Buffer Zones and Pesticide Application

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1. LERAP A & B

There are no Category C products – either A or B, or unclassified.

Buffer Zones:

- Category A; 5m [cannot be reduced].
- Category B [may be reduced – down to 1m].

Plus:

2. Aquatic Buffer Zones (also known as the 'Interim Scheme')

3. Zonal Harmonisation and DRT (Drift Reduction Technology)

4. Arthropod Buffer Zones
Local Environment Risk Assessment for Pesticides

Aim – to protect ‘aquatic life’.

Statutory measure – record and retain for 3 years.

*THE OPERATOR IS RESPONSIBLE FOR RECORD KEEPING*

✚ Dry ditch – 1m buffer (Cross Compliance).

✚ Ditch with water – at time of application.

✚ Category A pesticide – 5m buffer zone always applies.

✚ Category B pesticide – may be reduced (down to 1m) according to:
  – Product dose rate e.g. ½, ¼ of the recommended rate
  – Sprayer or nozzle LERAP star rating
  – Width of watercourse

✚ Applies to all crops on the product label, marked with LERAP ‘A’ or ‘B’.
LERAP’s

Measuring for LERAP’S

EXAMPLE – LERAP BUFFER ZONE MEASUREMENT = 5 METERS

CROSS COMPLIANCE BUFFER ZONE MIN 1M FROM TOP OF BANK CAN BE INCLUDED IN LERAP BUFFER

TOP OF BANK

WIDTH OF WATERCOURSE
Aquatic Buffer Zone (AqBZ) also known as interim scheme

- Aim – water protection.

- Crop based buffer zones;
  - You might have different buffers on different crops for the same product!
  - Statutory measure – record and retain records for three years

- Buffer less than 5m – reducible with LERAP scheme.

- Buffer may be 6, 12 or 18m – this width is not reducible.

NB. Except if a dry ditch, then 1m (Cross Compliance Buffer) applies.
Aquatic Buffers

Measuring the Aquatic Buffer Zones

Sprayed area less ZH/DRT buffer width on label not covered by buffer strips (below)

Fallow/Grass Margin Buffer
Can count as part/all of ZH/DRT buffer zone

XC Margin
Min 1m from top of bank
Can be counted as part of LERAP/ZH/DRT buffer width

Ditch
Zonal Harmonisation – ZH/DRT

+ Reliant on use of 3 * Drift Reduction Technology Nozzles.
+ Designed to bring the UK in line with Europe.
+ Will allow for approval of pesticide products that could have failed registration due to issues around water protection.
+ Label will contain a DRT buffer of 6m, 12m or 18m (as required for each crop type).
+ This is irrespective of size of watercourse.
Zonal Harmonisation – ZH/DRT

+ If DRT **is not** used, the buffer from water is 30m.

+ If DRT **is** used, the buffer is as per label – e.g. 6m, 12m.

+ If the application is more than 30m from a watercourse, the use of DRT nozzles **is not** compulsory.

+ Aim to use 3* DRT/LERAP nozzles on the first 30m of crop, if field is adjacent to watercourse.

+ Some pesticides state – “product effectiveness – if using 3* DRT nozzles – may be reduced” consider using a flat fan nozzle after the 30m headland.

**Record all buffer zones applied.**
Arthropod Buffer Zones (ArBZ)

+ These are not new!

+ Some buffers are statutory, others are advisory.
  - The word ‘Avoid’ is an advisory buffer requirement.
  - The words ‘Respect’ or ‘Do Not’ are statutory buffer requirements.

+ May apply equally to insecticides, herbicides and fungicides.

+ The label states 5 or 6m buffer ‘from edge of crop...’.

+ Grass margins (outside the 1m / 2m Cross Compliance margin) can be counted as ‘Crop’ when calculating buffers.
**Arthropod Buffer**

**Measuring the Arthropod Buffer Zone (ArBZ)**

“These buffer distances should be measured from the field boundary... defined as the edge of ‘non-cropped’ land. ‘Cropped land’ includes managed buffer strips, wild flower margins, conservation headlands.”

**Diagram Description:**
- The Arthropod Buffer Zone (ArBZ) is defined as 5 meters, consisting of 2 meters of crop and 3 meters of grass strip.
- ‘Cropped land’ includes managed buffer strips, wild flower margins, and conservation headlands.
- The buffer zone is measured from the center of the hedge to the edge of ‘non-cropped’ land.
- Cross compliance buffer measured from the center of the hedge to the edge of ‘non-cropped’ land cannot be counted.
Remember to...

- Always read the product label.
- Check the MAPP number is current.
- Select appropriate nozzle / speed / pressure.
- Record soil / weather conditions at application.
- Record application details and buffer zone applied.
General information

Best Solution

+ Need to protect both crops *and* direct payments (BPS).

+ Need to protect water and the pesticides we need to use.

+ A well managed and recorded spraying system will demonstrate compliance and help to protect the environment.