Summary

- A buffer zone is ‘no spray’ area alongside a water course, ditch or field boundary
- Buffer zone schemes:
  - Arthropod
  - LERAP A + B
  - Interim Scheme (Aquatic)
  - Drift Reduction Technology Scheme (Zonal Harmonisation)
Arthropod Buffer Zones - Overview

- Designed to protect arthropods and non-target insects
- Applies to all field boundaries
- Label specific
- Some boundaries must be adhered to (statutory), others are advisory (non-statutory)
  - Statutory - product is deemed a ‘high risk’ to non-target insects - buffer zone must be implemented:
    - Key words on label include ‘respect’ and ‘DO NOT’
  - Advisory - recommends the use of a buffer zone to protect non-target insects:
    - Key words on label include ‘avoid’ and ‘precautions’

- Buffer zone is defined as the field boundary or the edge of the non-cropped land (land taken out of permanent production (5 years or more) check label
- Buffer zone can vary depending on crop type
Arthropod

- Any boundary
- Label specific in size
- Non-reducible
- Crop specific

Can count as part of the cropped area therefore part of the buffer zone
LERAPs

- **Local Environment Risk Assessment for Pesticides**
  - Designed to protect ‘aquatic life’
  - Statutory requirement at application by operator
  - Record sheet must be kept for 3 years
  - Category A – buffer zone 5m non-reducible
  - Category B – buffer zone reducible
    - Width of water course
    - Product dose rate
    - Sprayer or nozzle LERAP star rating
  - Dry ditch – buffer zone 1 metre with cross compliance strip
Category ‘LERAP A’

Buffer zone 5m non-reducible

**Cannot** be reduced, unless:
- Ditch is dry – to 1m

![Diagram of buffer zone and field boundary](image-url)
Category ‘LERAP B’

Can be reduced to 1m if any 1 of:
- Ditch is dry
- 3* application technology used
- ¼ maximum dose rate

Or 2m if:
- Width water course >6m
- 2* application technology used
Interim Scheme (‘Aquatic Buffer’)

- Designed to protect ‘aquatic life’
- Dependant on crop types
- < 5m on product label reducible buffer zone with LERAP
- 6-20m on product label non-reducible buffer zone
- Dry ditch – buffer zone 1 metre with cross compliance strip
Interim Scheme (Aquatic Buffer) \( \leq 5\)m on product label

**Can** be reduced to 1m by carrying out a LERAP:
- Ditch is dry
- 3* application technology used
- \( \frac{1}{4} \) maximum dose rate

Or 2m if:
- Width water course >6m
- 2* application technology used
Interim Scheme (Aquatic Buffer) 6-20m on product label

**Cannot** be reduced
Distance can vary depending on crop
Drift Reduction Technology Scheme (Zonal Harmonisation)

- Attempting to standardise application techniques across EU
- Used to prevent re-registration failure of products that may have been banned due to water issues
- Irrespective of watercourse width/size
- DRT buffer stipulated on label of either 6m, 12m or 18m – non-reducible
- Secondary buffer zone of 30m - reducible using 3 star DRT
Drift Reducing Technology Scheme (Aquatic Buffer)

6m, 12m or 18m **Cannot** be reduced

Up to 30m – 3* DRT

Distance can vary depending on crop
LERAP Approved Syngenta Nozzles

‘Maximum efficacy combined with optimum drift reduction ensuring delivery of product to the target’

- DEFY 3D nozzles
  - 04 and 05-3* LERAP approved
  - 03 and 035-2* LERAP approved

- AMISTAR (Guardian Air) nozzles
  - 015 to 05-3* LERAP approved

Note: Approved LERAP rating at 0.5m boom height, varying pressure dependent upon size and nozzle orientation