
WATER PROTECTION AGAINST NITRATES FROM AGRICULTURE

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The aim of Council Directive 91/176/EEC regarding the protection of waters against pollution caused by nitrates from agricultural sources [1] (hereinafter „Nitrates Directive“) is to reduce water pollution coming from agricultural sources and to prevent further such pollutions in order both to provide good-quality water supplies and to protect surface water against eutrophication. Transposition of the Nitrates Directive was carried out by provision Section 33 of Act No. 254/2001 Coll., on waters, as amended [2], where it is required that in the Regulation the Government stipulates vulnerable zones and arranges use and storage of fertilisers and livestock manure, rotation of crops and implementation of anti-erosion measures within these zones. Vulnerable zones are designated in this Government Regulation No. 103/2003 Coll., of March 3, 2003 on stipulation of vulnerable zones and on the use and storage of fertilizers and barnyard fertilizers, alternation of crops and implementation of anti-erosion measures through a list of cadastral territories that are located in river basins of surface waters and in groundwater areas where substantial nitrate pollution from agricultural sources has been demonstrated or where circumstances indicate that further deterioration in water quality can occur. This Government Regulation in these zones further stated that revision of vulnerable zones and proposals concerning changes of their extent have to be submitted to the Government at least no later than four years after the first designation.