

Guidance notes on part B7 – New bespoke groundwater permit to discharge used sheep dip, waste pesticide washings or other waste substances



Please read these guidance notes carefully before you fill in the forms.

This guidance will help you complete part B7 of the application form pack.

Where you see the term 'document reference' on the form, give the document references and send the documents with the application form when you've completed it.

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Introduction

You must complete a separate copy of form B7 and the appropriate annex for each substance you intend to discharge.

The following guidance is relevant to you if you are considering applying to discharge hazardous substances or non-hazardous pollutants to ground.

Hazardous substances are most harmful and must be prevented from getting into groundwater. This includes any substance or group of substances that are toxic, persistent and liable to bioaccumulate. In particular:

- organohalogen compounds and substances which may form such compounds in the aquatic environment;
- organophosphorus compounds;
- organotin compounds;
- substances and preparations (or the breakdown products of these) which have been proved to have carcinogenic or mutagenic properties or properties which may affect steroidogenic, thyroid, reproduction or other endocrine-related functions in or via the aquatic environment;
- metals and their compounds (particularly mercury and cadmium);
- persistent hydrocarbons and persistent and bioaccumulable organic toxic substances;
- cyanides;
- arsenic and its compounds;
- biocides and plant protection products.

Non-hazardous pollutants are less harmful but can cause pollution if their input or discharge into groundwater occurs in an uncontrolled way. Non-hazardous pollutants are any pollutant other than a hazardous substance.

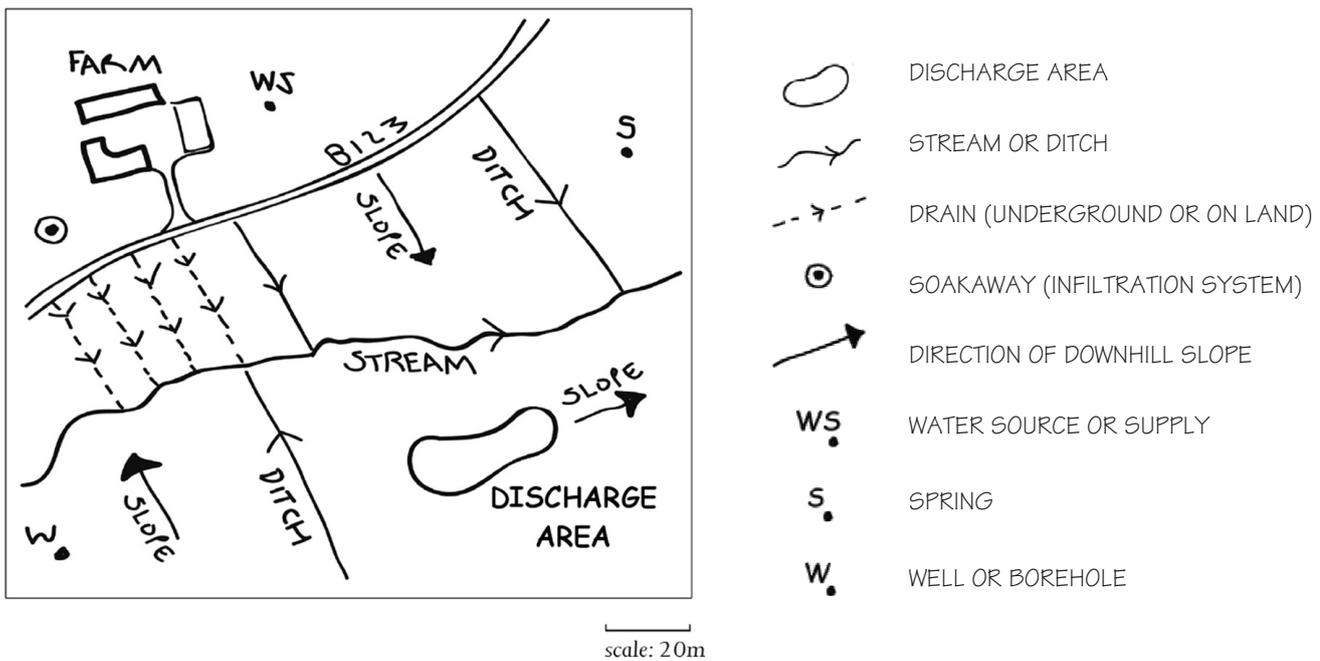
The following guidance should assist you in completing part B7 of your application. The numbering refers to the questions as asked in this form. If the form you send in is not complete there may be a delay in making a decision on your application or, in some cases, we may refuse it. You should make sure that any area you use for discharging will not affect groundwater, surface water or conservation areas.

1 Discharge area

1a The plan should show:

- the boundaries of the discharge area;
- the ownership or tenancy boundaries – this is in case we need to suggest another discharge area; and
- water and land features – water features include wells; springs; boreholes; seepages and solution features, such as sink-holes; lakes; ponds; rivers, streams and field ditches that may be dry for part of the year.

For the plan of the area, you could use Ordnance Survey maps at scales of 1:1 250 to 1:2 500 scale or a copy of an Integrated Administration and Control System (IACS) map. We will use the plan as the basis for a permit, so it must be as clear as possible. Use the marks suggested below. This will make the features of the site clearer and help us to make our assessment.



