

Mandatory distances for the storage, preparation and application of pesticides for agricultural purposes

January 2025

This table is made available for the purposes of s. 15, 30, 30.1, 30.4, 35, 50, 52, 76, 86 and 88.1 of the [Pesticides Management Code](#).

Protection targets	Storage ¹ Anyone storing pesticides of classes 1 to 3	Preparation ² Permit or certificate ³ holders	Application Permit or certificate ³ holders	
			Ground	Aerial ⁴
Lakes Watercourses Wetlands	30 m (s. 15)	30 m (s. 35)	<p>3 m (s. 30)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Except for the cultivated part of a wetland, per the <i>Environment Quality Act</i> and its implementing regulations ▪ Except when monitoring certain plants, subject to conditions (s. 30.1) ▪ Except if the pesticide was authorized as part of a research and experimentation project under s. 29 of the <i>Environment Quality Act</i> (s. 30.4) ▪ Except for the cultivation of plants eligible for a declaration of compliance and declared, under certain conditions (s. 88.1) <p>Applies to any use for agricultural purposes of Class 1 to Class 5 pesticides, including Class 3A or 3B pesticides</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Bacillus thuringiensis kurstaki</i> (Btk): 3 m (s. 86) • Pesticides other than Btk (s. 86): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Watercourses with a width < 4 m: 3 m ○ Watercourses with a width > 4 m or lakes or wetlands, if the height of the application apparatus from ground level is as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ < 5 m: 30 m ▪ ≥ 5 m: 60 m <p>Intermittent flow watercourses are excluded.</p>
Ditches	—	—	<p>1 m (s. 30)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Except when monitoring certain plants, subject to conditions (s. 30.1) ▪ Except if the pesticide was authorized as part of a research and experimentation project under s. 29 of the <i>Environment Quality Act</i> (s. 30.4) ▪ Except for the cultivation of plants eligible for a declaration of compliance and declared, under certain conditions (s. 88.1) <p>Applies to any use for agricultural purposes of Class 1 to Class 5 pesticides, including Class 3A or 3B pesticides</p>	<p>1 m (s. 30)</p>
Categories 1 or 2 or bottled water withdrawal sites	100 m (s. 15)	100 m (s. 35)	<p>100 m (s. 50)</p> <p>Also applies to Class 3A or 3B pesticides</p>	<p>100 m (s. 76)</p>

Protection targets	Storage ¹ Anyone storing pesticides of classes 1 to 3	Preparation ² Permit or certificate ³ holders	Application Permit or certificate ³ holders	
			Ground	Aerial ⁴
Category 3 water withdrawal sites	30 m (s. 15)	30 m (s. 35)	30 m (s. 50) Also applies to Class 3A or 3B pesticides	30 m (s. 76) Except if the facility supplies a building serving as a dwelling that is located in a forest area and inhabited on an occasional basis (e.g. a summer cottage)
Other groundwater withdrawal sites	30 m (s. 15)	30 m (s. 35)	3 m (s. 50) Also applies to Class 3A or 3B pesticides	3 m (s. 76) Except if the facility supplies a building serving as a dwelling that is located in a forest area and inhabited on an occasional basis (e.g. a summer cottage)
Protected immovables Note: Excludes protected immovables where work is being carried out by a resident owner or producer	—	—	Air-blast sprayers (for example, orchards, vineyards and Christmas trees) (art. 52) ⁴ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Depending on the direction of the spray: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • facing away from the immovable: 20 m • facing the immovable: 30 m <p>This restriction does not apply to sprayers equipped with a horizontal boom or spray jet</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Btk</i>: width of one treatment flight lane of the aircraft (s. 86) • Pesticides other than <i>Btk</i>, if the height of the application apparatus from ground level is as follows (s. 86): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ < 5 m: 30 m ○ ≥ 5 m: 60 m
Bicycle path physically separated from automobile traffic and that has its own right of way	—	—	—	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Btk</i>: width of one treatment flight lane of the aircraft (s. 86) • Pesticides other than <i>Btk</i>, if the height of the application apparatus from ground level is as follow (s. 86): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ < 5 m: 30 m ○ ≥ 5 m: 60 m
Daycares Schools	—	—	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 30 m if a knapsack or air-blast equipment is used, except if it includes a horizontal boom or spray jet (s. 50) ▪ 3 m for all other types of equipment during the period of activities carried out on or off the premises (s. 50) 	If the height of the apparatus from ground level is as follows (s. 76): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ < 5 m: 30 m ○ ≥ 5 m: 60 m

¹ Operators of a storage site holding an Agrichemical Warehousing Standards Association (AWSA) certificate of compliance issued prior to April 3, 2003 are exempted from the certified storage site requirements set out in the table.

² When preparation is carried out on a storage site belonging to a holder of an AWSA certificate of compliance issued prior to April 3, 2003, the certificate holder is not required to comply with the certified storage site application distances set out in the table.

