

October 2011: INTERIM UPDATE TO AQUATIC BUFFER ZONE SCHEME FOR PLANT PROTECTION PRODUCTS.

1. Introduction

To allow growers in the UK to use buffer zones of greater than 5 metres from water e.g. ponds, ditches etc. the following interim scheme has been introduced. Plant Protection Products assessed by the Chemicals Regulation Directorate after this date will no longer be categorised as category 'A' or 'B' as was previously the case. Instead where an aquatic buffer zone is required for a product on a particular crop this will be clearly stated on the product label. There will always be clear information on the product label stating whether or not the buffer zone can be reduced by undertaking a Local Environmental Risk Assessment for Pesticides (LERAP) reduction assessment. Full details of how growers can undertake this assessment are given at:

http://www.pesticides.gov.uk/Migrated-Resources/Documents/L/LERAP_Horizontal_boom_sprayers.pdf

Any buffer zone of above 5 metres will not be eligible for a reduction via the LERAP reduction assessment and the full buffer zone must be observed.

It should be noted that for some time into the future some products will continue to carry the category 'A' and 'B' product classification and the information given in the link above tells you what to do if this is the case.

2. Summary of the scheme

In summary there will be following groups of product types carrying aquatic buffer zones.

Table 1 Summary of product types carrying aquatic buffer zones

Product type	Buffer zone distance (metres)	Reducible with a LERAP assessment
Category 'A'	5	NO
Category 'B'	5	YES
Not categorised	5 ¹	YES
Not categorised	6-20 ¹	NO

¹The interim scheme is on a crop basis and so there may be different buffer zones for different crops on the product label.

3. New aquatic buffer zone record form

To accommodate these changes a new [buffer zone record form](#) is available.

(The form is as previously but now requires that the aquatic buffer zone observed is recorded and that the reduction in buffer zone distance is only permitted for crops with an aquatic buffer of 5 metres)