a drip tray or similar container large enough to hold spillages and secured to avoid tipping.

Storing dip concentrate

- **Store dip concentrate in a properly constructed farm chemical store or approved steel cabinet in accordance with HSE Sheet No. 16.**

You should:

- ensure that the dip concentrate storage area is of sound construction and located where it is unlikely to be damaged by vehicles;
- store dip concentrate in the original container, which should be clearly labelled, in a place which is kept locked to prevent unauthorised access;
- ensure that dip is stored away from drains and in a secure tray or bund to contain any spillage;
- not pour collected spillages back into the container, nor into drains, watercourses or onto the ground but into the dip bath, or soak up with absorbent material and dispose of through a registered waste carrier.

When you dip sheep

- **Most pollution incidents occur during or immediately after dipping.**
- **Adequate preparation can minimise the risk of this happening.**

4.1 Preparations for dipping

- Inspect the areas around which sheep dipping is carried out on your farm and look for routes by which water could become contaminated, taking precautions to reduce the risks of contamination. For example drain down areas that do not connect back to the dip bath
- Check the bath for leaks prior to use as follows:
 1. make a visual inspection of the empty dip bath. If it contains a drain hole, ensure this is **permanently sealed**;
 2. fill the bath with clean water and leave overnight, ensuring that rain cannot enter to affect the water level;
 3. check the water level – if it is unchanged dip concentrate can be added;
 4. if the water level has fallen leaks must be located and permanently sealed;
 5. follow the above procedure to re-check.

4.2 Filling the dip bath

Groundwater and surface water contamination can occur during filling if the operator is not careful. Possible routes for contamination include overflowing dip from the bath, careless siting and washing out of a measuring jug, and dip containers which are not completely empty. The following good practice should be followed:

1. **Capacity:** It is essential to know the precise volume of your dip bath to work out the correct amount of dip concentrate to add. This can be calculated by either filling via a water meter, or using a container of known volume to fill the bath for initial calibration.
2. **Concentrate:** Pouring and mixing of concentrate should take place within the dip area so that any accidental spills can be contained. The original container should be closed when not in use and temporarily stored in a flat bottom vessel or tray.
3. **Measures:** Any jugs or measures, which must be kept for this purpose only, should be washed out three times with clean water (not in a stream) and emptied into the dip bath.
4. **Filling:** The dip bath should be filled with clean water prior to adding concentrate.
5. **Overflow:** Do not overfill the dip bath.
6. **Top up:** Concentrate containers needed for top up during the dipping process must be placed where they will not be knocked over, and stored in a drip tray.

4.3 Dipping procedure

The dipping operation should contain all dip run-off within the dip bath. The following procedures should be followed:

- operators should not leave the dip pen area when wearing wet, uncleaned protective clothing and footwear, since this may transfer dip to watercourses or soil;
- operators must wash off protective clothing and footwear before leaving the dipping pen such that contaminated water drains to the dip bath;
- all sheep should be rested prior to dipping and put in the bath carefully to reduce splashing and washing of dip out of the bath.

4.4 Drain pens

When the sheep have been dipped you should:

- keep sheep in the drain pen until there are no signs of dip solution dripping from the fleece – this may take at least 10 minutes. Use double drain pens if necessary;
- keep the filter/trap clear during dipping and dispose of this material with the used dip;
- ensure that operators remember that the drain pen sides and splash boards will be contaminated with dip solution.

4.5 Additional precautions necessary for mobile dipping, showering, jetting or spraying

Mobile systems introduce additional risks of pollution of groundwater and if improperly managed or sited can create greater risks of pollution than static dip facilities.

