

Control of 

Agricultural Pollution Regulations

Fact Sheet

January 2023 Measures - UPDATED JANUARY 2023

The second phase of the regulations came into force on 1 January 2023. Some farm businesses will see minimal or no impact; others will need time and support to become compliant. The phased approach will provide time for you to prepare and make any changes needed.

Don't panic - every farm is different, so take the time to read the guidance available in detail, before making any assumptions about the impact on your business.

Support is available from Farming Connect and the Control of Agricultural Pollution Regulations Helpline operated by ADAS.

In areas previously within a Nitrate Vulnerable Zone, there is no phased approach and all of the rules have been applied from 1 April 2021.

Nutrient management planning

The Nutrient Management Plan (NMP) is used to demonstrate your compliance with the Regulations, but it is also an important tool in managing the optimum application of nitrogen fertilisers to your holding which can improve crop growth, reduce the use of manufactured fertiliser and reduce the risk of pollution.

- Fertiliser inputs must not exceed specified crop limits.
- A limit of 250kg/ha of nitrogen applies to the spreading of organic manure to any field for any 12 month period.
- Recording the import or export of organic manures.
- Welsh Government provide templates for the recording of Nutrient Management Plans; however, you can maintain your own records provided the criteria of the regulations are met.
- Copies of Nutrient Management Plans must be stored for a minimum of five years and must be made available for inspection if requested.

Storage of organic manures (other than slurry)

Organic manure (other than slurry) or any bedding contaminated with any organic manure must be stored either:

- In a vessel
- In a covered building
- On an impermeable surface (liquid arising from any solid manure stored on an impermeable surface is classed as *slurry* and must be contained appropriately)
- In a temporary field site

Temporary field sites

Temporary field sites must not be located:

- In any single position for more than 12 consecutive months or the same place as one constructed within the last two years
- In a field liable to flooding or becoming waterlogged
- Within 10m of surface water or a land drain, within 30m of a watercourse on land identified as having an incline greater than 20% or within 50m of a spring, well or borehole.

Risk maps

Risk maps must be produced and can be designed to enable you to comply with other measures as well as these Regulations. You must update the risk map with any changes and you must keep all copies of your risk map, for a minimum of five years.

You can view the Farming Connect factsheet on risk maps or the Welsh Government's guidance to identify the full list of features required for the risk map.

Controlling the spread of nitrogen fertiliser

Any person spreading nitrogen fertiliser must do so in as accurate manner as possible.

- Slurry spreading equipment must have a low spreading trajectory that is below 4m from the ground.
- Spreading equipment with a trajectory of more than 4m from the ground may be used on land that has a low run-off risk and where the equipment has an application rate below 2mm per hour.

From 30 April 2023 - Nitrogen limit for the spreading of livestock manures

Welsh Government are providing a 3 month extension to the implementation of the annual 170kg/ha limit for nitrogen from livestock manure averaged over the holding, either directly deposited by the animal or by spreading to 30 April 2023. This requirement will apply from 30 April 2023.

Other 1 January 2023 measures are not affected.

SUPPORT AVAILABLE:

- Farming Connect: gov.wales/farmingconnect
- Agricultural Pollution Regulations Helpline operated by ADAS: **01974 847 000**
- Detailed guidance can be found on the Welsh Government's website: gov.wales/land-management