

# Agreement to use herbicides in or near water



**Please read through this form and the guidance notes that came with it. Please write clearly in the answer spaces.**

The Food and Environment Protection Act 1985 and Control of Pesticides Regulations 1986, as amended sets out the rules on using pesticides to control weeds growing in water or on land. ‘Pesticides’ includes herbicides as well as insecticides and fungicides. They all have information on the product labels to explain how and where they can be used.

The product labels of aquatic herbicides explain that anyone who wants to use herbicides to control weeds in water (aquatic weeds) or on the banks or banksides next to a water body or a watercourse (a flow of water), should get our agreement. This is to make sure that the proposed use of the herbicide could not damage or pollute the aquatic environment (including both surface water and groundwater). This form will give us the information we need to decide whether or not to agree to you using the herbicide as you propose.

Once you have all the information you need it should take you less than one hour to fill in this form.

You’ll need:

- details of the location of the site, including its grid references and a site plan;
- your NPTC certificate number (and a photocopy of your certificate if this is the first time you have asked for our agreement); and
- evidence that you have contacted Natural England (if you intend to use the herbicide in a nature conservation area).

**When to use this form**

Use this form if you plan to use herbicides to control weeds in water or on the banks next to a water body or watercourse.

You should discuss your plans with us, particularly for unusual or complex proposals, before you fill in this form.

You can send your form by email, fax or post to our national Permitting Support Centre in Sheffield at the address shown in section 5.

If you need to send us other documents to support your application, you can send them to us by fax or post, or you can scan and email them.

If you need more space for any of your answers, please use separate sheets of paper (continuation sheets). Make sure that you label each sheet clearly with:

- the section number it applies to; and
- the number of the sheet (for example, 3 of 5).

**Site owner’s agreement**

If we agree to your application, and you do not own the site the herbicide is to be used on, you cannot carry out the treatment until the owner of the site agrees to this.

**Nature conservation areas**

If you intend to use a herbicide in a nature conservation area (see the guidance notes for more details), you (or the site owner if that is not you) must also get permission from Natural England.

On this form you will need to provide evidence that you have got their permission (see section 1.9).

You must also hold the correct NPTC certificate for aquatic applications (see the website at [www.nptc.org.uk](http://www.nptc.org.uk)). On this form you must provide evidence that you hold this qualification (see section 1.3).

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**1 About the applicant and site**

(person or company applying for agreement)

Dates the treatment will be applied and over what time period?

**1.1 Your details**

Name, if an individual

Title (Mr, Mrs, Miss and so on) \_\_\_\_\_

First name \_\_\_\_\_

Last name \_\_\_\_\_

Name, if a company, partnership or public body

**1 About the applicant and site, continued**

Address

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Contact numbers, including the area code

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile \_\_\_\_\_

(If you give us a fax number or email address we can send our reply to you faster.)

Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

**1 About the applicant and site, continued**

Are you:

- the owner of the site?
- Please go to section 1.3.
- the manager of the site?
- the site owner's agent?
- a contractor?
- other?
- If other, please give details.

**1.2 Details of the site owner or the person or company responsible for the site**

Name, if an individual

Title (Mr, Mrs, Miss and so on) \_\_\_\_\_

First name \_\_\_\_\_

Last name \_\_\_\_\_

Name, if a company, partnership or public body

\_\_\_\_\_

Company registration number

\_\_\_\_\_

Address

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Contact numbers, including the area code

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**1.3 Please give details of who will apply the herbicide (or supervise its use).**

Name of the spray operator (and anyone who is supervising them)

\_\_\_\_\_

Their NPTC certificate number

\_\_\_\_\_

Category of NPTC certificate

\_\_\_\_\_

If this is your first application to this Environment Agency office, send us a photocopy of the NPTC certificate.

