



# NMP Online – User Update 5 – 23 August 2016

## Using Plan Safety in NMP-Online (Updated)

### *Plan Safety*

A plan safety option exists within NMP Online to protect farmers against an inadvertent over-application of chemical nutrient which could lead to DAFM penalties if inspected.

### *The Problem*

**Advised rates** of fertilisers in a NMP are always based on the **planned grassland stocking rate**

**Maximum rates of N and P for DAFM inspection / records** are always based on the **actual Grassland stocking rate**.

If actual stocking rate differs from planned stocking rate, maximum fertiliser levels could be lower leading to a penalty. The Plan Safety system provides a mechanism to reduce this risk by reducing the maximum chemical allowance for the crop to the band below the planned level.

What does Plan Safety do?

- When plan safety is turned on it lowers the maximum fertiliser allowance to the next lower band

When should you consider using plan safety?

- When stocking rates are in the following bands (or if there is a risk of a substantail lowering of stocking rate across a band limit)

Planned SR	Risk related to actual SR
85-95	Drop below 85 reduces P allowance
130 - 140	Drop below 130 reduces P allowance
170 - 180	Drop below 170 reduces N and P allowance
200-210	Increase above 210 reduces N allowance
210-220	Drop below 210 reduces P allowance

NMP Online will include a warning in the system when the plan is within any of these ranges and plan safety is switched off. The warning is as follows:

**Warning!** The grassland stocking rate of this plan is close to (within 10 kg/ha) of a threshold that could reduce the fertiliser allowance on the farm. Selecting the 'Plan Safety Option' to calculate maximum N and P allowances on a precautionary basis will reduce the risk of the fertiliser allowance being exceeded on the farm due to unexpected changes in stocking rates.

Switching on Plan Safety – Yes or No

Switching on Plan safety will have the impact of lowering the maximum amount of chemical N and P on the farm. Where soil fertility is falling on the farm the impact of using plan safety could be substantial. However, over utilisation of N or P could lead to a penalty. The level of the penalty varies according to

1. The percentage over application based on DAFM Calculations
2. Previous penalties for the same offence

Things to consider:

- Total allowable P - If the total allowed chemical P is relatively low (based on volumes of organic manure, soil index and meal feeding) there is a risk of a large % over allocation with a relatively small amount of extra nutrient
- It is very important to communicate with the farmer – outlining the risk and assessing the need to use plan safety. A farmer may be willing to accept the risk in the knowledge that the potential penalty is low. **It is vital that farmers are aware of the risk.**

## Maximum rates of N and P for plans

Table from SI for Grassland allowances (SI - Tables 12 & 13 combined)

Grassland Stocking rate	Fertiliser Allowance as per SI				
	N	P Allowance			
Plan Safety = <b>NO</b>		Index 1	Index 2	Index 3	Index 4
<85	226	31	21	11	0
86-130	226	36	26	16	0
131-170	226	41	31	21	0
171-210	306	46	36	26	0
>= 211	279	51	41	31	0

Table showing N & P allowances in NMP-Online when Plan Safety is activated.

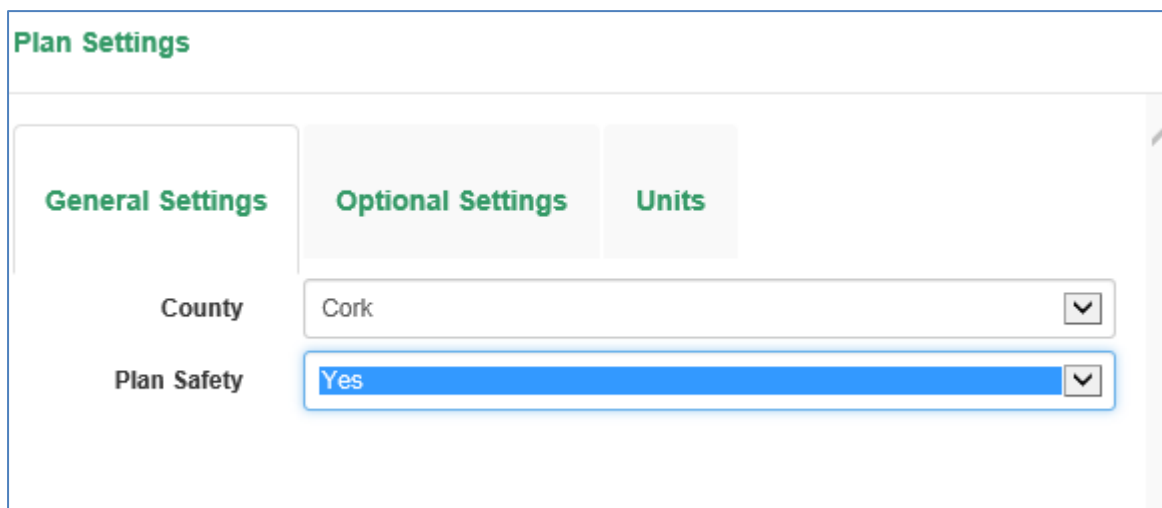
Grassland Stocking rate	Fertiliser Allowance with Plan Safety On				
	N	P Allowance			
Plan Safety = <b>YES</b>		Index 1	Index 2	Index 3	Index 4
<85	226	31	21	11	0
86-130	226	31	21	11	0
131-170	226	36	26	16	0
171-190	226	41	31	21	0
*190-210	279	46	36	26	0
>= 211	279	46	36	26	0

Figures in Red show where changes occur.

\*Nitrogen allowance reduces as stocking rate goes over 210 kg/ ha

## Plan Safety Instructions

- Click on setting ( Cog wheel)
- Select General Settings
- Select Yes for Plan Safety
- This can de deselected using the same Instructions.



The screenshot shows a web interface titled "Plan Settings". It features three tabs: "General Settings" (active), "Optional Settings", and "Units". Under "General Settings", there are two dropdown menus. The first is labeled "County" and is set to "Cork". The second is labeled "Plan Safety" and is set to "Yes".

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