### Summary of Main Agreed Changes to Nitrates Regulations

<table>
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<th>Section</th>
<th>Changes</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Transitional Provisions for Pig / Poultry Manure and Spent Mushroom Compost (SMC)</strong></td>
<td>- 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.</td>
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| **Nitrogen (N) Application Limits and Nitrogen Availability**            | - 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). |
| **Phosphorus (P) Application Limits**                                    | - 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. |
| **Ploughing and Green Cover**                                            | - The dates where the establishment of a green cover is required following either (1) the ploughing of arable land or (2) the application of |
a non-selective herbicide to arable land or grassland are to be revised. The date of 15th January to be replaced by 30th November.

| Setback Distances from Waters | • 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 | • 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. |