



NetCare

Safe Treatment of Net Bags for Fish Farming

NETCARE

2018.V02

Only valid for net bags to be used in Norway

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Foreword

NYTEK and NS 9415:2009 are the governing regulations and must be adhered to by fish farmers and suppliers of the main fish farming components to Norwegian aquaculture. NS 9415 describes the specific requirements for net bags, which are designed to prevent fish from escaping.

Net bags used in fish farming are vulnerable to marine fouling when they are in the sea for long periods of time. This prevents or restricts water flow and oxygen conditions for the fish and many fish farmers therefore choose to treat the nets with an anti-fouling or protective impregnation product. Marine fouling on nets can also increase the overall load on the fish farming facility.

Biocidal products are used to control unwanted organisms such as fouling on nets. The EU Biocides Regulation 528/2012 (EU BPR) has resulted in the introduction of harmonised rules for the approval of active substances (biocides) and biocidal products in the EU/EEA market. The EU Biocides Regulation rules have been incorporated into Norwegian legislation on biocides. This means that in the EU/EEA all net treatment products with a fouling reducing effect must have approval for this use as from 01.2018.

NetCare is an optional quality and environmental scheme for the aquaculture industry that will contribute to:

- Ensuring the safe use of net treatment products in relation to application, use and maintenance
- Reducing the environmental footprint when using biocidal products in aquaculture
- Increasing net protection

Companies that follow the guidelines in this document will receive NetCare approval. Individual fish farming companies can require that net treatment is carried out by a NetCare-approved company in order to fulfil their own quality and/or environmental goals.



NetCare

Symbol of NetCare approval

1 SCOPE

The purpose of NetCare is to ensure that the use of a net treatment product is carried out in a manner that safeguards the health and safety of the person applying the product, that the treatment process does not damage the product or increase the risk of damage and/or holes in the bag, and that the treatment of net bags for aquaculture produces an optimal end result.

NetCare aims to complement the net bag requirements of NS 9415, with a focus on the treatment process carried out by the net manufacturer or service company.

2 NORMATIVE REFERENCES

The following reference documents are necessary in order to apply these guidelines. Dated references are only valid for the specific version mentioned. Undated references apply to the most recent edition of the referenced document (including any changes or updates).

NS 9415	Floating fish farm facilities. Requirements for site survey, risk analysis design, dimensioning, execution, assembly and operation
NYTEK Regulations	Technical regulations and requirements for floating aquaculture facilities
Biocides Regulation	Regulations on biocides
Pollution Regulation	Regulations on limiting pollution
REACH	Regulations on registering, evaluating, approving and limiting chemicals
BPR	(EU) 528/2012, harmonised regulations for the approval of active substances and biocidal products
CLP	Classification, Labelling and Packaging Regulation
ADR/RID	Regulations for the Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road (with guidelines)
Working Environment Act	Act regulating the working environment, working hours, employment protection, etc.
Internal control regulations	Regulations concerning systematic work to improve health, safety and the environment

3 DEFINITIONS

3.1.1 Net bag treatment

Includes preparation and application of the product, drying and packaging of net bags

3.1.2 Method of application

Technology and method for applying a liquid/product to net bags

3.1.3 Final result

The result after completing the net treatment process, with the net ready for use by the fish farmer

3.1.4 Executing company

The company carrying out the net treatment process

3.1.5 Involved parties

These can include the fish farming company, net manufacturer, net service company, producer of net treatment products

3.1.6 Active component

A chemical substance or microorganism used to combat unwanted organisms

3.1.7 Biocides

Biocides are a collective term for chemical substances designed to combat pests, bacteria, viruses, fungi, marine fouling and similar. These substances are used in biocidal products to make them effective against the organisms they are supposed to fight.

4 NET TREATMENT PRODUCTS (IMPREGNATION/COATING)

4.1 General

Products to be applied to fish farming net bags must be suitable for use with the materials used to manufacture the net bag.

4.2 Biocidal products

These are net treatment products containing one or more biocides, or which claim to have fouling-reducing properties.

4.2.1 Requirements for approval and registration in the Product Register

Products containing biocides, or that claim to have fouling-reducing properties, must be approved for use on fish farming net bags in accordance with the BPR Directive.

All permitted biocidal products containing active substances must be reported in the Product Register in connection with import, sale or use in the Norwegian market.

4.2.2 Packaging, labelling and user instructions

Only UN-approved packaging shall be used for net treatment products classified as hazardous goods according to CLP regulations.

Biocidal products must be labelled in Norwegian in accordance with CLP regulations. Information about the area of application of a biocidal product and a description of its intended use shall also be in Norwegian.

NB:

The label for a biocidal product must not be misleading, and the terms "low-risk", "non-toxic", "harmless", "natural", "environmentally friendly" or similar shall never be used.

4.2.3 Transport

Products classified in accordance with CLP shall be evaluated according to the Regulations for the Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road. All products labelled with a hazard symbol (see safety data sheet) must be handled, stored and transported as dangerous goods.

