



ENVIRONMENT
AGENCY

Form WQM1

**Use of herbicides
to control weeds
in or near water**

Application form and
guidance notes

Use of herbicides in or near water

The Food and Environment Protection Act 1985 (Control of Pesticides Regulations 1986, as amended), sets out the rules on the use of pesticides to control weeds growing in water or on land.

'Pesticides' includes herbicides as well as insecticides and fungicides.

Under the Regulations, anyone who wants to use herbicides to control aquatic or bankside weeds must have written agreement to their proposals from the Environment Agency.

They must notify the Agency of their proposed programme, including details of the site to be treated, who will be applying the herbicide, and which herbicides they will use.

To make sure that the Agency gets all the information we need, we have produced an application form WQM1. *You can get more copies of these forms from your local Environment Agency office.*

Why you need to notify us of your proposed programme

All weed control methods should be considered, including mechanical, physical, biological and chemical. If you decide that chemical control is the most appropriate method, we must be sure that herbicides are used properly and by qualified operators or contractors.

The information we ask for on your application

We will only issue a written agreement if you give all the information we ask for in the application form. This helps us to decide whether

- you will do everything necessary to protect the environment
- the proposed treatment will be effective
- any sites downstream will be affected by the proposed treatment.
- your proposed programme of herbicide application is necessary
- you are following the rules and regulations on the use of herbicides
- your operator or contractor is fully qualified
- herbicides will only be applied in the correct weather conditions.

How your herbicide programme affects other users

It is your responsibility to ensure that the herbicides you use will not affect anyone else using the site, or the water downstream of the application, such as

- water used for livestock
- crop irrigation
- fisheries
- drinking water abstraction.

As well as your application to us, you or your contractor must give details of your proposed programme to anyone likely to be affected including

- anyone using the site to abstract water
- owners or occupiers of areas downstream of the site.

You must also ensure that the herbicide application will not affect any conservation areas such as nature reserves or SSSIs (Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, Habitats Directive, Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000).

We can provide a list of people licensed to abstract water from the site and downstream of the site.

Who can apply the herbicide

Anyone who uses herbicides in or near water must be competent to do so.

Certificates of competence

Anyone who uses pesticides must hold a relevant NPTC certificate of competence if

- they were born after 31 December 1964
- they are a contractor
- they are any age and use pesticides on land which is not owned or occupied by them or their immediate employer.

You do not need to hold a certificate yourself if you are working under the direct and personal supervision of a certificate holder.

Sending specimens

If you are not sure what the plants are, please send a specimen in a dry plastic bag. Only a small specimen is needed for identification. Do not post specimens on a Friday as they may not keep over the weekend.

General guidance on pesticide use

- You must follow the manufacturer's recommendations on using, diluting and disposing of pesticides, and cleaning containers or other equipment.
- You should not apply pesticides when rain is expected, during windy periods and when the soil is saturated. This minimises the risk of pesticides spreading into or over other parts of the site.

The Food and Environment Protection Act 1985 (Control of Pesticides Regulations 1986, as amended) also places a number of responsibilities on pesticide users to

- take all reasonable precautions to protect the health of human beings, creatures and plants and to safeguard the environment. They must in particular take precautions to avoid the pollution of water
- comply with the instructions on the product label or in the published approval for the pesticide
- be trained in the safe, efficient and humane use of pesticides.

Operators'/contractors' responsibilities

It is up to the operator or contractor to

- inform owners and occupiers of the site (and areas downstream of it) of the intention to apply a herbicide
- apply in the correct weather conditions
- ensure that other water users are not adversely affected (for example water used for crop irrigation or fisheries)
- follow DEFRA's *Guidelines for the use of herbicides on weeds in or near watercourses and lakes* (revised 1995).

Other useful information

You can find useful information on weed control and the use of herbicides in these publications

- *Guidelines for the use of herbicides on weeds in or near watercourses and lakes* (revised 1995), obtainable from DEFRA Publications, London SE99 7TP, Tel. 08459 556000.
- A useful guide to weed identification is D Spencer-Jones and M Wade *Aquatic plants – a guide to recognition* (ICI Professional Products 1986 ISBN 0 901747 033).

Filling in your application form

Please provide as much information as possible. This will enable the Agency to make a decision more quickly.

If you are not sure how to fill in any parts of the form, please get in touch with us on the telephone number given at the end of the form.

You can send in the form by post or fax. The address and number are on the back page of the form.

Other documents we need to see

NPTC certificate

We need to see a photocopy of the operator's NPTC certificate.

The site plan

We need to see a plan which shows

- the site in relation to its surrounding area *including inflows, outflows and adjacent watercourses or water bodies*
- the nearest village or town (as needed, to locate the site)
- how neighbouring land is used *for example farm, fisheries.*

You can use a photocopy from an Ordnance Survey map.

If the water body is small, you can send a sketch map showing details of the area to be sprayed.

Using continuation sheets

If you need more space for any of your answers, please use a continuation sheet. Make sure that you label each sheet clearly with the

- question number it applies to
- number of the sheet, *for example 3 of 5.*

You should also tell us how many continuation sheets you are using when you fill in the 'Checklist' of the form.

How long it takes to process your forms

If you are notifying us that you intend to spray we will deal with your form within 2 weeks. However, under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, we must consult English Nature or the Countryside Council for Wales before permitting any operations that may affect a SSSI.

English Nature and the Countryside Council for Wales have 28 days to respond, although they will aim to respond within 2 weeks wherever possible.

Letting you know if we agree to your proposals

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

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

If the proposed application is refused

If you are not happy with our decision, you can ask for your proposals to be referred to the regional director.

NPTC certificate requirements for aquatic applications

PA01 is the basic qualification needed by anyone who applies pesticides before they can add the following.

Type of applicator	Certificate	<i>also qualifies for</i>
Handheld – to land only		
hydraulic nozzle or rotary atomiser sprayers <i>(PA06 only does not certify applications of pesticides to water)</i>	PA06A	<i>PA06C and PA06D</i>
Handheld – to water		
hydraulic nozzle or rotary atomiser sprayers	PA06A W	<i>PA06A, PA06C, PA06C W and PA06D</i>
viscous gel applicators	PA06B	<i>PA06A, PA06A W, PA06C, PA06C W and PA06D</i>
granule applicators	PA06C W	<i>PA06C and PA06D</i>
Handheld – to water or land		
granule applicators	PA06C	<i>PA06D</i>
applicators requiring minimal calibration	PA06D	–
Boat-mounted		
hydraulic nozzle boom	PA05A	<i>PA05B and PA05C</i>
granule applicators	PA05B	<i>PA06C and PA06C W</i>
viscous gel applicators	PA05C	–

CONTACTS:

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ENVIRONMENT AGENCY REGIONAL OFFICES

ANGLIAN

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Orton Goldhay
Peterborough PE2 5ZR
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SOUTHERN

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Worthing
West Sussex BN11 1LD
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Fax: 01903 821 832

MIDLANDS

Sapphire East
550 Streetsbrook Road
Solihull B91 1QT
Tel: 0121 711 2324
Fax: 0121 711 5824

SOUTHWEST

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NORTH EAST

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21 Park Square South
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Fax: 0113 246 1889

THAMES

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NORTH WEST

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Knutsford Road
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Fax: 01925 415 961

WALES

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St Mellons
Cardiff CF3 0EY
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Fax: 029 2079 8555



ENVIRONMENT AGENCY
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FLOODLINE

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ENVIRONMENT AGENCY
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0800 80 70 60



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