- Farmyards have been used as convenient hard standing, but **represent a high risk of pollution unless great care is taken** to prevent dip compounds draining into the surrounding ground or into nearby drains. **All these compounds, including those dripping off sheep or spraying out of the installations, must be properly contained.**
- Yard areas should only be used if they have sealed drainage and collection systems designed and constructed to collect all such compounds. These will need to have a specification comparable to drain-down areas associated with static dip baths – see Section 3 and ADAS Note CGN 006.
- Field sites are acceptable **providing they have first been carefully investigated to confirm as a minimum:**
 1. There is no well, spring or borehole, irrespective of current use, within 50 metres of the periphery of the site;
 2. There is no watercourse or drain within 10 metres of the periphery of the site.
 3. The site is flat, or gently sloping, with well established grassland or rough grazing cover.
 4. The site has at least a spade's depth of top-soil and preferably a further 0.5 metre soil depth to rock.

Chapter 4: When you dip

5. The site is free from flooding, surface ponding, waterlogging and is not frozen or compacted ground.
6. There is no groundwater within 1 metre of the ground surface.
7. The site can accommodate sufficient drain pens to hold sheep until they have finished dripping at least 10 metres from any watercourse or drain, or 50 metres from any well, spring or borehole and have access to areas to hold sheep until their fleece is completely dry, as required in Section 5.

4.6 Using mobile equipment

Check all equipment thoroughly before use, for proper operation, signs of damage, corrosion, or excessive wear.

Do not move any mobile system containing any 'dip' solution, unless it is specifically designed to do so.

Depending on the nature of the system, sheep leaving it may have dip compounds dripping off them. **If used on farm yards, or other hardstanding areas, provision must be made to collect this drainage in the same way as required for static dip baths.**

The use of the equipment and especially the movement of wet sheep may poach the land and vegetation. You should relocate the system and holding pens to another suitable area (which may be an extension of the original site) if poaching removes more than half of the vegetation within the immediate holding areas. The degree of poaching can be reduced if protective mats or absorbent material are placed across exit ramps.

If you are unsure about these requirements, or if you envisage particular difficulties with complying with them, it is important that you contact the Environment Agency before undertaking any work, as the Agency has the power to serve Notices to protect ground and surface waters.

You should co-operate with mobile dipping contractors and clearly establish responsibility, in advance for the safe disposal of used dip.

After you have dipped sheep

- **When sheep leave the drain pen, fleeces will be wet but not dripping.**
- **Dip can be washed out of the fleece if sheep enter watercourses or if there is heavy rain.**
- **Wherever possible keep sheep out of watercourses for at least two weeks.**
- **Surface waters may become polluted, and dip may infiltrate through soils with rainwater, and into groundwater.**

Until the fleece is properly dry you need to take the following precautions:

- When sheep are released from the drain pen, the next holding area should not contain any wells, springs or watercourses, ditches or wetlands.
- The sheep should be provided with drinking water (in troughs or similar) and kept there until they are completely dry.
- If the sheep need to be driven to the field where they are to be kept, they must be kept away from watercourses, ditches and wetlands.
- Sheep should not be transported whilst wet, in a vehicle or trailer, unless this has sufficient absorbent material to mop up all dip. The transporter will need to be washed out and the washings treated in the same way as used dip. The absorbent material, likewise should be disposed of as contaminated waste.

Even when dry, there is a particular risk of dip compound being washed out of the fleece in the first two weeks after dipping and particular care needs to be taken during this period. Where at all possible sheep should be kept out of watercourses and wetlands for at least two weeks after dipping.

Be aware that soils that are waterlogged or cracked down to drains, can provide a direct pathway for dip to reach groundwater or surface water.

5.1 Emptying the dip bath

Dip baths should be emptied as soon as possible after dipping to reduce the risk of leakage or overflowing due to rain. The dip bath, drain pens and associated areas should be washed down with all the washings going into the dip bath for emptying. Used dip solution will normally be removed from the dip bath by suction into a vacuum tanker. Any equipment used to empty dip baths will be contaminated and will need cleaning too. You should not use any pipes used for emptying dip baths for water supply purposes.

When not in use, dip baths should be adequately covered to prevent entry of rainfall, people or animals from falling in, and to reduce the risk of damage.

