

Pollution Prevention and Control Northern Ireland

Guidance for Operators on Preparing an Agricultural Waste Audit for IPPC Farming installations.

Version 2
January 2011

Northern Ireland Environment Agency
Industrial Pollution and Radiochemical Inspectorate

Klondyke Building

Cromac Avenue

Gasworks Business Park

Lower Ormeau Road

Belfast

BT7 2JA

Tel: 028 9056 69299 Fax: 028 9056 9263

This version January 2011

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Record of changes

Version	Date	Change
1	May 2009	Document created
2	January 2011	Waste Audit included as a separate template

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1. Introduction:

European Legislation (namely the Waste Framework Directive and the Landfill Directive) requires the United Kingdom to apply existing waste management controls to agricultural waste. For many years there have been legal controls on the management of household, commercial and industrial waste. Agricultural waste has been excluded from Northern Ireland waste management controls. The new Waste Management Regulations (NI) 2006 extends controls to the management of agricultural waste in Northern Ireland and it will be necessary for anyone who produces or manages agricultural waste to comply with the Regulations.

Also, note that all storage and movement of agricultural/controlled waste must comply with Duty of Care. The Controlled Waste (Duty of Care) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2002 came into force in Northern Ireland on 1st October 2002 as amended in 2004. The basis of duty of care is that any person who imports, produces, carries, keeps, treats or disposes of controlled waste, or as a broker, has control of such waste, must take all measures applicable to him in that capacity as are reasonable in the circumstances to:

- Prevent the deposit of controlled waste on land except under the terms of a waste management license;
- Prevent the escape of waste from his control, or that of any other person;
- Secure that any transfer of waste is only to an authorised person; and
- Be accompanied by a description adequate to help any subsequent holder avoid breaching the duty.

Details of the requirements of the Code of Practice is available at:

www.ni-environment.gov.uk/dutyofcarecodeofpractice2005.pdf

Pollution Prevention and Control (PPC) permits require operators to (a) maintain records of waste produced by the activities on the site and records of wastes sent off site from the activities, for either disposal or recovery; (b) take appropriate measures to ensure that waste produced by the activities is avoided or reduced, or where waste is produced it is recovered wherever practicable, or otherwise disposed of in a manner which minimises its impact on the environment; (c) undertake a waste minimisation audit within 3 years of the effective date of the PPC permit together with a plan for reducing waste quantities in any areas identified in the audit.

2. Preparing for a Waste Minimisation Audit

The basic principle of Waste Minimisation is to identify opportunities for improvement - following the steps in this simple waste minimisation audit will allow you to manage your waste more effectively and identify how you can Reduce, Reuse or Recycle your waste.

1. **Review current practice** – carry out a review of your current management practices. Evaluate the nature, the quantity and the full costs of dealing with waste. Identify the source and the current disposal route – is the waste disposed of so that the environmental impact is minimised?
2. **Avoid waste** – see if the waste can be avoided from the outset. Consider alternative materials or the use of alternative techniques.
3. **Reduce waste** – where waste cannot be avoided then consider how it may be reduced. Look at all the options. Consider technical changes to the system or the use of other management techniques. Consider staff qualifications and training.
4. **Reuse waste** – some raw materials may be reused as the raw material for another process.
5. **Recycle waste** – many waste materials can be recycled for a secondary purpose. Check local directories and web sites for details of recycling or specialist contractors.
6. **Take action** – compile a shortlist of potential improvements and take action in order to make the savings work. You should implement measures for reducing waste quantities in any areas identified in the audit. You may wish to discuss these measures and when you will implement them, with the Inspector.

The DEFRA guide “Saving money by reducing waste – waste minimisation manual: a practical guide for farmers and growers” (2006) provides information on types of agricultural wastes and options for waste minimisation. The DARD Code of good agricultural practice for the prevention of pollution of water, air and soil (2008) also gives information on agricultural wastes including waste types, options for disposal, etc.

All wastes produced from activities on the installation should be managed in accordance with the Waste Management Regulations (NI) 2006. This may involve the requirement to obtain a waste management licence or licence exemption for the on-site recovery or disposal of wastes from the installation – further information can be obtained from the Land and Resource Management Unit of NIEA. Please note that the unregulated burning of wastes is no longer

permitted – the only exception to this is the burning of small quantities of organic matter eg. hedge trimmings where an exemption may be obtained.

The PPC Regulations require the site of the installation to be restored to a satisfactory state before the permit can be surrendered (on closure of the installation). The presence of any waste residues on the site at that time could prejudice the acceptance of the site as finally restored.

Disposal of carcasses is regulated through the Animal By-Products Regulations (NI) 2003. The regulation of animal by-products is the responsibility of DARD Veterinary Service, whose prime concern is the protection of animal health and human health. Animal carcasses must be disposed of in accordance with the requirements of the Animal By-Products Regulations (NI) 2003 ie. disposed of in a DARD approved incinerator or removed by a licensed contractor to a DARD approved rendering plant.

The following template may be used to record your waste minimisation audit.

Appendix 1

Please retain the guidance section (pages i to vi) for your own information and submit the audit (pages 1 to 2).

Contents of this submission

It is an offence under Regulation 33 of the Pollution Prevention and Control Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003 to:

- Make a statement which you know to be false or misleading in a material particular
- Recklessly make a statement which is false or misleading in a material particular, where that statement is made in purported compliance with a requirement to furnish any information imposed by or under any provision of the Regulations.

Name:

Signature:

Date: