

Summary of Main Agreed Changes to Nitrates Regulations

<p>Transitional Provisions for Pig / Poultry Manure and Spent Mushroom Compost (SMC)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The current arrangements whereby the Phosphorus (P) limits may be exceeded are to be extended until 1 January 2013, after which the excess P that may be applied will be limited to 5kg per hectare. From 1 January 2015, that excess may not exceed 3kgs / ha. From 1 January 2017, the application of SMC and pig or poultry manures may not exceed the maximum quantities set down in the Regulations.
<p>Nitrogen (N) Application Limits and Nitrogen Availability</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The maximum fertilisation rates of N on winter wheat to be set at 210, 180, 120 and 80 kg/ha across index 1-4 (Table 16). The reference yield for spring barley to be set at 6.5 tonnes/ha (Table 16). Where malting barley is grown under a contract to a purchaser of malting barley, an extra 20 kg N/ha may be applied where it is shown on the basis of agronomic advice that additional nitrogen is needed to address a proven low protein content in the grain (Table 16). The reference to 'any crop receiving dressings of organic fertiliser' to be deleted from the nitrogen index for tillage crops table (Table 10). The N availability of SMC to be set at 20% (Table 9). Nitrogen availability figures to be specified for composts (other than SMC), based on the C:N ratio of the product (Table 9A).
<p>Phosphorus (P) Application Limits</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where proof of higher yields is available, an additional 3.8 kg P/ha may be applied to cereals for each additional tonne above a reference yield of 6.5 tonnes/ha (Table 17). In the case of grassland, an added allowance of 15 kg of phosphorus per hectare may be applied at soils phosphorus indices 1, 2, or 3 for each hectare of pasture establishment undertaken (Table 13). The P contribution from concentrates fed to grazing livestock to be calculated on the basis of the previous years concentrate use. The P contribution from concentrates fed to grazing livestock to be based on either known P concentrations (book value or P content provided by supplier) or the default P concentration of 0.5 kg P/100 kg of concentrate used.
<p>Ploughing and Green Cover</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The dates where the establishment of a green cover is required following either (1) the ploughing of arable land or (2) the application of

	<p>a non-selective herbicide to arable land or grassland are to be revised. The date of 15th January to be replaced by 30th November.</p>
Setback Distances from Waters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The setback distance for the application of chemical fertiliser to land in the vicinity of a watercourse to increase from 1.5 metres to 2 metres. • Site-specific and risk-based approach may be used in setting setback distances around drinking water abstraction points.
Other proposed amendments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New requirement that silage bales may not be stored outside of farmyards within 20 metres of a watercourse or drinking water abstraction point in the absence of adequate facilities for the collection and storage of runoff. • For holdings that lie in more than one zone the higher manure storage requirement will apply where 20% or more of the holding lies in the zone with the greater storage requirement. • The soil sampling area permitted (in exceptional circumstances where soil types and cropping of lands were similar during the previous five years) for the taking of a soil sample for the analysis of phosphorus or organic matter content to be reduced from 12 hectares to 8 hectares.