**1.4 Location details**

Name of site

\_\_\_\_\_

Nearest village or town

\_\_\_\_\_

**1 About the applicant and site, continued**

**1.5 Ordnance Survey grid references for the site**

For example, ST 1234 5678

Please give two Ordnance Survey grid references, one for each end of the area to be treated. You can find them on an Ordnance Survey map.

If the area is very small (for example, a pond), one grid reference will do. In this case put the same reference in both boxes.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**1.6 Please send us a site plan that shows the site to be sprayed and its surrounding area.**

There is an example in the guidance notes.

**1.7 Have you ever had permission to use herbicide on this site?**

No

Yes  Please say when and give the reference number if possible.

Date (DD/MM/YYYY)

\_\_\_\_\_

Reference number

\_\_\_\_\_

**1.8 Is the site a conservation area?**

(Please see the guidance notes on the types of conservation area – for example, Natura 2000 sites (SACs or SPAs), SSSIs or Nature Reserves.)

No  Go to section 1.10

Yes  Please give details below.

**1.9 Have you consulted Natural England?**

No

Yes  Please give details below.

If treatment is in a protected area it is your responsibility to contact them and get their agreement beforehand.

**1.10 Are there fish in the water that you plan to treat?**

Treating only the bank

Don't know

No

Yes  Please give details of the species (if known).

**2 About the watercourse or water body**

**2.1 Are you proposing to use a herbicide:**

in a watercourse or water body?   
 on the banks of or next to a watercourse or water body?   
 If you are treating weeds only on the banks next to the watercourse or water body, please go directly to section 3.

**2.2 Type of watercourse or water body**

Please tick all relevant boxes.  
 Canal  Lake  Reservoir  Ditch   
 Stream  Pond  River  Estuary

If it is a water body, what is the total area in hectares?  
 \_\_\_\_\_ hectares  
 (One hectare is equal to 10,000m<sup>2</sup>.)  
 If it is a watercourse, give the length, width and depth below.

Length \_\_\_\_\_ metres

Width \_\_\_\_\_ metres

Average depth \_\_\_\_\_ metres

**2.3 Are you planning to treat the whole area?**

Yes   
 No  In the spaces below, please give details of the part to be treated.

Length \_\_\_\_\_ metres  
 Width \_\_\_\_\_ metres  
 Average depth \_\_\_\_\_ metres

**Water speed**

**2.4 How fast does the water flow?**

Tick one box only.  
 Standing  Slow  Fast   
 Minimal  Moderate

How many places does water flow in (inflows)?  
 \_\_\_\_\_

How many places does water flow out (outflows)?  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**2.5 Can you control the outflows?**

We need to know that the herbicide will not contaminate watercourses or waterbodies downstream.  
 No   
 Yes  Please give brief details below (for example, how long you can stop the outflow for).

**2 About the watercourse or water body, continued**

**Downstream uses of the watercourse or water body**

**2.6 Is the water body connected to a watercourse?**

No  Go to section 3.1.  
 Yes

**2.7 If you know that the water body or the watercourse is used for any purpose please give details below.**

(For example, irrigation or fisheries).

**3 Weed control**

**3.1 Why do you think the weeds need to be controlled?**

For angling  For leisure purposes   
 For flood defence   
 To control non-native species such as Japanese knotweed, giant hogweed and rhododendron   
 Other

If other, please give details below.

**3.2 Can you identify the species of weed you plan to control?**

No  Go to section 3.3.  
 Yes  Please give details below.

Where the weed is	Percentage of area it covers	Species
Bankside	_____	_____
At the water's edge (marginal)	_____	_____
Floating	_____	_____
Partially underwater (emergent)	_____	_____
Underwater (submerged)	_____	_____

**3.3 If you do not know the species please send us a sample of the weeds.**

Please read the guidance notes about sending samples.

**3.4 Have you considered other ways to control the weeds?**

No  Please say why below.

### 3 Weed control, continued

Yes  Please tell us below which methods you considered and why you didn't use them.

#### 3.5 The herbicide you want to use

The product label gives you the information we ask for below. Please also see the guidance notes.

