
EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Regulations.)

These Regulations make provision 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.

No Nitrate Vulnerable Zones have as yet been designated in Northern Ireland. Any zones designated will be 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 Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995 ([S.R. 1995 No. 12](#)).

Copies of the Code of Good Agricultural Practice referred to in regulation 5 may be obtained free of charge from the Department of Agriculture for Northern Ireland, Annex A, Dundonald House, Upper Newtownards Road, Belfast BT4 3FB.

Copies of Council Directive [91/676/EEC](#) may be obtained from Her Majesty's Stationery Office, 16 Arthur Street, Belfast BT1 4GD.