

Autumn Nitrogen applications in NVZs – Farmer Guidance 2008

This guidance note confirms that there is no change to the conditions under which inorganic nitrogen can be applied to **Autumn 2008 sown crops** during the closed period.

We will accept (but do not recommend) applications of inorganic autumn Nitrogen in the following circumstances:

1. where **all** of the following conditions have been met:

- Predominant soil type in the field is Sand, loamy sand, sandy loam topsoil
- Autumn sown crop is winter barley
- Previous crop must be in Nitrogen residue group 1
- No organic manure has been applied for the winter barley crop
- Nitrogen application does not exceed 25 kg N/ha

2. On all other soils application of autumn inorganic Nitrogen will also be accepted on **winter barley** crops established by minimum tillage or direct drilling, provided that no organic matter has been applied for the winter barley crop and the application does not exceed 25 kg N/ha.

Application of autumn Nitrogen made under both the above conditions must be recorded in the field records, but there is no need to notify the application to your RPID Area office. **If you are in any doubt about whether a proposed application meets these criteria, you should contact your Area Office prior to making the application.**

3. Nitrogen is currently included in most liquid PK fertilisers. This may cause difficulty with Closed Period compliance where liquid PK is applied in the autumn. Where this is the case, in situations not already covered above, we would expect farmers to look at all of the alternatives before making an application containing inorganic Nitrogen. Where no suitable alternative can be identified (e.g. alternative products), we will accept the application of nitrogen included with liquid PK fertilisers. The nitrogen application must not exceed 25 kg/N ha. Proposed applications should be notified to the Area Office **prior** to making the application, with an explanation of why there is no alternative available.

As a further simplification of the rules, autumn applications of inorganic nitrogen on Winter Oilseed Rape **do not** have to be notified to RPID. Applications must not exceed the seedbed recommendation figures in Table 9, Booklet 3 of the 'Guidelines for farmers in nitrate vulnerable zones' and should still be recorded in the field record.

Autumn applications of inorganic nitrogen on cereals will not be accepted in any situation which is not covered above.