

Council Directive of 12 December 1991 concerning the protection of waters against pollution caused by nitrates from agricultural sources (91/676/EEC)

Article 6

1 For the purpose of designating and revising the designation of vulnerable zones, Member States shall:

- a within two years of notification of the Directive, monitor the nitrate concentration in freshwaters over a period of one year:
 - (i) at surface water sampling stations, laid down in Article 5 (4) of Directive 75/440/EEC and/or at other sampling stations which are representative of surface waters of Member States, at least monthly and more frequently during flood periods;
 - (ii) at sampling stations which are representative of the groundwater aquifers of Member States, at regular intervals and taking into account the provisions of Directive 80/778/EEC;
- b repeat the monitoring programme outlined in (a) at least every four years, except for those sampling stations where the nitrate concentration in all previous samples has been below 25 mg/l and no new factor likely to increase the nitrate content has appeared, in which case the monitoring programme need be repeated only every eight years;
- c review the eutrophic state of their fresh surface waters, estuarial and coastal waters every four years.

2 The reference methods of measurement set out in Annex IV shall be used.