

## SCHEDULE 21

### Water discharge activities

#### Meaning of “water discharge activity”

- 3.—(1) A “water discharge activity” means any of the following—
- (a) the discharge or entry to inland freshwaters, coastal waters or relevant territorial waters of any—
    - (i) poisonous, noxious or polluting matter,
    - (ii) waste matter, or
    - (iii) trade effluent or sewage effluent;
  - (b) the discharge from land through a pipe into the sea outside the seaward limits of relevant territorial waters of any trade effluent or sewage effluent;
  - (c) the removal from any part of the bottom, channel or bed of any inland freshwaters of a deposit accumulated by reason of any dam, weir or sluice holding back the waters, by causing it to be carried away in suspension in the waters, unless the activity is carried on in the exercise of a power conferred by or under any enactment relating to land drainage, flood prevention or navigation;
  - (d) the cutting or uprooting of a substantial amount of vegetation in any inland freshwaters or so near to any such waters that it falls into them and failure to take reasonable steps to remove the vegetation from these waters;
  - (e) an activity in respect of which a notice under paragraph 4 or 5 has been served and has taken effect.
- (2) A discharge or an activity that might lead to a discharge is not a “water discharge activity”—
- (a) if the discharge is made, or authorised to be made, by or under any prescribed statutory provision; or
  - (b) if the discharge is of trade effluent or sewage effluent from a vessel.
- (3) In determining whether a discharge or an activity is a water discharge activity, no account must be taken of any radioactivity possessed by any substance or article or by any part of any premises.

**Changes to legislation:**

There are outstanding changes not yet made by the legislation.gov.uk editorial team to The Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2010. Any changes that have already been made by the team appear in the content and are referenced with annotations.

[View outstanding changes](#)

**Changes and effects yet to be applied to :**

- Sch. 21 para. 3(1) excluded by [S.I. 2013/648 art. 21\(7\)](#)
- Regulations excluded by [S.I. 2016/853 art. 3\(1\)\(a\)](#)
- Regulations excluded by [S.I. 2016/880 art. 6\(2\)\(a\)](#)
- Regulations excluded by [S.I. 2020/706 art. 7\(3\)\(a\)](#)
- Regulations excluded in part by [S.I. 2016/844 art. 3\(1\)\(a\)](#)
- Regulations modified by [2014 c. 20 Sch. 1 para. 6](#)
- Regulations revoked by [S.I. 2024/513 Sch. 1 Pt. 1](#)
- Regulations revoked in part by [S.I. 2016/1154 Sch. 28](#)

**Changes and effects yet to be applied to the whole Instrument associated Parts and Chapters:**

Whole provisions yet to be inserted into this Instrument (including any effects on those provisions):

