

Nitrates and Phosphorus Regulations 2007

Summary

This document provides a summary of the Nitrates and Phosphorus Regulations 2007. For full details of the regulations you should refer to the Guidance Document which will be produced in early 2007.

Note that each of the sections of summarised measures, excluding measures relating to chemical phosphorus fertiliser application, are Cross-Compliance verifiable standards. An additional verifiable standard under the Nitrates Action Programme Regulations not listed is compliance with a Notice served.

Summary of Nitrates and Phosphorus Regulations

Required storage capacity must be in place by **31 December 2008** at the latest. Organic manure closed spreading period applies from the date at which required storage capacity is in place. All other measures become effective from the **1 January 2007**.

Verifiable Standards	Key Measures																
Closed Spreading Periods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Chemical Nitrogen fertiliser must not be applied between 15 September and 31 January. <input type="checkbox"/> Organic manures, excluding farmyard manure and dirty water, must not be applied between 15 October and 31 January. 																
Land Application Restrictions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> All fertilisers, chemical and organic, must not be applied on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • waterlogged soils, flooded land or land liable to flood; • frozen ground or snow covered ground; • if heavy rain is forecast; • steep slopes where other significant risks of water pollution exist. <input type="checkbox"/> Prevent entry of fertilisers to waters and ensure application is accurate, uniform and not in a location or manner likely to cause entry to waters. <input type="checkbox"/> Chemical fertilisers must not be applied within 1.5m of any waterway. <input type="checkbox"/> Organic manures including dirty water must not be applied within: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20m of lakes; • 10m of a waterway other than lakes; this distance may be reduced to 3m where slope is less than 10% towards the waterway and where organic manures are spread by bandspreaders, trailing shoe, trailing hose or soil injection or where adjoining area is less than 1 hectare in size or not more than 50m in width; • 50m of a borehole, spring or well; • 250m of a borehole used for a public water supply; • 15m of exposed cavernous or karstified limestone features. <input type="checkbox"/> Application rates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No more than 50m³/ha (4500 gal/ac) or 50 tonnes/ha (20 t/ac) of organic manures to be applied at one time with a minimum of three weeks between applications; • No more than 50m³/ha (4500 gal/ac) of dirty water to be applied at one time with a minimum of two weeks between applications. <input type="checkbox"/> Slurry can only be spread by inverted splashplate, bandspreaders, trailing shoe, trailing hose or soil injection. <input type="checkbox"/> Dirty water to be spread by same methods as slurry and by irrigation. <input type="checkbox"/> Sludgigators must not be used. 																
Chemical Nitrogen (N) Fertiliser Crop Requirement	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th colspan="3">Maximum kg N/ha on grassland</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>2007</th> <th>2008</th> <th>2009</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Dairy farms*</td> <td>289 (8 ¾ bags/ac)**</td> <td>281 (8 ½ bags/ac)</td> <td>272 (8 ¼ bags /ac)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other farms</td> <td>239 (7 ¼ bags /ac)</td> <td>231 (7 bags/ac)</td> <td>222 (6 ¾ bags/ac)</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>(N from organic manures other than livestock must be subtracted.) * More than 50% of N in livestock manure comes from dairy cattle ** Approximate number of 50kg bags of a 27% N type fertiliser</p> <p>For non-grassland crops, the crop requirement as determined by RB209, must not be exceeded.</p>		Maximum kg N/ha on grassland			Year	2007	2008	2009	Dairy farms*	289 (8 ¾ bags/ac)**	281 (8 ½ bags/ac)	272 (8 ¼ bags /ac)	Other farms	239 (7 ¼ bags /ac)	231 (7 bags/ac)	222 (6 ¾ bags/ac)
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Verifiable Standards	Key Measures
Chemical Phosphorus Fertiliser*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Can only apply chemical Phosphorus fertiliser if soil analysis shows a requirement as per RB209.
Nitrogen Livestock Manure Limits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> 170kgN/ha/year farm limit. A derogation for a higher limit is being sought for cattle farms.
Livestock Manure Storage Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> 26 weeks for pig and poultry enterprises. <input type="checkbox"/> 22 weeks for other enterprises. <input type="checkbox"/> Provided certain criteria are met there are allowances for out-wintering, animals in bedded accommodation, separated cattle slurry, renting additional tanks and exporting slurry to approved outlets. <input type="checkbox"/> Storage must be maintained to prevent seepage or run-off. <input type="checkbox"/> New or substantially enlarged or reconstructed stores must comply with Silage, Slurry and Agricultural Fuel Oil (SSAFO) (Northern Ireland) Regulations, 2003. <input type="checkbox"/> Farmyard manure and poultry litter can be stored in fields where the next application is to take place but for no longer than 180 days. It must not be stored in the same location of the field year after year. Poultry litter must be covered with an impermeable membrane within 24 hours of placement in the field. The storage of poultry litter to be reviewed 31 December 2008. Heaps must not be stored within: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50m of lakes; • 20m of a waterway; • 50m of a borehole, spring or well; • 250m of a borehole used for a public water supply; • 50m of exposed cavernous or karstified limestone features. <input type="checkbox"/> Provide storage for dirty water during periods when conditions for land application are unsuitable.
Land Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Crop and soil management to minimise soil erosion and nutrient run off.
Record Keeping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural area, field size and location. <input type="checkbox"/> Cropping regimes and areas, Soil Nitrogen Supply (SNS) index for crops other than grassland. <input type="checkbox"/> Livestock numbers, type, species and time kept. <input type="checkbox"/> Organic and chemical fertiliser details including imports and exports. <input type="checkbox"/> *Evidence of a Phosphorus requirement if chemical Phosphorus fertiliser sown. <input type="checkbox"/> Storage capacity and where applicable associated evidence to support allowances to reduce capacity. <input type="checkbox"/> Evidence of right to graze common land. <p>Note that many of the records already exist on farms, for example, IACS, herd and flock records and fertiliser receipts.</p>

* Not a verifiable standard under Cross-Compliance.

Records to be ready by 30 June each year for period 1 January to 31 December of previous year. Records to be retained for inspection from previous five calendar years. Full detail of all measures found in the Guidance Document and at www.dardni.gov.uk and www.ehsni.gov.uk will be available in early 2007.