5.2 Storage of used dip

Unsuitable spreading conditions, or other factors, such as the need to treat used dip prior to disposal, may prevent the prompt disposal of used dip, in which case it must be stored very carefully in impermeable containers, designed to store such toxic materials.

These containers must be stored so that any spillage cannot enter any drain or run over adjoining land, or bunded to contain any unforeseen spillage. Storage within a dip bath is not acceptable.

If it is proposed to store larger quantities of used dip e.g. involving more than one dipping operation, then storage systems must comply with British Standard BS 5502.

Remember that the Environment Agency has powers to serve Notices if arrangements such as dip storage present risks of pollution.

5.3 Treatment of used dip

Sheep dip compounds are known to partially break down if they are mixed with certain chemicals and then left for a specified period of time. It is important that the treatment employed is appropriate to the dip type and formulation used. If using such a method on used dip you must:

- follow the manufacturer's instructions specific to the type and formulation of sheep dip used. Under no circumstances must sheep dip be treated using a method designed for another product;
- use strong and effective covers over the dip bath while treatment is taking place.

Treatment methods can take up to a fortnight to work. Where they reduce the polluting potential of used dip they may help to obtain an authorisation in some circumstances. But treatment does not remove the requirement for an authorisation to dispose of used dip to land.

It is essential that environmental and safety precautions are taken into account for the period while the used dip is being treated:

- treat only in a well sealed, watertight dip bath or other suitable holding tank;
- regularly check the level of used dip in the bath whilst treatment is taking place, especially if wet weather is forecast;
- record the treatment method, the date employed and the date of final disposal;
- dispose of treated used sheep dip in the same manner as untreated used sheep dip;
- adopt the same level of care when handling treated dip as when handling untreated dip.

For further information contact the Environment Agency.

5.4 Disposal of used dip

- **Used dip is dangerous to health and the environment.**
- **Under no circumstances can it be disposed of to groundwater or surface waters.**
- **An authorisation from the Environment Agency is needed before it can be disposed of onto land.**

In certain situations, used dip may be disposed of to a licensed landfill site or an authorised incinerator. Pending disposal, the used dip must be held in a suitable storage facility until collected by a registered waste carrier. A registered waste disposal contractor may also take away surplus sheep dip concentrate, products that have passed their label expiry date and empty containers, if their return to the manufacturer is not a viable option. For advice on new controls governing the transport, storage, treatment and disposal of used dip, and other agricultural wastes, contact your local Environment Agency.

5.5 Authorisation to dispose of used dip to land

Disposal of used dip onto land requires a prior written authorisation from the Environment Agency. Allow adequate time for your application to be processed as this can take up to four months.

The authorisation will seek to minimise the environmental impact of the disposal, and the preferred method will generally be for spreading carefully onto land on farm.

Off farm disposal is sometimes necessary but there are risks in transporting used dip, from spillages during carriage, loading, unloading and in transfer to the final disposal area. If off-site disposal is the only viable alternative for disposal, a licensed waste carrier must be used. **It is your responsibility to check that you use a licensed carrier or that your contractor has an appropriate authorisation to dispose of the used dip.**

- To apply for an authorisation, contact the nearest Environment Agency office.
- Full details of the requirements for disposal will be contained in the authorisation.
- Prior to land spreading, conditions should be checked to ensure the land is in an appropriate state to receive the used dip.
- Spreading should not be carried out if, for example, the land is waterlogged or frozen, cracked following dry weather or contains recently laid or back-filled land drains.
- In the event of unsuitable spreading conditions, used dip should be stored securely in an appropriate container.
- Mixing used dip with controlled volumes of slurry or water in a vacuum tanker for achieving the correct spreading rate is permissible. One part used dip to three parts water or slurry is the usual dilution rate. If water is used, then it is important that the water is added to the tank **before** the used sheep dip and that water is not taken directly from a water supply tap, or stream etc. using potentially contaminated equipment.
- Ensure that any tanker used for transporting used dip does not leak.
- Disposal of used dip by mixing with the contents of a slurry store is not recommended as the whole volume of slurry would then need to be treated as contaminated waste.