- Pt. 7 Ch. 1A inserted by [S.I. 2012/630 reg. 9](#)
- Pt. 7 Ch. 6 inserted by [S.I. 2012/630 reg. 11](#)
- Sch. 1 Pt. 2 Section 1.1 para. 1A inserted by [S.I. 2015/918 reg. 4\(2\)](#)
- Sch. 1 Pt. 1 para. 3(g) and word inserted by [S.I. 2013/390 reg. 19\(4\)\(c\)](#)
- Sch. 1 Pt. 1 para. 6(2)(a) omitted by [S.I. 2013/390 reg. 19\(6\)](#)
- Sch. 1 Pt. 1 para. 3(f) word omitted by [S.I. 2013/390 reg. 19\(4\)\(c\)](#)
- Sch. 1 Pt. 1 para. 2(2)(3) words omitted by [S.I. 2013/390 reg. 19\(3\)](#)
- Sch. 1 Pt. 2 s. 1.2(2) substituted by [S.I. 2011/2933 reg. 2\(3\)\(d\)](#)
- Sch. 1 Pt. 2 s. 1.2 words inserted by [S.I. 2011/2933 reg. 2\(2\)\(b\)](#)
- Sch. 1 Pt. 2 s. 1.2 words inserted by [S.I. 2011/2933 reg. 2\(3\)\(c\)](#)
- Sch. 1 Pt. 2 s. 1.2 words substituted by [S.I. 2011/2933 reg. 2\(2\)\(a\)](#)
- Sch. 1 Pt. 2 s. 1.2 words substituted by [S.I. 2011/2933 reg. 2\(3\)\(a\)](#)
- Sch. 1 Pt. 2 s. 1.2 words substituted by [S.I. 2011/2933 reg. 2\(3\)\(b\)](#)
- Sch. 2 para. 2(6) added by [S.I. 2016/475 reg. 23\(3\)](#)
- Sch. 2 para. 5(b)(iii) inserted by [S.I. 2014/255 reg. 12\(c\)](#)
- Sch. 2 para. 1(2)(3) inserted by [S.I. 2014/2852 reg. 9\(a\)\(ii\)](#)
- Sch. 2 para. 4A inserted by [S.I. 2014/2852 reg. 9\(d\)](#)
- Sch. 2 para. 5A inserted by [S.I. 2014/2852 reg. 9\(f\)](#)
- Sch. 2 para. 5B inserted by [S.I. 2016/475 reg. 23\(4\)](#)
- Sch. 2 para. 6(2A) inserted by [S.I. 2016/475 reg. 23\(5\)](#)
- Sch. 2 Pt. 1 para. 11A inserted by [S.I. 2013/755 Sch. 4 para. 385](#)
- Sch. 3 Pt. 4 added by [S.I. 2016/475 Sch. 1](#)
- Sch. 3 Pt. 1 Ch. 3 Section 2 para. 16(2) Table entry inserted by [S.I. 2012/630 reg. 13\(3\)\(d\)\(ii\)](#)
- Sch. 3 Pt. 1 Ch. 3 Section 2 para. 23(2) Table 1 entry inserted by [S.I. 2012/630 reg. 13\(3\)\(f\)](#)
- Sch. 3 Pt. 1 Ch. 3 Section 2 para. 24(2) Table entry inserted by [S.I. 2012/630 reg. 13\(3\)\(g\)](#)
- Sch. 3 Pt. 1 Ch. 3 Section 2 para. 25(2) Table entry inserted by [S.I. 2012/630 reg. 13\(3\)\(g\)](#)
- Sch. 3 Pt. 1 Ch. 3 Section 2 para. 30(2) Table entry inserted by [S.I. 2012/630 reg. 13\(3\)\(i\)](#)
- Sch. 3 Pt. 1 Ch. 3 Section 2 para. 27(4) inserted by [S.I. 2012/630 reg. 13\(3\)\(h\)\(ii\)](#)
- Sch. 3 Pt. 1 Ch. 2 Section 1 para. 3(d) inserted by [S.I. 2013/390 reg. 45\(a\)](#)

