

FARMING & WATER SCOTLAND



Sheep dipping and handling facilities

Sheep dipping plays an important role in animal welfare and sheep productivity. However, dips and pour-on treatments can cause significant and long-lasting damage to the water environment.

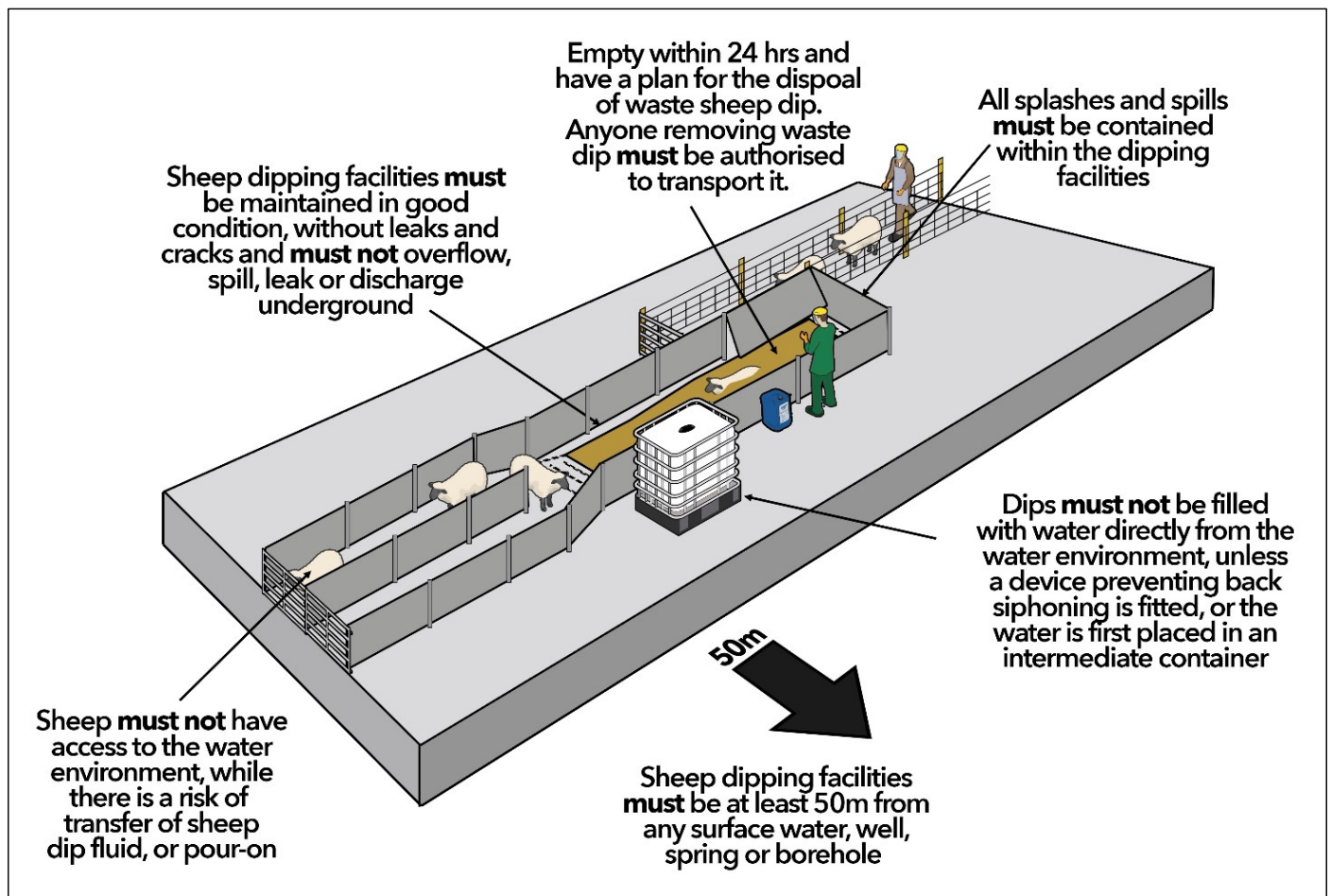


Figure 13.1. Example of sheep dipping and handling facilities

Those dipping sheep **must** hold or be under supervision of a holder of a Certificate of Competence in the Safe Use of Sheep Dip.

Location and maintenance of sheep dipping facilities

Sheep dipping and associated facilities can be varied and will be specific to each individual site (Figure 13.1).

Mobile units, any permanent dipping facilities built after 1st April 2008 and sheep handling facilities used for pour-on treatments constructed after 1st January 2018, **must** be sited at least

- 50m away from any surface water
- 50m away from any well, spring or borehole.

Sheep dipping facilities **must be**:

- maintained in good condition
- without leaks or cracks

Operating sheep dipping facilities and managing sheep after dipping

Sheep dipping facilities **must not** be filled with water taken from the water environment unless:

- a device preventing back siphoning is fitted to the system; or
- the water is first placed in an intermediate container

When sheep dipping facilities are in use:

- make sure that all splashes and spills are contained within the sheep dipping facilities

Once sheep dipping operations are complete:

- empty the dipper within 24hrs after dipping is finished
- have a plan for your waste sheep dip disposal by either having a licence from SEPA or confirming an alternative disposal route with an approved waste contractor
- ensure anyone removing waste sheep dip from site is suitably authorised to transport it

At all times:

- sheep **must** be prevented from having access to the water environment while there is a risk of transfer of sheep dip fluid or any pour on parasite treatment from their fleece
- the dipping facilities **must not** overflow, spill, leak or discharge underground including soakaways

Pour-on treatments

The chemicals used in pour-on treatments can still have a detrimental impact on the environment and as such sheep **must** be prevented from having access to any surface water or wetland while there is a risk of transfer any pour-on parasite treatment from their fleece.

Disposal of waste sheep dip

Where waste sheep dip is disposed of to land, you **must** hold a licence under the Controlled Activities Regulations (issued by SEPA) and you **must** adhere to the conditions contained within the licence. Alternatively, the waste dip can be securely stored until collected and disposed of by a licensed waste disposal contractor

Further guidance on obtaining an authorisation to dispose of waste sheep dip to land can be found on the **SEPA website**.

Definitions:

Groundwater – water below the surface off the ground in the saturation zone and in direct contact with ground or subsoil.

Sheep dip (for treatment of parasites) – liquids, containing chemicals which are authorised and marketed as veterinary medicines for the treatment of sheep ectoparasites, into which sheep are immersed and/or in which sheep are showered.

Sheep dip (for cosmetic reasons) – liquids, containing phenols, phenolic compounds and hydrocarbons which are authorised and marketed as cosmetic products for sheep, into which sheep are immersed and/or in which sheep are showered.

Pour-on treatments – a liquid, containing chemicals which are authorised and marketed as veterinary medicines for the treatment of sheep ectoparasites and worms, applied via drench gun onto the back of the sheep.

Water environment – all surface water, groundwater and wetlands.