



Spent Dip Disposal

All sheep dip products, including cosmetic dips and pour-ons, contain chemicals that are potentially very harmful if used incorrectly. Significant harm to the aquatic environment, wildlife and humans can occur if such chemicals are not stored, handled, used and disposed of safely and responsibly. Treatments containing organophosphates (OPs) and synthetic pyrethroids (SPs) are extremely toxic even at very low concentrations. **Never discharge waste dip, whether treated or untreated, to a watercourse. Doing so is both environmentally damaging and illegal.**

Licensing

Before dipping commences, ensure that a site for land disposal has been licensed under the Water Environment (Controlled Activities) (Scotland) Regulations 2005 ('CAR') by SEPA (an existing Groundwater Regulations authorisation is deemed a CAR authorisation), and is in a suitable condition to receive waste dip. **Disposal of waste sheep dip to land without a CAR Licence or failing to comply with the conditions of such a Licence will constitute a breach of cross compliance** and, until 2007, Good Farming Practice, and may result in penalties being applied to any SEERAD Single Farm Payment or agri-environment scheme payments. SEPA also have the option to take enforcement action resulting in possible financial penalties being incurred.

Before a licence can be issued, the proposed disposal area(s) must be assessed for suitability.

The assessment aims to prevent disposal at locations that could result in a risk to groundwater or any watercourses. A decision tree for selecting a suitable disposal area is provided in the application form for a CAR (2005) Licence. The application form is available from all SEPA Offices, or can be downloaded from http://www.sepa.org.uk/wfd/regimes/application_new.htm (form F). The Landfill Regulations (2003) allow only one disposal per site per year so ensure sufficient sites for all disposals are identified in the authorisation.

Soakaways are not suitable as a disposal route for sheep dip compounds, and are unlikely to be authorised by SEPA.

Handling spent dip

The dip bath should be emptied as soon as possible after dipping and the dipper, drip pens and associated areas washed down with all drainage going to the dip bath for emptying. Delay in emptying can be justified only if treatment (or detoxification) of the waste dip is to take place or if the weather conditions make it unsuitable to arrange for immediate disposal to a licensed disposal area.

Provide suitable access to the dipper to allow the vacuum tanker suction hose to reach into the dip bath. Partly fill the tanker with water and/or farm slurry to achieve a dilution of at least 1:3 (1 part waste dip solution to 3 parts water and/or slurry) of the waste dip before vacuuming the dip bath. If possible use a smaller (e.g. 50 mm diameter) pipe, to remove as much of the waste dip as

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possible and ensure that when coupling and de-coupling of suction hoses any drips or drainage from them returns to the dip bath. Where contractors are being used, it may be necessary to transfer the waste dip to a holding tank so that further dipping can proceed. Any holding tank must be in a sound, secure and safely located container *i.e.* more than 50 metres from any watercourse and more than 50 metres from any spring, well or borehole so as to minimise the risk of spillage and possible pollution.

Try to minimise transport routes to disposal areas, and avoid crossing watercourses or transporting waste dip on busy roads where the possibility of road accidents will be higher.

Treatment/ Detoxification

Sheep dip chemicals are known to break down in the presence of some common, readily available chemicals, like hydrated lime. **It is important that any treatment employed for waste dip is one recommended for the dip type and formulation used** - follow the manufacturer's label instructions, if given. Detoxification treatment methods can take up to a fortnight to work effectively. **Regularly check the level in the bath** whilst detoxification treatment is taking place, especially if wet weather is forecast. Effective leak-proof covers over the dip bath while treatment is taking place can reduce rainwater ingress.

Record the detoxification treatment method, the date employed and the date of final disposal

Treated waste dip should be disposed of at a CAR licensed site in the same way as untreated dip.

Adopt the same level of care when handling treated dip solution as is the case when handling untreated dip.

Disposal of Waste Dip via a Registered Contractor

In certain situations, where a licence to dispose of waste dip to land is not held, it may be possible to dispose of such waste via other appropriately licensed routes. The waste dip is likely to be classed as 'special waste', and both the waste carrier and the disposal facility must be licensed to handle such waste. Under the duty of care the originator of the waste remains responsible for it after it's removal, so only employ reputable contractors. Waste transfer notes must be completed and kept for a minimum of 2 years; in the case of special waste, copies must be sent to SEPA at all stages of the process – the contractor should be able to provide the necessary forms. If in doubt contact SEPA.

Further guidance on all environmental precautions relating to use of dips is provided in SEPA's SHEEP DIPPING CODE OF PRACTICE FOR SCOTTISH FARMERS, CROFTERS AND CONTRACTORS, published in July 2006.

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