- Sch. 3 Pt. 1 Ch. 6 Section 6.8 para. 1(g) revoked by [S.I. 2011/600 Sch. 3](#) (This amendment not applied to [legislation.gov.uk](#). S.I. 2011/600 is revoked and the provisions revoked by those Regulations are revived by S.I. 2011/2377, reg. 28(1)(2))
- Sch. 3 Pt. 1 Ch. 6 Section 6.8 para. 1(i) revoked by [S.I. 2011/600 Sch. 3](#) (This amendment not applied to [legislation.gov.uk](#). S.I. 2011/600 is revoked and the provisions revoked by those Regulations are revived by S.I. 2011/2377, reg. 28(1)(2))
- Sch. 3 Pt. 1 Ch. 2 Section 2 para. 1(2) Table 2 substituted by [S.I. 2012/630 reg. 13\(2\)\(a\)](#)
- Sch. 3 Pt. 1 Ch. 2 Section 2 para. 8(2) Table substituted by [S.I. 2012/630 reg. 13\(2\)\(b\)](#)
- Sch. 3 Pt. 1 Ch. 2 Section 2 para. 16(4) substituted by [S.I. 2012/630 reg. 13\(2\)\(f\)](#)
- Sch. 3 Pt. 1 Ch. 3 Section 2 para. 11(1) substituted by [S.I. 2012/630 reg. 13\(3\)\(c\)\(i\)](#)
- Sch. 3 Pt. 1 Ch. 3 Section 2 para. 11(3)(f) substituted by [S.I. 2012/630 reg. 13\(3\)\(c\)\(ii\)](#)
- Sch. 3 Pt. 1 Ch. 3 Section 2 para. 16 Title substituted by [S.I. 2012/630 reg. 13\(3\)\(d\)](#)
- Sch. 3 Pt. 1 Ch. 3 Section 2 para. 19 Title substituted by [S.I. 2012/630 reg. 13\(3\)\(e\)](#)
- Sch. 3 Pt. 1 Ch. 3 Section 2 para. 27 Title substituted by [S.I. 2012/630 reg. 13\(3\)\(h\)](#)
- Sch. 3 Pt. 1 Ch. 3 Section 2 para. 27(3)(d) substituted by [S.I. 2012/630 reg. 13\(3\)\(h\)\(i\)](#)
- Sch. 3 Pt. 1 Ch. 4 Section 2 para. 6(2) substituted by [S.I. 2013/390 reg. 45\(b\)\(ii\)](#)
- Sch. 3 Pt. 1 Ch. 3 section 2 para. 1(5) substituted by [S.I. 2015/1360 reg. 7\(3\)\(b\)\(i\)\(bb\)](#)
- Sch. 3 Pt. 1 Ch. 3 Section 2 para. T22(4) substituted by [S.I. 2011/2377 Sch. 2 para. 17\(7\)\(b\)](#)
- Sch. 3 Pt. 1 Ch. 3 Section 2 para. T22(4) substituted by [S.I. 2011/600 Sch. 2 para. 54](#) (This amendment not applied to [legislation.gov.uk](#). S.I. 2011/600 is revoked and the amendments made by Sch. 2 thereof are undone by S.I. 2011/2377, reg. 28(1)(3))
- Sch. 3 Pt. 1 Ch. 3 Section 2 para. 1(5) substituted by [S.I. 2015/1417 reg. 4\(5\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#)
- Sch. 3 Pt. 1 Ch. 2 Section 2 para. 8(3)(d)(e) substituted for Sch. 3 Pt. 1 Ch. 2 Section 2 para. 8(3)(d) by [S.I. 2012/630 reg. 13\(2\)\(c\)](#)
- Sch. 3 Pt. 1 Ch. 3 Section 2 para. 19(3)(a)(aa) substituted for Sch. 3 Pt. 1 Ch. 3 Section 2 para. 19(3)(a) by [S.I. 2012/630 reg. 13\(3\)\(e\)\(ii\)](#)
- Sch. 3 Pt. 1 Ch. 5 Section 2 para. 1(3)(d)-(f) substituted for Sch. 3 Pt. 1 Ch. 5 Section 2 para. 1(3)(d)(e) by [S.I. 2012/630 reg. 13\(4\)](#)
- Sch. 3 Pt. 1 Ch. 2 Section 2 para. 10(2) Table word substituted by [S.I. 2012/630 reg. 13\(2\)\(d\)\(ii\)](#)
- Sch. 3 Pt. 1 Ch. 3 Section 2 para. 6(2) Table word substituted by [S.I. 2012/630 reg. 13\(3\)\(b\)](#)
- Sch. 3 Pt. 1 Ch. 2 Section 2 para. 10(3)(f) words added by [S.I. 2012/630 reg. 13\(2\)\(e\)](#)
- Sch. 3 Pt. 1 Ch. 2 Section 2 para. 10(2) table words inserted by [S.I. 2012/630 reg. 13\(2\)\(d\)\(i\)](#)
- Sch. 3 Pt. 1 Ch. 3 Section 2 para. 16(1) words inserted by [S.I. 2012/630 reg. 13\(3\)\(d\)\(i\)](#)
- Sch. 3 Pt. 1 Ch. 3 Section 2 para. 19(1) words inserted by [S.I. 2012/630 reg. 13\(3\)\(e\)\(i\)](#)
- Sch. 3 Pt. 1 Ch. 3 Section 2 para. 5(2) Table words substituted by [S.I. 2012/630 reg. 13\(3\)\(a\)\(i\)](#)
- Sch. 3 Pt. 1 Ch. 3 Section 2 para. 5(2) Table words substituted by [S.I. 2012/630 reg. 13\(3\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#)
- Sch. 3 Pt. 1 Ch. 3 Section 2 para. 5(2) Table words substituted by [S.I. 2012/630 reg. 13\(3\)\(a\)\(iii\)](#)
- Sch. 3 Pt. 1 Ch. 3 Section 2 para. 16(3)(a) words substituted by [S.I. 2012/630 reg. 13\(3\)\(d\)\(iii\)](#)
- Sch. 3 Pt. 1 Ch. 4 Section 2 para. 6(1) words substituted by [S.I. 2013/390 reg. 45\(b\)\(i\)](#)

