

## MARINAS AND CRAFT: PPG14

# POLLUTION PREVENTION GUIDELINES

*These notes have been drawn up to provide general guidance to all who enjoy the use of waterways, estuaries and coastal waters, and are particularly relevant to those using powered boats and operators of support facilities. The information given is without prejudice to any specific legislation, bye-laws or licensing conditions. They are jointly produced by the Environment Agency, the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA) and the Environment and Heritage Service for Northern Ireland, referred to as the Agency or Agencies. Please contact your local Agency Office for further information. Contact details will be found at the end of these guidelines.*

*Note. Reference is made in these guidelines to absorbents. These are generally materials which will attract oil and repel water. **Under no circumstances should emulsifiers or detergents be used on oil spillages.***

### 1. GENERAL

The Agencies are responsible for the protection of “controlled waters” from pollution and for the prevention of pollution of the environment, harm to human health and detriment to local amenity by waste management activities (except in Northern Ireland where different legislation on waste applies).

It is an offence to cause pollution of controlled waters either deliberately or accidentally. “Controlled waters” include all watercourses and canals, estuaries, lochs and coastal waters out to three miles. Diesel, oil and petroleum spirit, sewage and contaminated bilge water can all cause pollution if discharged into controlled waters.

Canals, rivers, estuaries, lochs and coastal waters are a vital part of our natural heritage. It is important that all who enjoy their use, for business or pleasure, are aware of the following requirements, so that they can help protect the environment and conserve a valuable heritage and amenity for all.

### 2. FUELS AND OIL

The most frequently reported type of water pollution incident involves fuels and oils. By following the guidance in this section you can minimise the risk of your boat or marina being a cause of such pollution. If a spill should occur in controlled waters, use booms and absorbant materials to contain it and contact the Agencies’ Emergency Hotline (0800 80 70 60). Do not attempt to clean up with detergents or emulsifiers, as these will increase the risk of harming the environment.

#### a. Craft

- i. All powered craft should be properly maintained and the speed limits observed in order to minimise emissions both to the atmosphere and to water (Reference 1).
- ii. Portable fuel tanks and spare fuel containers should be filled away from the water’s edge and never overfilled, as spillage and bilge contamination will result. They must be clearly marked with the type of fuel and sited and secured safely on the vessel to minimise the risk of collision damage, accidental spillage overboard or unauthorised interference. (See Reference 1, Part 5.3 for further details).
- iii. A small quantity of oil absorbent material should be kept on the craft at all times for use in the event of a spill. Used oil absorbents should be properly disposed of at approved facilities at marinas, lock stations or local authority waste disposal sites.
- iv. Fixed fuel tanks should be carefully filled adjacent to the fuel supply facility, ensuring that no fuel is discharged over the side or into any part of the vessel. Some free space should be left in the tank to avoid overflow should the craft tilt. Any spillages must be cleared up with a suitable absorbent.

- v. Inboard engines must have either a drip tray under the engine and gearbox, to prevent contamination of the bilge, or oil-tight structural members fore and aft of the engine. This area should be maintained in a clean and dry condition and there should be no fixed bilge pump drawing from within it. For additional guidance on drip tray specification, see Reference 1, Part 2.22.
- vi. It is an offence to discharge contaminated bilge water into any watercourse. If bilge water should become contaminated, it should be pumped to suitable facilities ashore or absorbents should be used. **On no account should detergents or emulsifiers be used in bilge water.**
- vii. If the vessel develops a problem involving loss of oil or fuel, then stop at the nearest accessible mooring point for maintenance. On rivers and canals, do not moor immediately upstream of any water abstraction point or attempt to travel a great distance on the river.

### b. Refuelling facilities

- i. Fuel installations should be well maintained and all delivery hoses, pipework and trigger nozzles kept to a high standard and secured to prevent unauthorised interference. "Trigger" delivery nozzles with automatic cut-off on release should be used. It is recommended that a notice be clearly displayed providing advice on how to avoid spillages and what to do if they occur.
- ii. Above ground fuel and oil storage tanks should be fully bunded and pipework protected against failure, accidental impact, theft and vandalism. Detailed guidance is available on above ground oil storage facilities (PPG2 - Reference 2). Underground oil tanks and pipelines may be subject to damage or corrosion and above ground facilities are preferred. In areas where groundwater is sensitive to pollution such facilities may be subject to restrictions.
- iii. Waste oils should be kept in a bunded tank or in sealed drums in a secure dedicated store or surrounded with a kerb bund. The oil should be disposed of, with due consideration to the "Duty of Care" (Reference 3) for waste matter, to an oil bank, recycling centre or by a licensed waste disposal contractor. Contact the Oil Bank Helpline on Freephone 0800 663366 for information on oil bank locations and waste oil collection companies. A guidance note on the safe storage and disposal of used oils is available (PPG8 - Reference 4).
- iv. "Spill kits" containing absorbents and other materials should be kept readily available to contain and remove any spillage that has occurred, either directly into the water or onto the ground. Contaminated absorbents must be disposed of safely to a licensed waste disposal site.
- v. Bowsers should be maintained to a high standard. Where fuel is to be delivered by pump, an anti-syphon valve should be incorporated in the delivery line. When not in use, bowsers should be kept securely locked, preferably in a bunded compound well away from the water's edge or surface water drains.

