

£600 fixed penalty for failure to comply

In line with legislation, SEPA is now empowered to issue a £600 fixed penalty to a contractor, land owner/occupier carrying out engineering works in the water environment without authorisation from SEPA, or breaching authorisation conditions. Both contractors and land owners/occupiers can be liable for penalties.

Engineering works requiring authorisation from SEPA include:

- the removal of sediment (gravel, sand, silt) from rivers, lochs and wetlands;
- construction of bank protection, embankments or floodwalls;
- construction of new bridges, fords and culverts;
- any new structures built on the bed of a river, burn or loch;
- river diversions and realignments;
- restoration and enhancement works, including the removal of structures;
- any other activity likely to pose a risk of significant adverse impact.

There is advice and information available on [SEPA's website](#), including a range of good practice guides. Further, SEPA's [CAR Practical Guide](#) has been designed to provide clear and practical advice to anyone carrying out an activity covered by the Water Environment (Controlled Activities) (Scotland) Regulations 2011 (as amended), known as CAR. It helps you determine which level of authorisation you need to apply for, and how to do it, with an entire section on engineering works.

Details of Fixed Monetary Penalties are also published on [SEPA's website](#) in line with the legislative requirement.