- Sch. 3 Pt. 1 Ch. 4 Section 2 para. 6(4)(a) words substituted by [S.I. 2013/390 reg. 45\(b\)\(iii\)](#)
- Sch. 3 Pt. 1 Ch. 4 Section 2 para. 6(4)(b) words substituted by [S.I. 2013/390 reg. 45\(b\)\(iv\)](#)
- Sch. 3 Pt. 1 Ch. 3 section 2 para. 1(3)(e) words substituted by [S.I. 2015/1360 reg. 7\(3\)\(b\)\(i\)\(aa\)](#)
- Sch. 3 Pt. 1 Ch. 3 section 2 para. 15(2) table words substituted by [S.I. 2015/1360 reg. 7\(3\)\(b\)\(ii\)](#)
- Sch. 3 Pt. 1 Ch. 5 section 2 para. 1(2) table words substituted by [S.I. 2015/1360 reg. 7\(3\)\(c\)](#)
- Sch. 3 Pt. 1 Ch. 3 Section 2 para. T13(2) Table words substituted by [S.I. 2011/2377 Sch. 2 para. 17\(6\)](#) (note previous omission of words)
- Sch. 3 Pt. 1 Ch. 3 Section 2 para. T22(3)(b) words substituted by [S.I. 2011/2377 Sch. 2 para. 17\(7\)\(a\)](#) (note previous omission of para.)
- Sch. 3 Pt. 1 Ch. 3 Section 2 para. T13(2) words substituted by [S.I. 2011/600 Sch. 2 para. 53](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. S.I. 2011/600 is revoked and the amendments made by Sch. 2 thereof are undone by S.I. 2011/2377, reg. 28(1)(3))
- Sch. 3 Pt. 1 Ch. 3 Section 2 para. 1(3)(e) words substituted by [S.I. 2015/1417 reg. 4\(5\)\(a\)\(i\)](#)
- Sch. 3 Pt. 1 Ch. 3 Section 2 para. 11(3)(c) words substituted by [S.I. 2015/1417 reg. 4\(5\)\(b\)](#)
- Sch. 3 Pt. 1 Ch. 3 Section 2 para. 15(2) table words substituted by [S.I. 2015/1417 reg. 4\(5\)\(c\)](#)
- Sch. 3 Pt. 1 Ch. 5 Section 2 para. 1(2) table words substituted by [S.I. 2015/1417 reg. 4\(6\)](#)
- Sch. 3 Pt. 2 para. 2A inserted by [S.I. 2014/2852 reg. 10\(b\)](#)
- Sch. 3 Pt. 3 para. 4 inserted by [S.I. 2014/255 reg. 13](#)
- Sch. 3 Pt. 3 para. 3A inserted by [S.I. 2014/2852 reg. 11\(b\)](#)
- Sch. 5 para. 9(1A) inserted by [S.I. 2014/255 reg. 14\(b\)\(ii\)](#)
- Sch. 5 Pt. 1 para. 5(1)(e) and word added by [S.I. 2016/475 reg. 25\(3\)\(b\)](#)
- Sch. 5 Pt. 1 para. 5(4)(e) and word added by [S.I. 2016/475 reg. 25\(4\)\(b\)](#)
