
EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Regulations)

These Regulations further implement in Scotland the requirements of Council Directive [91/676/EEC](#) (“the Directive”) 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, and to reduce eutrophication of freshwater bodies, estuaries, and coastal waters.

Regulation 3 designates further nitrate vulnerable zones. Regulation 4 makes provision for maps of nitrate vulnerable zones to be available for public inspection. Regulation 5 provides that the Code of Good Practice for the Prevention of Environmental Pollution from Agricultural Activity Nitrogen and Phosphorous Supplement is the code of practice established for the purposes of Article 4 of the Directive. Regulation 6 makes consequential amendments to the Protection of Water against Agricultural Nitrate Pollution (Scotland) Regulations 1996 (S.I. [1996/1564](#)) (“the 1996 Regulations”). Regulation 7 revokes the provisions of the 1996 Regulations which designate two nitrate vulnerable zones in Scotland. These nitrate vulnerable zones have been subsumed in the areas designated by these Regulations.

Copies of the Code of Good Agricultural Practice referred to in regulation 4 may be obtained free of charge from SEERAD, Pentland House, 47 Robb’s Loan, Edinburgh EH14 1TY.