Name on the product label

Active ingredient shown on the product label

Amount of product in litres or kilogrammes

Dilution rate (if appropriate)

Amount of active ingredient

Adjuvant which is approved for use in or near water

#### 3.6 Please give details below of how you will apply the herbicide.

(For example, knapsack sprayer).

#### Extra information

#### 3.7 Please give us any further details you think are relevant to your application.

(For example, if this is part of a planned spraying programme over a number of years we can agree to herbicide use for up to three years for a specific site after which we will re assess applications).

### 4 Checklist

Please tick the relevant boxes to show which documents you are enclosing with this form.

A site plan showing the water body and the surrounding area (section 1.6)

A photocopy of the relevant NPTC certificate (if applicable)

Continuation sheets

How many?

### 5 What happens next

Please send the form back to the following address:

Environment Agency  
Permitting Support Centre  
Quadrant 2  
99 Parkway Avenue  
Parkway Business Park  
Sheffield  
S9 4WF.

Phone: 03708 506 506

Fax: 0114 2626697

Email: [PSC-WaterQuality@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:PSC-WaterQuality@environment-agency.gov.uk)

We aim to deal with your application within two weeks of receiving it. However, under section 28G of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, when carrying out our role we must take all reasonable steps to protect and improve sites of special scientific interest. So in certain circumstances (for example, unusual or complex uses), we may need to consult Natural England before giving our permission for any activity that may affect a site of special scientific interest. Natural England have 28 days to respond, although they will try to respond within two weeks.

If we agree to your proposals, we will let you know by post, fax or email.

If we have any objections to your proposals, we will discuss them with you.

If we do not agree to your proposal and you are not happy with our decision, you can ask us to refer your proposal to the Area Manager.

### 6 The Data Protection Act 1998

We, the Environment Agency, will process the information you provide so that we can:

- deal with your application;
- make sure you keep the conditions of our agreement;
- process renewals.

We may also process or release the information to:

- offer you documents or services relating to environmental matters;
- consult the public, public organisations and other organisations (for example, the Health and Safety Executive, local authorities, the emergency services, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs) on environmental issues;
- carry out research and development work on environmental issues;
- prevent anyone from breaking environmental law, investigate cases where environmental law may have been broken, and take any action that is needed;
- assess whether customers are satisfied with our service, and to improve our service; and

## 6 The Data Protection Act 1998, continued

- respond to requests for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (if the Data Protection Act allows).

We may pass the information on to our agents or representatives to do these things for us.

## 7 Declaration

If you make a statement that you know or believe is false or misleading you may be committing an offence.

**I declare that as far as I know and believe, the information in this application is true. I understand that this application may be refused, or agreement withdrawn, if I give false or incomplete information.**

Tick this box to confirm that you understand and agree with the declaration above.

If you are the applicant's agent, or are signing on behalf of an organisation, please also print your name and your position.

Name

Title (Mr, Mrs, Miss and so on) \_\_\_\_\_

First name \_\_\_\_\_

Last name \_\_\_\_\_

Position

\_\_\_\_\_

Date (DD/MM/YYYY)

\_\_\_\_\_

## 8 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: 08708 506 506 (Monday to Friday, 8am to 6pm)

Textphone: 08702 422549 (Monday to Friday, 8am to 6pm)

Email: PSC-WaterQuality@environment-agency.gov.uk

If you are happy with our service, please tell us. It helps us to identify good practice and encourages our staff. If you're not happy with our service, please tell us how we can improve it.

**Please tell us if you need information in a different language or format (for example, in large print) so we can keep in touch with you more easily.**



### For Environment Agency use only

Notification reference number

\_\_\_\_\_

Date received (DD/MM/YYYY)

\_\_\_\_\_

Area

\_\_\_\_\_

Are there any objections?

No

Yes  Give details of the objections and the date the letter setting out the objections was sent to the applicant.