## 3. SEWAGE

Sewage effluent must not discharge from shore installations into controlled waters without the consent of the Agency. Discharges to British Waterways canals will also require BW consent. Sewage discharges from vessels to rivers, canals and lakes are not generally permitted. For tidal and coastal waters reference should be made to local harbour authority by-laws.

### a. Freshwater navigations

Vessels with sanitation systems discharging sewage overboard must be sealed (or rendered inoperable) when entering freshwater navigations, so that no toilet waste is discharged overboard or onto land. "Grey water" from sinks and showers may be discharged, but care is needed to avoid the release of polluting materials such as strong cleaning agents and cooking oil. Holding tanks must be pumped out at a sanitary station and must never be allowed to overflow.

### b. Tidal waters

Discharges from sea toilets are not prohibited. However, consideration should be given to other water users and any bye-laws covering waters in the control of local harbour or port authorities. Chemical toilet waste should be pumped to a sanitary station accepting such wastes and must not be discharged overboard.

### **c. Sanitary stations**

Sanitary stations should, where possible, be connected to the public foul sewer. In remote situations this may not be possible and an alternative method of sewage disposal, such as a septic tank or package sewage treatment plant, will have to be considered. These options will require careful attention and consultation with your local Agency office is recommended. Any sewage disposal facilities will need adequate maintenance to ensure correct operation and to prevent overflows to the watercourse. Chemical toilet waste should not be accepted at stations served by septic tanks and package sewage treatment plants, as the chemicals can harm the micro-organisms responsible for treating the sewage. For further guidance on sewage disposal see PPG4 - Reference 5.

## **4. BOAT HULL CLEANING, PAINTING AND ANTIFOULING**

Most antifoulant products are designed to kill or discourage naturally occurring organisms and, as such, may cause damage to the water environment if used carelessly. In order to prevent your cleaning activities from becoming a pollution risk, you should observe the following guidelines:

### **a. Removing old coatings**

Where possible, all maintenance and blasting should be carried out in dry dock or in a specifically designed wash-down area with provision for the retention and collection of waste water from scrubbing. Where there is no such provision, work above the tideline and use a plastic sheet to collect debris. When removing old antifouling paint layers, care must be taken to prevent effluent and solids from these activities being discharged to a watercourse. If near to the water's edge, use suitable screening and barriers to prevent solids from entering the watercourse.

### **b. Application**

Avoid any spillage of paint, solvent or antifoulant onto land, into drains or watercourses. Take specialist advice on the choice of paint, bearing in mind local conditions and then apply the recommended product in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. Use only approved products and apply safely, following the relevant Health and Safety guidance (Reference 6). Check the label to ensure it carries a HSE number (such as HSE 9999) and contact the HSE if in doubt (see contact details at the end of the guidelines). Note that the use of TBT and TPT antifoulants on private vessels of less than 25 metres is prohibited (Reference 7). Operations involving larger vessels and TBT or TPT require authorisation from the Agency (Reference 8).

### **c. Cleaning**

If possible, remove your craft from the water. When cleaning or hosing off, never use more abrasion than necessary. Use a sponge or cloth on soft (copolymer type) antifouling. A pigmented "runoff" indicates that too much force is being used, anti-foulant is being lost and that toxins are being flushed into the water. To prevent this from happening, reduce the water pressure you are using. You may only use clean water on the external surfaces of the vessel if it remains afloat - on no account may detergents, degreasers or any other chemical cleaner be used.

### **d. Clearing up**

Clear up when you have finished. Make sure that old tins, brushes, blasting debris or scrapings are collected and disposed of as recommended by the manufacturer and clean-up any spilt antifouling paint. Many boat-yards, clubs and marinas have specified containers for such wastes.

## **5. LITTER**

All water users have a duty to protect wildlife and enhance the environment. Refuse must, therefore, be kept securely on board until unloaded into a proper litter facility. Burning of refuse is strongly discouraged.

## **6. REPORTING POLLUTION**

Water pollution is a constant threat. If you notice anything unusual, such as dead fish or a suspected polluting discharge, or you observe bad practice, please notify the Agency as soon as possible on the Emergency Hotline number, 0800 80 70 60.

