
Overview

This standard is about stocking fish into a fishery. It covers the safe transfer, handling and stocking of fish at the required stocking density. It includes the application of handling methods that maintain welfare by minimising the stress caused to fish using routine and non-routine tasks.

This standard requires that fish are stocked in a manner appropriate to the following environmental conditions:

1. hot weather
2. cold weather
3. water level and condition
4. available habitat

This standard requires that the fish to be stocked are identified by species type, size and physical condition and are assessed to be disease-free.

This standard requires that you carry out work safely in line with legal health and safety requirements and that you work to maintain bio-security and minimise environmental disturbance at all times.

The legislation controlling the application of this standard will vary depending on the location of the fishery within England, Wales, Northern Ireland or Scotland.

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Performance criteria

You must be able to:

- P1 carry out work safely in line with health and safety requirements
- P2 prepare fish handling and transfer equipment ready for the safe and secure movement of fish
- P3 transfer and acclimatise fish in a way which minimises stress and takes account of prevailing environmental conditions
- P4 assess the fish to be stocked to ensure they are in an appropriate condition for release
- P5 handle fish in a manner which minimises stress
- P6 distribute fish within fishery at required density according to specification
- P7 maintain fish handling equipment into a serviceable condition throughout the process
- P8 observe behaviour of newly stocked fish and report on signs of stress or disorder
- P9 sterilise and store fish handling equipment after use
- P10 provide accurate information to maintain records of stocking

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Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

- K1 the health and safety requirements associated with the stocking process
- K2 how to maintain the welfare of fish during the stocking process
- K3 how to acclimatise and transfer fish (using nets and shoots) to maximise survival rates
- K4 why fish need to be acclimatised before release
- K5 how adverse environmental conditions (weather, water conditions) can affect the stocking operation
- K6 the importance of achieving planned stocking density
- K7 the legal requirements controlling the movement and stocking of fish
- K8 signs which indicate stress or disorder within fish
- K9 the features of a fishery that can impact on stocking
- K10 the importance of bio-security and its role in minimising risks to the fishery

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