



PUBLIC NOTICE

Use of cypermethrin sheep dip products following the suspension of their marketing authorisations

The suspension of the marketing authorisations for the three cypermethrin-based sheep dip products did not require the recall of products supplied to agricultural merchants and other authorised retailers before the date of suspension 21 February 2006. Thus it is still legal to purchase and use those stocks. Farmers who decide to use any of the existing stocks of the cypermethrin sheep dip products must remember that, although cypermethrin is effective against sheep ectoparasites, it is also extremely toxic to aquatic life. The dip must therefore be used and disposed of with the utmost care and in accordance with the label instructions. Farmers or their contractors must:

- not allow any sheep dip to run off directly into a drain, ditch, stream, river or any other surface water;
- not allow sheep access to watercourses when the dip is still wet on the sheep;
- only dispose waste sheep dip to land under an Authorisation issued by the relevant environment agency.

Sheep farmers are reminded that it is an offence to pollute watercourses and in the event of pollution being caused, offenders may be liable to prosecution. During 2005, pollution incidents involving sheep dips attracted fines of up to £38,000.

Only cypermethrin approved for use as a veterinary medicine is suitable for the treatment of ectoparasitic infestations of sheep. Retailers, farmers and contractors are reminded that it is illegal to sell or use arable cypermethrin products for the treatment of sheep. Any misuse of arable cypermethrin products in this regard is likely to result in prosecution.

Guidance on the safe use is available in the Prevention of Environmental Pollution from Agricultural Activity (PEPFAA) Code in Scotland and for England and Wales, the Defra Groundwater Protection Code: Use and Disposal of Sheep Dip Compounds.

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