Empty, uncleaned packaging that has contained dangerous goods is also subject to the requirements of the Regulations for the Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road.

4.3 Biocide free products

These are products that protect the netting against wear and tear, do not contain any form of biocides, or claim to have fouling-reducing properties.

4.3.1 Requirements for approval and registration in the Product Register

Products that are not subject to classification according to health, safety and environment regulations do not need to be approved or registered in the Product Register.

4.3.2 Packaging, labelling and user instructions

Biocide free products must be labelled in Norwegian. Information about their area of application and a description of intended use must also be in Norwegian.

4.3.3 Transport

Products that are not subject to classification according to CLP regulations are not subject to the requirements for handling, storage and transport in accordance with the Regulations for the Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road.

4.4 Documentation

4.4.1 Safety data sheet

Suppliers of net treatment products shall provide the recipient with a safety data sheet. This data sheet must be written in Norwegian for substances and preparations that are brought into circulation in Norway and must be delivered free of charge, in paper or electronic form.

Safety data sheets must be made available to the recipient on purchasing for the first time and whenever the data sheet is updated.

The safety data sheet shall provide the executing company and personnel with information about protective measures that must be in place whenever the net treatment product is used.

5 NET MANUFACTURER – NET SERVICE

5.1 General

A net bag is one of the main components in fish farming and is subject to product certification requirements in accordance with NYTEK regulations.

NB:

It is assumed that the accredited body will take care of this and other factors relating to the net bag in accordance with the requirements specified in the NS 9415 and NYTEK regulations.

5.2 Inspection and repair of net bags

Inspection and repair of nets shall be carried out by a service workshop certified by an accredited product certification body in accordance with NYTEK regulations.

NB:

It is assumed that the accredited body will take care of this and other factors relating to the net bag in accordance with the requirements specified in the NS 9415 and NYTEK regulations.

5.3 Treatment process for net bags

The treatment process for a net bag includes preparation, application of the treatment, drying and packaging of the net bag. This can be divided into several processes, and different technologies can be used.

The treatment of a net bag shall take place in a manner that ensures a good final result and under conditions that safeguard the executing personnel's working environment in accordance with current regulations.

The executing company must have established routines for the use of its chosen treatment process.

5.4 Competence and documentation

The executing company must have documentation in accordance with 5.1 and 5.2

The personnel responsible for carrying out the treatment of the net bags must have documented knowledge about the products used in the treatment process.

6 HEALTH, SAFETY AND THE ENVIRONMENT

6.1 General

The executing company shall ensure that the personnel carrying out the treatment use personal protective equipment whenever safety, health and welfare cannot be protected in any other way.

The executing company shall ensure that suitable protective equipment, satisfactory emergency equipment and routines for their use are available.

6.2 Internal control

The executing company shall implement and systematically document the work being undertaken in relation to health, safety and the environment.

6.3 Ventilation

The executing company shall ensure that there is satisfactory ventilation in the room where the treatment process takes place. Respiratory protection should be used if the health risk for the employee cannot be avoided in any other way.

6.4 Safety data sheet

The manufacturer's safety data sheet must be posted or made easily accessible in the premises where the treatment process takes place.

6.5 Personal protective equipment

The executing company must provide personal protective equipment for the executing personnel and provide training for proper use.

Executing personnel must use personal protective equipment as instructed on the product's safety data sheet and according to instructions from the executing company.

6.6 Available emergency equipment

At the minimum, the executing company must have the following equipment available for personnel handling the net treatment products:

- Eye bath
- Emergency shower

6.7 Lifting equipment

The executing company must have appropriate lifting equipment to handle the net bags during the treatment process and must ensure that the executing personnel have the necessary skills to use the equipment.

7 RECEIVING AND STORING NET TREATMENT PRODUCTS

7.1 Receiving inspection

The executing company shall have established routines for inspecting products when they are received.

In case of damage to the packaging or product, the manufacturer must be contacted immediately. Damage must be documented. In the case of major damage that has occurred during transport, it is recommended that the goods are not unloaded.

NB:

The transport of net treatment products from the manufacturer to the recipient can cause damage to the packaging and the product. It is therefore important that the recipient has good routines for inspecting goods on arrival.

7.2 Storage

The products must be stored in accordance with the information provided by the manufacturer and in a location suitable for this purpose.

It is particularly important to pay attention to the temperature limits for the individual product.

Net treatment products must be stored such that emissions to the external environment are avoided.

7.3 Registration

When receiving net treatment products, the recipient must at a minimum register and keep a record of the following details:

- Date of receipt
- Product name/supplier
- Volume of product received
- Batch number on each individual packaging

8 TREATMENT OF NET BAGS

8.1 New net bag

A new net bag shall be dry and free from any dirt that can affect the final result of the treatment.

A new net bag shall be kept at a temperature within the recommended temperature limits for applying a net treatment product.

