



NATIONAL RIVERS AUTHORITY



NRA

THAMES REGION
National Rivers Authority

Information Centre
Head Office

Class No

Accession No **ATA** **ATFB**

POLLUTION PREVENTION GUIDELINES

WORKS IN, NEAR OR LIABLE TO AFFECT WATERCOURSES

These guidelines have been drawn up to assist those in the construction industry who have cause to work in or near watercourses to minimise the effect of that work on the environment. Early consultation with the local National Rivers Authority Water Quality Office is advisable. Details of these offices will be found at the end of these guidelines.

1. LEGISLATION

Your attention is drawn specifically to the following legislation:-

- i) Water Resources Act 1991
- ii) The Salmon & Freshwater Fisheries Act 1975
- iii) Land Drainage Act 1991

It should be noted that under Section 85 of the Water Resources Act, 1991, it is an offence to discharge poisonous, noxious or polluting material, (which includes silt, cement, concrete, oil, petroleum spirit, sewage or other polluting matter) into any "controlled waters", (which includes any watercourse or underground strata) either deliberately or accidentally.

2. GENERAL PRECAUTIONS

- a. In executing any works precautions must be taken to secure the complete protection of rivers, streams, ditches other watercourses and water in underground strata against silting, erosion or pollution. If, notwithstanding these precautions such silting, erosion or pollution does take place then the National Rivers Authority should be advised immediately and immediate action should be taken to minimise the effect on the watercourse.
- b. Any works on or near a foul sewer and especially a trunk sewer pose a major threat of pollution, and at least seven days notice in writing should be given to the National Rivers Authority prior to starting any such works.
- c. Where slag is to be used at locations where drainage from the material can directly or indirectly enter surface or underground waters, the material must be well weathered.

3. SILT & CEMENT

- a. The placing of any wet concrete in or close to any watercourse must be controlled so as to minimise the risk of cement leaking into the watercourse.
- b. The washing out of any concrete mixing plant or cleaning of ready mix concrete lorries must be carried out so as to prevent the effluent from such cleaning being allowed to flow into any drain or watercourse.
- c. Haul roads on the site and approaches to river crossings must be regularly scraped and maintained free from deposits of mud.

- d. Before any discharge of water is made from the site, adequate provisions must be made to ensure that it will not be polluting. In some cases this will require the construction of a lagoon to settle solids. All such methods of treatment, including lagoon sizes, must be agreed with the Authority prior to the discharge being made.

Note Under Section 85 of the Water Resources Act, 1991, it is an offence to discharge trade or sewage effluent into controlled waters without the prior consent of the Authority.

4. OIL & CHEMICALS

- a. All fuel and chemical storage must be adequately bunded and secured. Any bund must be impermeable to the material stored and of sufficient capacity to contain 110% of the volume of the largest tank. Refuelling must be strictly controlled and together with any oil storage tanks should be confined to a location remote from any watercourse or drain. Leaking or empty oil drums must be removed from the site immediately. Detailed guidelines on above ground oil storage are available.

5. PREVENTION OF FLOODING

- a. Prior approval must be obtained from the National Rivers Authority for all temporary works which involve construction, erection, re-erection or modification during work which:-
i) may interfere with the bed or banks or flood channel of any watercourse, or
ii) is within 8 metres of the bank of any main river, or
iii) is within 16 metres of any tidal defence.
- b. Notwithstanding any prior consent to carry out works, the National Rivers Authority must be given seven (7) days notice in writing of any intention to either temporarily or permanently divert the flow of any watercourse, carry out works within the river channel or commence any operations in the river channel so that suitable arrangements can be made concerning fishery interests.

6. CLEANING BRIDGES ETC.

Where bridges and other structures over, or adjacent to, rivers are being cleaned or repainted, debris should be prevented from falling into the watercourse or onto the embankment. Provision to collect solid debris and waste paint etc should be incorporated into working methods.

7. CONTACTING THE NATIONAL RIVERS AUTHORITY

Those working close to watercourses often see evidence of pollution which may not otherwise come to the attention of the NRA. Such occurrences should be notified promptly to the nearest office listed below.

For further information, or in the event of pollution, please contact your nearest NRA office at:-

READING	0734 311422	OXFORD	0865 749400
WALTHAM CROSS	0992 35566	AMERSHAM	0494 722361
LONDON SE	081 310 5500	GUILDFORD	0483 577655

... or at all times on Freefone 0800-252768

Headquarters: *Kings Meadow House, Kings Meadow Road,
Reading, Berks. RG1 8DQ
Telephone 0734 535000*