- Sch. 5 Pt. 1 para. 14(3) added by [S.I. 2016/475 reg. 25\(7\)](#)
- Sch. 5 Pt. 1 para. 20 inserted by [S.I. 2013/390 reg. 46\(7\)](#)
- Sch. 5 Pt. 1 para. 15(3)(aa) inserted by [S.I. 2016/475 reg. 25\(8\)](#)
- Sch. 5 Pt. 1 para. 16(3)(ba)(bb) inserted by [S.I. 2016/475 reg. 25\(9\)](#)
- Sch. 5 Pt. 1 para. 2(1)(b) substituted by [S.I. 2012/630 reg. 14\(c\)](#)
- Sch. 5 Pt. 1 para. 2(2)(3) substituted for Sch. 5 Pt. 1 para. 2(2) by [S.I. 2016/475 reg. 25\(2\)](#)
- Sch. 5 Pt. 1 para. 5(4) word omitted by [S.I. 2016/475 reg. 25\(4\)\(a\)](#)
- Sch. 5 Pt. 1 para. 14(1)(a) words inserted by [S.I. 2016/475 reg. 25\(6\)](#)
- Sch. 5 Pt. 1 para. 5(1)(c) words omitted by [S.I. 2013/390 reg. 46\(2\)](#)
- Sch. 5 Pt. 1 para. 5(5) words omitted by [S.I. 2013/390 reg. 46\(4\)\(b\)](#)
- Sch. 5 Pt. 1 para. 5(4)(d) words substituted by [S.I. 2013/390 reg. 46\(3\)](#)
- Sch. 5 Pt. 1 para. 5(5) words substituted by [S.I. 2013/390 reg. 46\(4\)\(a\)](#)
- Sch. 5 Pt. 1 para. 5(5) words substituted by [S.I. 2013/390 reg. 46\(4\)\(c\)](#)
- Sch. 5 Pt. 1 para. 10(4) words substituted by [S.I. 2013/390 reg. 46\(5\)\(a\)\(i\)](#)
- Sch. 5 Pt. 1 para. 10(4) words substituted by [S.I. 2013/390 reg. 46\(5\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#)
- Sch. 5 Pt. 1 para. 10(4) words substituted by [S.I. 2013/390 reg. 46\(5\)\(a\)\(iii\)](#)
- Sch. 5 Pt. 1 para. 10(5) words substituted by [S.I. 2013/390 reg. 46\(5\)\(b\)](#)
- Sch. 5 Pt. 1 para. 16(3)(d) words substituted by [S.I. 2013/390 reg. 46\(6\)](#)
- Sch. 5 Pt. 1 para. 13(3) words substituted by [S.I. 2016/475 reg. 25\(5\)](#)
- Sch. 7 para. 4(b) omitted by [S.I. 2013/390 reg. 47\(1\)\(d\)](#)
- Sch. 7A inserted by [S.I. 2013/390 reg. 47\(2\)](#)
- Sch. 8 para. 1A inserted by [S.I. 2015/918 reg. 5\(3\)](#)
- Sch. 8 para. 1(1) words inserted by [S.I. 2015/918 reg. 5\(2\)](#)
- Sch. 8A inserted by [S.I. 2015/918 reg. 6](#)
- Sch. 8A para. 11 heading inserted by [S.I. 2015/934 reg. 2\(a\)](#)