## 7. REFERENCES

1. Boat Safety Scheme: Available from British Waterways or from the Environment Agency
2. PPG2: Above ground oil storage tanks.
3. Waste management: The Duty of Care - A code of practice: ISBN 0-11-753210-X
4. PPG8: Safe storage and disposal of used oils.
5. PPG4: Disposal of sewage where no mains drainage is available.
6. Safe waters - Using antifouling paints safely. A guide for private boat owners. Reference INDG309.  
Available free from HSE Books, PO Box 1999, Sudbury, Suffolk CO10 6FS, Tel: 01787 881165
7. The Control of Pollution (Antifouling Paints and Treatments) Regulations 1987 SI1987/783.
8. Application or removal of Tributyltin or Triphenyltin coatings at shipyards or boatyards: ISBN 0-11-753079-4  
References 2,4 and 5 are available from the Agencies  
References 3,7 and 8 are available from the Stationery Office, Tel: 020 7873 0011/9090

## 8. OTHER RELEVANT PUBLICATIONS

**Oil Care on Your Boat** - free from the Agencies  
**Starter pack for new boaters** - free from British Waterways  
**The waterways code for boaters** - free from British Waterways  
**Navigate with Nature: Are you on course?** - free from Navigate with Nature  
**BMIF Environmental Code of Practice** - available to BMIF members only

### Contact details:

**British Marine Industries Federation (BMIF):** Meadlake Place, Thorpe Lea Road, Egham, Surrey TW20 8HE. Tel: 01784 473377 World Wide Web: <http://www.bmif.co.uk>

**British Waterways:** Willow Grange, Church Road, Watford, Hertfordshire WD1 3QA  
Tel: 01923 226422 Fax: 01923 201300

24hr Emergency Contact: From BT landline dial 100 and ask for **Freephone "Canals"**  
**From all other telephone providers dial 01384 215785**

**Health and Safety Executive:** HSE Pesticide Registration Section, Magdalen House, Stanley Precinct, Bootle, Merseyside, L20 3QZ Tel: 0151 951 3535 Fax: 0151 951 3317

**Navigate with Nature:** Suite 1, Priestgate House, 3-7 Priestgate, Peterborough, PE1 1JN  
Tel: 01733 311644

All the Agencies' pollution prevention guidance notes are available on the web sites listed below.

### ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

#### HEAD OFFICE

Rio House, Waterside Drive, Aztec West  
Almondsbury, Bristol BS32 4UD.  
Tel: 01454 624 400 Fax: 01454 624 409  
World Wide Web: <http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk>

### REGIONAL OFFICES

#### ANGLIAN

Kingfisher House  
Goldhay Way  
Orton Goldhay  
Peterborough PE2 5ZR  
Tel: 01733 371 811  
Fax: 01733 231 840

#### MIDLANDS

Sapphire East  
550 Streetsbrook Road  
Solihull B91 1QT  
Tel: 0121 711 2324  
Fax: 0121 711 5824

#### NORTH EAST

Rivers House  
21 Park Square South  
Leeds LS1 2QG  
Tel: 0113 244 0191  
Fax: 0113 246 1889

#### NORTH WEST

Richard Fairclough House  
Knutsford Road  
Warrington WA4 1HG  
Tel: 01925 653 999  
Fax: 01925 415 961

#### SOUTHERN

Guildbourne House  
Chatsworth Road  
Worthing  
West Sussex BN11 1LD  
Tel: 01903 832 000  
Fax: 01903 821 832

#### SOUTH WEST

Manley House  
Kestrel Way  
Exeter EX2 7LQ  
Tel: 01392 444 000  
Fax: 01392 444 238

#### THAMES

Kings Meadow House  
Kings Meadow Road  
Reading RG1 8DQ  
Tel: 0118 953 5000  
Fax: 0118 950 0388

#### WELSH

Rivers House  
St Mellons Business Park  
St Mellons  
Cardiff CF3 0LT  
Tel: 029 2077 0088  
Fax: 029 2079 8555

### SCOTTISH ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AGENCY

#### HEAD OFFICE

Erskine Court  
The Castle Business Park  
Stirling FK9 4TR  
Tel: 01786 457 700  
Fax: 01786 446 885  
World Wide Web: <http://www.sepa.org.uk>

### REGIONAL OFFICES

#### NORTH REGION HQ

Graesser House  
Fodderty Way  
Dingwall Business Park  
Dingwall IV15 9XB  
Tel: 01349 862 021  
Fax: 01349 863 987

#### WEST REGION HQ

SEPA West  
5 Redwood Crescent  
Peel Park  
East Kilbride G74 5PP  
Tel: 01355 574 200  
Fax: 01355 574 688

#### EAST REGION HQ

Clearwater House  
Heriot-Watt Research Park  
Avenue North  
Riccarton  
Edinburgh EH14 4AP  
Tel: 0131 449 7296  
Fax: 0131 449 7277

### ENVIRONMENT & HERITAGE SERVICE

Calvert House,  
23 Castle Place,  
Belfast  
BT1 1FY  
Tel: 028 9025 4868  
Fax: 028 9025 4777

The 24-hour emergency hotline number for reporting all environmental incidents relating to air, land and water in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

EMERGENCY HOTLINE

0800 80 70 60



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