5.6 Contractor agreement

Authorisations granted by the Environment Agency are usually sufficiently flexible to allow the disposal operation to be undertaken by the authorisation holder, his staff or, with the authorisation holder's permission, the contractor treating his sheep, provided that all conditions of the authorisation are complied with. It is important to ensure that only suitable disposal equipment is used.

If a contractor proposes to remove used dip for disposal off-site, it is essential that you confirm:

- the ultimate disposal site for used dip;
- that the contractor has appropriate authorisation to dispose of used dip.

You should co-operate with contractors and clearly establish responsibility, in advance, for the safe disposal of used dip.

5.7 Disposal of containers

Never re-use containers.

Containers should be rinsed three times with clean water when the dip is being prepared so that you use the rinsing liquid to dilute the dip. After rinsing, you should crush or put holes in the containers so that they cannot be used again.

Containers that are clean and have been crushed or had holes put in them, will be accepted at registered disposal sites. Most local Waste Collection Authorities will collect them if asked, but there may be a charge.

Surplus concentrate should be stored safely for future use or disposed of by a registered waste disposal operator. In some circumstances suppliers may be prepared to take back unopened containers.

5.8 Record keeping

Use of dips should be correctly catalogued in your veterinary medicine records, including the date, product, supplier and batch of animals treated.

It is also wise to record the time and place where sheep were treated. This will provide useful evidence in the event of a pollution incident being investigated and will allow you to observe any withdrawal periods for sheep going for slaughter.

It is a condition of the Groundwater Regulations authorisation that records must be kept of the types of substances disposed of, volumes, dates and location of disposal.

Emergencies

When working with substances potentially harmful to human health and the environment, it is prudent to have procedures in place to deal efficiently with emergencies, if and when they occur. Managing an emergency quickly and efficiently can prevent an accident developing into a major incident.

The likelihood of accidents and emergencies occurring can be reduced by following this code of practice and adequately planning for dipping. Following codes of practice and emergency procedures reduces the risk of an incident occurring and may make a difference to any penalties imposed, if there is a prosecution following the pollution incident.

Here are some examples of emergencies and how to deal with them:

Spillage/leakage of dip concentrate in transit

- Contain spillage within the vehicle and prevent any further leakage. Soak up spill with absorbent material, such as sawdust or sand, then wash out vehicle as soon as possible. Contaminated absorbent material and wash water needs to be disposed of as contaminated waste – **never just wash down a drain**. If a spillage has leaked outside the containment area, notify the Environment Agency immediately of the potential risk of water pollution.

Spillage of concentrate during mixing/dipping operations

- Soak up spillage with absorbent material, then wash down the area. Washings should be drained into the dip bath and absorbent material needs to be disposed of as contaminated waste.

Sheep escaping from containment area and getting into a wetland/watercourse before dip has dried

- Retrieve sheep immediately and notify the Environment Agency on their emergency number (see below). The examples given are not exhaustive and the action can be adapted to most emergencies that may occur with sheep dipping. If an emergency occurs, it is important not to panic and to deal with the situation quickly and efficiently.

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY EMERGENCY NUMBER 0800 80 70 60

Remember that immediate notification of an actual, or potential pollution incident can enable the EA to take rapid action to minimise the impact and so help reduce potential costs.

References

Environment Agency Offices

General Enquiries: 08708 506 506

Anglian

Head Office:
Kingfisher House
Goldhay Way
Orton Goldhay
Peterborough PE2 5ZR

Northern Area
(Lincoln)

Central Area
(Huntingdon)

Eastern Area
(Ipswich)

Midlands

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Sapphire East
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Kent Area
(West Malling)

Sussex Area
(Worthing)

North East

Head Office:
Rivers House
21 Park Square South
Leeds LS1 2QG

Northumbria Area
(Newcastle-upon-Tyne)

Dales Area
(York)

Ridings Area
(Leeds)

Southwest

Head Office:
Manley House
Kestrel Way
Exeter EX2 7LQ

Cornwall Area
(Bodmin)