- Sch. 8A para. 11 words inserted by S.I. 2015/934 reg. 2(b)
- Sch. 9 para. 3(4)(c) and word inserted by S.I. 2013/390 reg. 49(4)
- Sch. 9 para. 3(3)(b)-(f) substituted for Sch. 9 para. 3(3)(b)(c) by S.I. 2013/390 reg. 49(3)
- Sch. 9 para. 3(2)(a) words omitted by S.I. 2013/390 reg. 49(2)
- Sch. 9A inserted by S.I. 2014/255 reg. 16Sch.
- Sch. 10 para. 5(4)(5) inserted by S.I. 2013/766 reg. 2(3)
- Sch. 13A inserted by S.I. 2013/390 reg. 50(2)
- Sch. 15A inserted by S.I. 2013/390 reg. 52(2)
- Sch. 17A inserted by S.I. 2013/390 reg. 53(2)
- Sch. 18 Pt. 2 para. 2 substituted by S.I. 2016/149 reg. 4
- Sch. 19 para. 3 inserted by S.I. 2014/255 reg. 18
- Sch. 23 Pt. 7 para. 25 Table 4 words inserted by S.I. 2012/630 reg. 16(4)(b)
- Sch. 23 Pt. 7 para. 10(1)(c) words omitted by S.I. 2012/630 reg. 16(4)(a)
- Sch. 23A inserted by S.I. 2015/324 reg. 2(4)Sch.
- Sch. 23A para. 1(1A) inserted by S.I. 2016/475 reg. 28
- Sch. 23ZA inserted by S.I. 2016/475 Sch. 2
- Sch. 24 para. 1(2)(ca) inserted by S.I. 2014/255 reg. 20(b)
- Sch. 26 para. 2 revoked by 2013 c. 32 Sch. 12 para. 30
- reg. 2(6) inserted by S.I. 2013/390 reg. 4(15)
- reg. 8(1)(h)(i) inserted by S.I. 2013/390 reg. 9(1)
- reg. 8(1)(j) added by S.I. 2016/475 reg. 6(1)
- reg. 8(2)(d) added by S.I. 2016/475 reg. 6(2)
- reg. 8(4)(e)(f) inserted by S.I. 2013/390 reg. 9(2)
- reg. 8(4)(g) added by S.I. 2016/475 reg. 6(3)
- reg. 9(g)(h) added by S.I. 2016/475 reg. 7
- reg. 12(6)(7) inserted by S.I. 2013/390 reg. 10
- reg. 17(2)(d) and word inserted by S.I. 2012/630 reg. 4(b)
- reg. 17(2)(ba) inserted by S.I. 2016/475 reg. 9(a)
- reg. 18(1)(aa) inserted by S.I. 2016/475 reg. 10
- reg. 19(b)-(d) substituted for reg. 19(b)(c) by S.I. 2012/630 reg. 5
- reg. 20(5)(c) and word inserted by S.I. 2014/255 reg. 4(b)
- reg. 20(7)(8) added by S.I. 2016/475 reg. 11
- reg. 21(6A) inserted by S.I. 2014/255 reg. 5(a)
- reg. 21(8) inserted by S.I. 2012/630 reg. 7(c)
- reg. 24(1)(d) added by S.I. 2016/475 reg. 13(a)
- reg. 24(1)(ba) inserted by S.I. 2014/255 reg. 6
- reg. 32(1)-(1C) substituted for reg. 32(1)-(1B) by S.I. 2014/255 reg. 8
- reg. 32(1A)(1B) inserted by S.I. 2013/755 Sch. 4 para. 377(3)
- reg. 32(2)(c)(d) inserted by S.I. 2013/390 reg. 13(1)(b)
- reg. 33(6)(aa) inserted by S.I. 2013/755 Sch. 4 para. 378(3)(b)
- reg. 35(2)(r) added by S.I. 2016/475 reg. 15(b)
- reg. 35(2)(ba) inserted by S.I. 2015/918 reg. 3
- reg. 35(2)(ca) inserted by S.I. 2014/255 reg. 9
- reg. 36(3A) inserted by S.I. 2016/475 reg. 16(b)
- reg. 36(4)-(6) substituted for reg. 36(4) by S.I. 2013/390 reg. 15(d)
- reg. 37(2A) inserted by S.I. 2016/475 reg. 17(b)
- reg. 37(3A) inserted by S.I. 2015/1756 reg. 3(a)
- reg. 37(3A) words inserted by S.I. 2016/475 reg. 17(c)
- reg. 37(3B) inserted by S.I. 2016/475 reg. 17(d)
- reg. 37(4)(a)(i)-(v) substituted for reg. 37(4)(a)(i)-(iii) by S.I. 2015/1756 reg. 3(b)(ii)
- reg. 37(7A) inserted by S.I. 2015/1756 reg. 3(c)
- reg. 39(1A) inserted by S.I. 2016/475 reg. 19(b)
- reg. 40(4)(5) inserted by S.I. 2013/390 reg. 16
- reg. 44A inserted by S.I. 2015/324 reg. 2(3)
- reg. 57(6) inserted by S.I. 2015/1756 reg. 5(c)
- reg. 57A inserted by S.I. 2016/475 reg. 21
- reg. 66A66B inserted by S.I. 2016/475 reg. 22

– reg. 108(2A) inserted by [S.I. 2013/755 Sch. 4 para. 383\(3\)](#)