

Cross compliance checklist

GAEC 1 - Buffer strips along water courses

The aim of GAEC 1 rules is to protect water against pollution and run-off. The requirements restrict storage, application of fertiliser and pesticides and cultivations along water courses.

Answer each question below with a yes, no or n/a to help check if you have adhered to the rules. If the rules are applicable to you, and you are compliant, your answers to the questions should be yes.

- Has your organic manure been stored on your holding and applied **more than** 10m away from any surface water and 50m from a water supply?
- Are your field heaps located **more than** 10m away from any surface water and 50m away from a water supply?
- To minimise the risk of chemical and nitrogen fertiliser entering surface water have you taken into account the following?
 - The slope of the land, particularly if it is greater than 12 degrees?
 - Any ground cover?
 - The proximity of the land to any surface water?
 - Weather conditions?
 - The type of fertiliser being applied?



Picture above: 2 m uncultivated strip of land

- Have you left a 2m uncultivated strip of land from the top of the bank of surface water?

Note: Cultivations can be done to establish a new hedge or a green cover if a green cover does not already exist. A green cover excludes crops that are grown for a commercial purpose e.g. arable crops, undersown crops.

- Have you ensured that pesticides have not been applied within 2m of the top of the bank of surface water?

Note: Spot application of pesticides can be used to control injurious weeds, invasive species and, after prior written consent, to control other weed species. Before carrying out these activities ensure you are aware of SEPA's requirements for applying pesticides in or near water.