

Background

The current existing rules for buffer zones for horizontal boom sprayers are being revised to allow up to 20m buffer zones applied on a crop basis rather than a product basis. A product may have different buffer zones for different crops. Buffer zones greater than 5m will not be reducible with a Local Environmental Risk Assessment for Pesticides (LERAP). LERAP records must be kept for 3 years. Where existing or new products have a 5m Category B buffer zone, the buffer zone can be reduced by carrying out a LERAP. Category A products and those with a greater than 5 m buffer zone cannot be reduced. There are currently three schemes in operation, as CRD phase out the old scheme for a new one. These changes will take place as new aquatic risk assessments are undertaken, so the actual implementation timescale may be gradual.

Buffer zones can be divided into the following categories:

- LERAP A and B buffer zones – to protect aquatic life
 - LERAP A (5 m non-reducible) and B (reducible) product labels are still in place for many products
- Interim aquatic buffer zones – to protect water
 - This is an extension to the LERAP scheme, which enables products to be authorised with aquatic buffer zone distances greater than the current maximum distance of 5 metres. These buffer zones will be applied on a crop basis rather than a product basis and distances may be up to 20 metres. Distances above 5 metres are non-reducible.
- Zonal harmonisation and drift reduction technology buffers – to protect water
 - Drift Reduction Technology (DRT) scheme. Labels may specify a non-reducible buffer zone of 6, 12 or 18 metres, with 3 star DRT operating conditions applying for a distance of up to 30 metres from the water course, to achieve 75% drift reduction. Beyond 30 metres from the watercourse the operator may revert to standard operating conditions (i.e. - no drift reduction technology is required).
- Arthropod protection zones – to protect non-target insects/arthropods

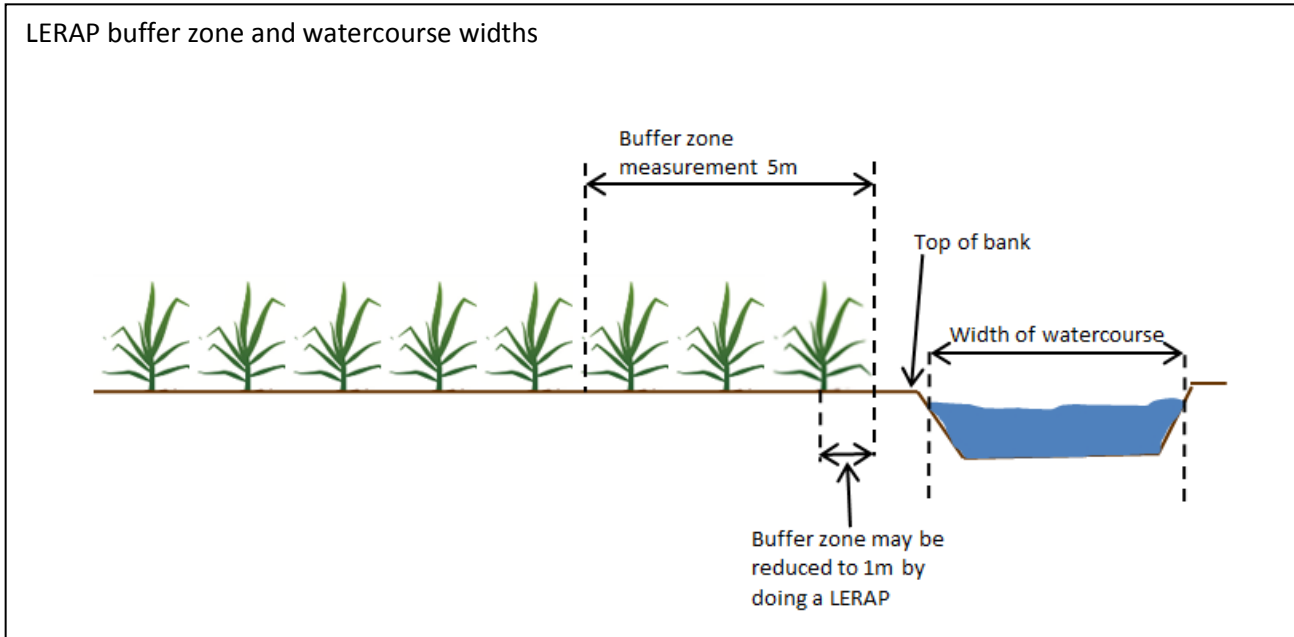
Buffer Zones next to watercourses are intended to give additional protection to aquatic life.

A label requirement for a 5m or greater buffer zone next to a watercourse indicates a product poses a particular risk to aquatic plants and/or animals.

LERAP offers practical benefits as it may allow a reduction in the width of the watercourse buffer zone whilst still ensuring the environment is adequately protected.

Before you begin spraying near water you must know if your product requires a watercourse buffer zone and also what width it should be.

In addition to the statutory Application Buffer Zone rules set for certain products, cross compliance GAEC 1 rules include a restriction on the use of pesticides within 2 metres of the top of the bank of surface water in Wales and Scotland, whilst the rules for England are 2 metres from the centre of a watercourse or 1 metre from the edge of a watercourse to the landward side of the top of the bank.



Buffer zones for Dow AgroSciences' Products

Product	Buffer Zone	Product	Buffer Zone
ASTROKerb	No LERAP restrictions	Hunter	No LERAP restrictions
Broadway Star	5 m reducible aquatic buffer	Kerb Flo 500	No LERAP restrictions
Broadway Sunrise	18 m non-reducible aquatic buffer	Leystar	5 m reducible aquatic buffer
Ceando	LERAP B	Pas-Tor Agronomy Pack	5 m reducible aquatic buffer
Cloister	LERAP B	PastorPro	LERAP B
Dakota	No LERAP restrictions	Pixxaro EC	LERAP B
Dow Shield 400	No LERAP restrictions	Ralos	LERAP B
DoxstarPro	5 m reducible aquatic buffer	Slalom	No LERAP restrictions
Envy	5 m reducible aquatic buffer	Spitfire	LERAP B
Forefront T	LERAP B	Starane 2	No LERAP restrictions
Fortress	LERAP B	Starane Gold	No LERAP restrictions
Gala	No LERAP restrictions	Starane Hi-Load	5 m reducible aquatic buffer
Galaxy	No LERAP restrictions	Starane XL	No LERAP restrictions
Galera	No LERAP restrictions	Thistlex	LERAP B
Gartrel	LERAP B	Unite	LERAP B
GF-184	No LERAP restrictions	Wolverine	LERAP B
GrazonPro	LERAP B	Zypar	5 m reducible aquatic buffer