

National Rivers Authority
Information Centre
Head Office

Class No

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SPRAY
IRRIGATION



NRA

National Rivers Authority

The National Rivers Authority

In dry summers spray irrigation can have a significant impact on river flows. Part of the National River Authority's role is to protect water resources from over-pumping. Careful thought and planning are essential to ensure water is available for everyone, so anyone who wants to take water from a river, canal, reservoir or borehole must have a licence to do so.

The licence will state:

- 1) where abstraction can take place
- 2) the land on which the water is to be used
- 3) how much water can be taken
- 4) how the water is to be taken e.g. by pump or gravity feed
- 5) how it is to be measured
- 6) any special conditions which may apply e.g.: when river flow falls below a certain level abstraction must stop.

How much water will I need? This will depend on the crop and the area to be irrigated. Specialist advice may be needed from the Agricultural Development Advisory Service (ADAS) of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food or other agricultural specialists. Once you know how much water you will need we can assess the availability of that amount.

Where can the water come from? Rivers, canals and reservoirs are surface water resources and wells and boreholes are groundwater resources. Spray irrigation water may come from any of these.

Rivers and streams These may include anything from a major river to a small drainage system. A licence to take water from here may be subject to a prescribed flow condition in order to maintain the flow and protect existing users. This means abstraction is limited to periods when the flow in the river or stream is above a set rate. This may be related to one of our gauging stations or to a local measuring weir installed by the user.

Reservoirs An off-stream reservoir can allow water to be taken from a source and stored for future use. This water may be used even after we have restricted abstraction from the original source.

On-stream reservoirs may provide another source but would be subject to the same prescribed flow condition as the watercourse unless expensive by-pass arrangements can be incorporated to maintain stream flows. A licence will be needed to obstruct or stop the flow and another to take water from the reservoirs.



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Canals These are generally managed by British Waterways Board (BWB) and you must have a contract from them before you can take water from a canal. BWB will obtain a licence from us.

Groundwater You must have a consent from us to construct and test pump the borehole or well before we can issue a licence. Contact a drilling contractor for more information about the actual construction of a borehole.

In some cases a licence may be issued subject to a time limit or with the proviso that compensation discharges are made into a river or stream during low flows.

Groundwater abstraction may continue even after restrictions have been imposed on surface sources in the area.

The only sources unlikely to be restricted during long periods of dry weather are groundwater and off-stream reservoirs that have been filled when restrictions were not imposed.

Charges Licences for spray irrigation are charged at a rate based on the source, water quality and licensed quantity.

These charges may be reduced by applying for one of the various forms of relief available.

Measurement Measuring the amount of water taken is a condition of a licence so any scheme must allow for a suitable meter to be installed. Meter readings must be submitted to us and charges for the amount of water taken may be based on these readings.

The licence holder is responsible for the installation and maintenance of the meter. Our field staff conduct random inspections of both meters and records to ensure any special licence conditions are adhered to.

If the terms of a licence are not complied with we can prosecute.

Applications Our licence application forms are free, but the proposal must be advertised twice in a local newspaper and once in the London Gazette before a formal application is made. This allows interested parties time to inspect the application form and any other relevant documents.

For a licence application form or further information contact the relevant NRA office listed overleaf.





ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

NATIONAL LIBRARY &
INFORMATION SERVICE

HEAD OFFICE

Rio House, Waterside Drive,
Aztec West, Almondsbury,
Bristol BS32 4UD

*Severn catchment below River Teme confluence
including River Avon:
Lower Severn Area Office,
Riversmeet House, Newtown Industrial Estate,
Northway Lane, Tewkesbury GL20 7JG.
Telephone: (0684) 850951*

*Severn catchment down to and including
River Teme confluence:
Upper Severn Area Office, Hafren House,
Shelton, Shrewsbury SY3 8BJ.
Telephone: (0743) 272828*

*Trent catchment down to and including
River Dove confluence:
Upper Trent Area Office, Sentinel House,
Wellington Crescent, Fradley Park,
Lichfield WS13 8RR.
Telephone: (0543) 444141*

*Trent catchment below River Dove confluence:
Lower Trent Area Office, Trentside,
Scarrington Road, West Bridgford,
Nottingham NG2 5FA.
Telephone: (0602) 455722*

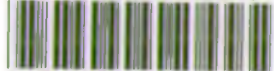
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Road, Solihull, West Midlands B91 1QT
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Severn-Trent Region

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