
EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Regulations)

These Regulations make provision in England and Wales in relation to Council Directive [91/676/EEC](#) concerning the protection of waters against pollution caused by nitrates from agricultural sources.

The objective of the Directive is to ensure that measures are taken to reduce and prevent nitrate pollution from agricultural sources. It provides a framework for action to reduce nitrate levels in the catchments of rivers and groundwater sources affected by such pollution. These Regulations transpose the requirements of the Directive in England and Wales, and implement the requirement to designate Nitrate Vulnerable Zones where the measures required by the Directive are not to be applied across the whole national territory. The Nitrate Vulnerable Zones designated by these Regulations are in specific areas where nitrate pollution caused by agriculture can be identified. Some non-agricultural sources of nitrate pollution are addressed by the Urban Waste Water Treatment (England and Wales) Regulations 1994 (S.I. [1994/2841](#)).

Copies of the maps showing the Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, referred to in regulation 3, may be inspected during normal office hours at the Department of the Environment, 2 Marsham Street, London SW1P 3EB; at the Agriculture Department, Welsh Office, Cathays Park, Cardiff CF1 3NQ; and at MAFF Regional Service Centres.

Copies of the Code of Good Agricultural Practice referred to in regulation 5 may be obtained free of charge from MAFF Publications, London SE99 7TP (telephone: 0181 694 8862), quoting code PB 0587.