Devon Area
(Exminster)

North Wessex Area
(Bridgwater)

South Wessex Area
(Blandford)

Thames

Head Office:
Kings Meadow House
Kings Meadow Road
Reading RG1 8DQ

North East Area
(Hatfield)

South East Area
(Camberley)

West Area
(Wallingford)

Wales

Head Office:
Cambria House
29 Newport Road
Cardiff CF24 0TP

Northern Area
(Bangor)

South East Area
(Cardiff)

South West Area
(Glamorgan)

Scottish Environment Protection Agency Offices

Galashiels Office
Burnbrae
Mossilee Road
Galashiels TD1 1NF
Tel: 01896 754797
Fax: 01896 754412

Dumfries Office
Rivers House
Irongray Road
Dumfries DG2 OJE
Tel: 01387 720502
Fax: 01387 721154

Guidance referred to in this document is available from:

For Defra and MAFF Codes: Defra Publications Unit, Cambertown Ltd, Cambertown House, Commercial Road, Goldthorpe, Rotherham, South Yorkshire, S63 PBL.
Contact Katie Spiby Tel: 01709 898989. Email: defra@cambertown.com

For HSE Codes: HSE Books, PO Box 1999, Sudbury, Suffolk CO10 2WA
Tel: 01787 881165.

For EA Guidance EA General Enquiries
Tel: 08708 506 506. Email: enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk

For Defra and MAFF Codes in Welsh: National Assembly for Wales, Agriculture Policy Division 4, Cathays Park, Cardiff CF10 3NQ.
Tel: 02920 825111

BS5502 – Buildings and Structures for Agriculture: British Standards Institution.
Tel: 020 8996 9001

Sheep Scab – A Farmer’s Guide – Defra Booklet PB4622E Contact Defra publications.

LANTRA – LANTRA Connect
Tel: 0845 707 8007. Email: connect@lantra.co.uk

Foot and mouth disease – details of the Sheep Licensing Scheme and the DEFRA guidance note “FMD: Advice on disposal of sheep dip” are available from the Meat and Livestock Commission
Tel: 01908 844790, Fax: 01908 844788.

Guidance on Construction, Repair and Maintenance of Sheep Dip Handling Facilities and Drainage Yards (ADAS Note: CGN006), Now available by contacting Acorus:
<http://www.acorus.org/enquiryform.htm>

NPTC
Tel: 024 7685 7300

Chapter 8

Glossary of terms

Authorisation

A permit issued by EA which subjects the disposal, or tipping for the purposes of disposal, of certain substances into or onto land to legally binding conditions so as to protect groundwater.

Dip bath

Tank in which sheep are immersed for treatment and which may be above or below ground, depending on the nature of the system.

Dip concentrate

Undiluted dip solution as purchased from suppliers.

Dip solution

Sheep dip that has been initially diluted (and where relevant, replenished) for use as an approved treatment for ectoparasite or cosmetic formulation in sheep (i.e. working strength dip solution).

Dipping

Any treatment of sheep with sheep dip compounds including dipping, showering, jetting, spraying.

Drain pens

Impermeable areas draining back to the dip bath where newly dipped sheep are held to allow dripping.

External parasite

Any organism that infects the skin and fleece of sheep.

Groundwater Regulations 1998

Statutory Instrument (No. 2746) that implements the requirements of the EC Groundwater Directive (80/68/EEC) into English, Welsh and Scottish Law.

LANTRA

The National Training Organisation for Land Based Industries.

Mobile system

Mobile dip/spray-race/jetter/shower.

Notice

A legal instrument available to EA under the Groundwater Regulations 1998 for prohibiting or regulating activities in or on land which pose an indirect threat to groundwater by certain substances.

Sheep dip compound

Any chemical used for the treatment of external parasites in sheep or any purl or bloom dips.

Used dip

A mixture of working strength dip solution, washings, detoxified/treated or untreated dip solution and solid matter from the dipping process.

PB 12010

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