8.2 Used net bag

A used bag must be washed and disinfected, and all holes and damage should be repaired. An assessment must be made of whether any residual product on the net after washing makes it suitable for the application of the particular net treatment product.

A used net bag shall be dry and free from dirt that can affect the final result of the treatment.

A used net bag shall be kept at a temperature within the recommended temperature limits for applying a net treatment product.

The manufacturer of the net treatment product shall describe recommended routines to check that the net bag is sufficiently dry and at the correct temperature prior to application of the net treatment product.

NB:

Wet and dirty or cold nets can affect the final result of the net treatment and can alter the properties of the net treatment product, thus reducing its effect.

Any residual product on the net after the washing process can make the net unsuitable for its intended use or application of a new net treatment product - this must be evaluated by the person carrying out the treatment.

8.3 Choice of materials

Materials used in new net bags and for repairing net bags must be suitable for treatment using the selected net treatment product.

8.4 Preparation of a net treatment product

Before dispensing the net treatment product from the packaging, executing personnel shall assess the stability of the product. The product manufacturer must describe routines for this.

If there is a change in the stability of the product, it should be stirred in the packaging before dispensing.

If only part of the volume in the packaging is to be used, it must be stirred before dispensing.

NB:

A net treatment product stored over time can change stability (i.e. "separate" into a heavier part and a thinner part). This applies to all types of mixtures, but especially to those containing heavier components.

8.5 Application of a net treatment product

The application method and technology must be suitable for the net treatment product being used. This is also important in order to achieve the optimal final result for the net treatment.

The application method should not risk damaging the net or causing holes that could lead to fish escaping.

The executing company must have established routines for applying a net treatment product using the chosen application method.

The application of a net treatment product should not result in emissions to the external environment.

The manufacturer of a net treatment product must approve the executing company's routines for applying the product using the selected application method.

8.6 Monitoring, measurement and registration

The executing company shall have established routines to measure and register the following:

- 1) The product applied in the treatment process
 - Product name/supplier
 - Batch no. for each individual packaging/volume
 - Any liquid thinner used

- 2) The net being treated:
 - Date of application/treatment
 - Net owner
 - Net ID no.
 - Absorption/consumption of net treatment product on the net bag

The executing company shall log these measurements as documented information.

8.7 Continued use of a net treatment product

Any excess volume of a net treatment product can be used for another treatment if its quality is considered stable.

The manufacturer of the net treatment product shall describe the control routines and any measurements that should be made by the executing company before using the net treatment product for a new treatment process.

The executing company must record these measurements as documented information.

NB:

Regardless of the chosen application process/technology, there may be excess volume of the net treatment product. Control routines shall ensure stability and quality before further use of the product.

8.8 Drying a treated net bag

The drying method and technology must be suitable for the net treatment product being used. This is also important in order to achieve an optimal final result of the net treatment process.

The manufacturer of the net treatment product must describe recommended routines to check that the net bag has been dried sufficiently.

NB:

A net bag that has not been dried sufficiently can lead to unwanted emissions to the environment, a poor final result of the net treatment and thus a reduced effect of the applied net treatment product.

8.9 Packaging and storage of a treated net bag

Good packaging and proper storage are important to avoid damage to the net bag or net treatment. The executing company must comply with the requirements set out in NS 9415.

NB:

Precipitation or contact with water can activate the active component in the product, thereby reducing the quality of the net treatment and the effect of the product.

It is particularly recommended to have good routines for checking the net for holes and damage before packaging. This should be covered by the requirements of NS 9415.

8.10 Labelling of a treated net bag

Net bags that are treated with biocidal products must be labelled in accordance with applicable requirements. The executing company shall ensure that the treated bag is labelled.

The manufacturer of the net treatment product must describe how the labelling should be carried out and what information it should contain.

NB:

The new Biocides Regulation sets requirements for «*treated articles*». Treated products are not considered to be biocides themselves, but they have been treated with biocidal products.

9 THE ENVIRONMENT

9.1 Packaging, recycling scheme

The manufacturer of a net treatment product and the executing company shall have a recycling scheme for packaging that has been used for net treatment products.

The manufacturer of a net treatment product shall describe recommended routines and criteria for the re-use of packaging.

9.2 Emissions to the external environment

The involved parties shall monitor and adhere to environmental requirements for their activities.

The storage and use of a net treatment product shall not result in emissions to the external environment.

9.3 Waste system

The involved parties must ensure that waste from their operations is delivered to an approved waste receiver or recycling facility.

10 APPROVAL - DOCUMENTATION

10.1 Audit

Through participation in NetCare, the executing company accepts that personnel with documented competence from auditing work for other involved parties, or a control body, will perform checks on compliance with routines, requirements and documentation.

10.2 NetCare approval

Compliance with NetCare is confirmed with the issuing of an approval document to the executing company. The approval document shall state a period of validity and date for expiry of the approval.

The validity period can be up to 3 years, provided that annual audits of the executing company are carried out.

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