³ Unless otherwise indicated, permit and/or certificate holders are required to comply with these obligations during pesticide usage that require a permit or certificate.

⁴ The use of techniques and equipment as well as the adoption of measures to reduce pesticide drift make it possible to reduce the mandatory distances. These elements are presented in the instructions note « [Mesures transitoires relatives à l'article 52 du Code de gestion des pesticides](#) ».

DEFINITIONS

Class 3A pesticide (defined in the *Regulation respecting permits and certificates for the sale and use of pesticides*)

Oat, wheat, canola, forage corn, grain corn, sweet corn, barley, or soybean seeds coated with an insecticide that is not a biopesticide.

Class 3B pesticide (defined in the *Regulation respecting permits and certificates for the sale and use of pesticides*)

Oat, wheat, canola, forage corn, grain corn, sweet corn, barley or soybean seeds coated with a fungicide or biopesticide.

Daycares (as defined in the *Pesticides Management Code*)

Early childhood centres, daycares and home childcare residences governed by the *Educational Childcare Act*. Distance from a daycare is measured from the property line.

Declaration of compliance

Undertaking by the declarant to carry out the activity in question in accordance with set conditions, restrictions and prohibitions.

Ditch (defined in the *Regulation respecting the regulatory scheme applying to activities on the basis of their environmental impact*)

A ditch along a public or private road, a common ditch, or a drainage ditch. The relative distance to a ditch is measured from the top of its embankment.

Littoral zone (defined in the *Regulation respecting activities in wetlands, bodies of water and sensitive areas*)

The part of a lake, watercourse, estuary or sea that extends from the high-water line toward the centre of the body of water.

Protected immovable (defined in the *Pesticides Management Code*)

- In a built-up area: built-up lots.
- Outside a built-up area: residential dwellings (except for cottages and hunting camps), buildings used or intended to be used to shelter or receive persons or animals, administrative or commercial buildings, tourist accommodation establishments and a 30 m strip around such buildings that belongs to the owner of the building.
- Recreation, sports or cultural centres, outdoor recreation centres or nature interpretation centres, camping establishments, parks, public beaches, golf clubs and ecological reserves.

School (as defined in the *Pesticides Management Code*)

Preschools, primary or secondary schools governed by the *Education Act*, the *Education Act for Cree, Inuit and Naskapi Native persons* or the *Act respecting private education*. Distance from a school is measured from the property line.

Watercourse (defined in the *Regulation respecting activities in wetlands, bodies of water and sensitive areas*)

Any mass of water running along a bed in a regular or intermittent flow, including a bed created or altered by human intervention, the St. Lawrence River, the estuary of the St. Lawrence River, the Gulf of St. Lawrence and all the seas surrounding Québec, excluding a ditch.

The relative distance to a watercourse is measured horizontally from the boundary of the littoral zone. The “littoral zone” means the part of a lake or watercourse that extends from the boundary separating the littoral zone from the lakeshore or riverbank towards the centre of the body of water. If there is an embankment, the distance must include a width of at least 1 m from the top of the embankment.

Water withdrawal sites (defined in the *Water Withdrawal and Protection Regulation*)

- **Category 1:** water withdrawals carried out for a municipal waterworks system supplying more than 500 persons and at least one residence
- **Category 2:** water withdrawals carried out to supply a municipal waterworks system supplying between 21 and 500 persons and at least one residence; any other waterworks system supplying 21 or more persons and at least one residence; a system, independent from a waterworks system, supplying at least 21 or more persons at one or more educational institutions, one or more detention facilities, or one or more health and social services institutions within the meaning of the *Regulation respecting the quality of drinking water*
- **Category 3:** water withdrawals carried out to supply a system, independent from a waterworks system, supplying only one or more food processing establishments; a system, independent from a waterworks system supplying only one or more enterprises, one or more tourist establishments or one or more seasonal tourist establishments within the meaning of the *Regulation respecting the quality of drinking water*; any other system supplying 20 persons or fewer.
- **Other groundwater withdrawal sites:** all other sites of water withdrawal not intended for human consumption, food processing or bottled water purposes

Wetland (defined in the *Regulation respecting activities in wetlands, bodies of water and sensitive areas*)

Area characterized in particular by hydromorphic soils or vegetation dominated by hygrophilous species, such as a pond, marsh, swamp or peatland. A reference to a “wetland” excludes a peat bog being harvested.

The relative distance to a wetland is measured horizontally from the boundary. The “boundary” means a line marking the limit of a wetland and corresponding to the point at which the soil ceases to be hydromorphic and the vegetation ceases to be dominated by hygrophilous species, in relation to the area where at least one of those conditions does apply. If there is an embankment, the distance must include a width of at least 1 m from the top of the embankment.

For more information, see the [Pesticides Management Code reference guide \(French\)](#).