1b You can find Ordnance Survey maps at bookshops and libraries. To work out the grid reference of your discharge area to the nearest kilometre square, go through the following steps:

- Read the two letters identifying the 100,000 metre square (this will be shown on the front cover of the 1:25 000 scale maps, and will be marked in blue letters in the corners of the 1:50 000 scale maps). For example, ST _____
- Find the first vertical grid line to the left of your discharge area, and read the numbers labelling the line either on the top or bottom margin of the map. For example, ST 12 _____
- Count along the number of divisions from this point until the centre of your discharge area. For example, ST 123 _____
- Try to do this again if the centre of your discharge area is within this division. For example, ST 1235 _____
- Find the first horizontal grid line below your discharge area and read the numbers labelling the line either on the left or right margin of the map. For example, ST 1235 34 __
- Repeat the steps above to get an eight-figure grid reference. For example, ST 1235 3425.

1c You may find the field number on an IACS map or an Ordnance Survey Landlines map.

1e Suitable discharge areas are those which do not risk polluting groundwater or surface water. They should:

- have vegetation which is fully grown;
- be of low value to wildlife;
- have a good depth of topsoil (for example, more than 20 centimetres deep);
- be at least 10 metres away from streams and ditches; and
- be at least 50 metres down from springs, well or borehole irrespective of its current use.

Infiltration systems (soakaways) are not suitable discharge areas.

2 Local environment

2b It is important that you find out whether there are other water supplies within 500 metres of your discharge area; for example, sources used by your neighbours. Please make sure these are identified on your plan.

2c It is also important to identify all water features within 500 metres of your discharge area. Please show all wells, springs, boreholes, streams, ditches, ponds and wetlands, even if they are not used for drinking.

2e As a guide, 20 centimetres is eight inches, 30 centimetres is one foot.

2g High organic matter content is normally associated with:

- peaty soils;
- soil which has a darker colour and smoother feel;
- better aggregation in sandy soils; and weaker clods and finer tilth in clays.

2h We need to know about the drainage of the field or yard area to make sure that the discharge does not risk polluting groundwater or surface water. You must also describe your drainage arrangements if you use a yard area for activities such as washing down spray equipment or using a mobile dip or shower.

2l To determine your permit we need to identify the depth to the groundwater below your discharge site and you may be able to provide us with site information. For example, are there any disused wells nearby that you can estimate safely the depth to the standing water or do you have drilling records for any boreholes constructed nearby? Also, you may have undertaken excavation work near the site which might have reached the water table or you may at least be able to clarify that by a certain depth you did not. If you are on a site at the top of a hill, you may know how high you are above any visible spring line or, conversely, are you at the foot of a hill and are there areas of land nearby that are marshy and rarely dry out?

2m We need to know what kind of vegetation is likely to be growing on the area at the time you discharge. This is because vegetation can affect how well the substances being discharged are absorbed and broken down.

3 How to contact us

If you need help filling in this form, please contact the person who sent it to you or contact us as shown below.

General enquiries: 03708 506 506 (Monday to Friday, 8am to 6pm)

Textphone: 03702 422 549 (Monday to Friday, 8am to 6pm)

Email: enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk

Website: www.gov.uk/environment-agency

Appendix 1 – Specific questions for the discharge of used sheep dip

1 Sheep dip products containing cypermethrin were suspended by Defra in February 2006. Currently the Government is not satisfied that the cypermethrin sheep dip products can be used without presenting a significant risk to the environment. This suspension of three cypermethrin-based sheep dip products (Auripak Fly and Scab, Ecofleece and Robust) did not require the recall of products supplied before the date of suspension. Thus it is still legal to use those existing stocks. However, if you decide to use any existing stocks please remember that it is extremely toxic to aquatic life. The dip must therefore be used and disposed of with the utmost care and in accordance with the label instructions.

Also, a permit is required even if you are only discharging purl or bloom dip.

3 If you are spreading a diazinon-based used sheep dip which has been subject to an approved enzyme treatment process using Landguard OP, you may be eligible to apply for a standard permit. This is only if you comply with certain standard rules (conditions). If you cannot comply with any of the standard rules, you must apply for a bespoke permit. Please check our website for more information.

4 'Diluted' means when the working-strength dip is diluted to make it easier to dispose of and help limit the effect on the environment. It does not mean diluting the concentrate to working strength.

5 Working-strength used sheep dip must not be spread at rates greater than 5m³/ha. Although you may have a reliable method of spreading at this rate, in many cases a vacuum tanker will be used, most of which have a fixed application rate of approximately 20m³/ha. This is four times higher than that proposed for safe spreading. Therefore the dip must be diluted with at least three parts slurry or water in order to maintain the recommended discharge rate. As a guide 220 gallons = one cubic metre, one cubic metre = 1000 litres.

Appendices 2 and 3 – Specific questions for the discharge of waste pesticide washings and other waste substances

You do not need a permit if you are discharging dilute pesticide washings onto the target crop in line with the manufacturer's recommendations or product label. However, you do need a permit if you are washing down spray equipment and discharging it elsewhere (for example, at a field margin or to an area of sacrificial land). If you are not sure whether you need a permit, please contact us.

4 'Treatment' can mean adding an approved treatment additive or using a treatment plant, for example.

5 'Diluted' means when the working-strength pesticide or other waste product is diluted to make disposal easier and help limit the effect on the environment. It does not mean diluting the concentrate to working strength.

6 If you rinse your equipment, please estimate the amount of water you use. As a guide, 220 gallons = one cubic metre; one cubic metre = 1000 litres.

8 To make sure there are no environmental effects from discharging waste pesticides or other waste products onto the land, we need to know roughly how often you dispose of the pesticide, the amounts you discharge and whether you dilute it. There should be a gap of at least three days between each discharge on a single area of land.