

Buffer Zones

Interim Aquatic Buffer Zones

As many Plant Protection Products (PPPs) pass through the approval or re-approval process with the CRD (Chemicals Regulation Directorate), we are seeing aquatic buffer zones altered on many insecticide and some herbicide labels; with the aim to protect aquatic life.

Over time all PPPs will move away from the current system of LERAP A and B's, towards a new one called the 'New Aquatic Buffer Zone Scheme'. However, there lies an intermediary stage for products to fall into before entering the New Aquatic Buffer Zone Scheme – the Interim Aquatic Buffer Scheme.

How the Interim Aquatic Buffer Scheme works:

- CRD now allow larger aquatic buffer zones of up to 20 metres.
- As with LERAP products, the Interim scheme has category A & B product labels with 5m buffer zones.
Cat A product labels with a buffer zone of 5m **are not reducible** but
Cat B product labels with a buffer zone of 5m or less **are reducible** with a LERAP procedure.
- Product labels with Interim buffer zones of 6m or more **are not reducible** with LERAP.
- See the below graph for a more visual explanation of the different Interim aquatic buffer zones.
- Interim buffer zones can vary per crop on the same product label or product name specific when concerning the same active ingredient.
- Think about upgrading to 3 Star Low Drift Technology nozzles, when new law comes in over time these nozzles will be necessary when trying to avoid the largest of the mandatory 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.

Link to the 3 Steps required when making a LERAP Assessment:

<http://adlib.everysite.co.uk/adlib/defra/content.aspx?id=000IL3890W.17UT4BSYLG04B5>

Useful table for LERAP assessment decisions regarding nozzles choice and watercourse width:

http://adlib.everysite.co.uk/resources/000/011/919/Baaguide_lerap_operator3.jpg

Arthropod Buffer Zones

- A lesser known buffer zone which has now started to appear on product labels.
 - An unsprayed buffer zone to protect beneficials and/or non-target insects coming in from the field margins. Legislative wording is fluffy on whether these buffers should be 'respected' or are legal requirement.
 - Not linked to presence of water courses.
 - Measured from the edge of the non-cropped land, i.e. usually from the edge of your Cross Compliance margin – 2m from the centre of a hedge or 1m from the top of a bank.
 - Label, crop and time of year specific! Information can be found on the label in the Environmental Protection section along with any LERAP requirements.
 - Not just limited to insecticides.

A quick reference guide for Interim buffer zones and Arthropods buffer zones on commonly used Insecticides

Active	Product	g ai/L	MAPP	LERAP/LERAP 'Interim'	Arthropod Buffer Zone
Alpha-Cypermethrin	Alert	100	16785	Interim 12m/3* Nozzle/1m Dry	5m
	Contest	150	16764	Interim 12m/3* Nozzle/1m Dry	5m
	A Cyper 100	100	14175	LERAP A 5m/1m Dry	6m Cereals after 31 Mar
Lambda Cyhalothrin	Hallmark	100	12629	LERAP B/1m Dry	5m
	Euro Lambda	100	14794	LERAP A/1m Dry	6m Cereals after 31 Mar
	Sergeant Major	50	16175	LERAP B Cereals/1m Dry/LERAP A Linseed, Rye, Triticale	5m Cereals
	Karis 100	100	16747	LERAP B/1m Dry	5m
	Life Scientific LC	100	15342	LERAP B/1m Dry	5m
Deltamethrin	Decis	25	16124	Interim 7m/3* Nozzle/1m Dry	5m Cereals
	Bandu	25	16153	Interim 7m/3* Nozzle/1m Dry	5m Cereals
Tau-fluvalinate	Mavrik	240	10612	LERAP A/1m Dry	6m Cereals after 31 Mar
	Revolt	240	13383	LERAP A/1m Dry	6m Cereals after 31 Mar
Cypermethrin	Supasect	100	17070	Interim 18m/3* Nozzle/1m Dry	5m
	Permasect	100	16994	Interim 18m/3* Nozzle/1m Dry	5m
	Afrisect	100	17069	Interim 18m/3* Nozzle/1m Dry	5m
	Toppel	100	17071	Interim 18m/3* Nozzle/1m Dry	5m
Zetacypermethrin	Fury 10 EW	100	12248	LERAP A/1m Dry	6m Cereals after 31 Mar

Unfortunately, simple LERAP assessments will soon be a thing of the past and attention has to be paid to product labels, especially where larger Interim aquatic buffers zones apply, so not to get caught out with inspections of spray records.

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