



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

GUIDANCE

# Cross compliance: water protection (SMR 1) (2023)

Summary of the rules to protect water from pollution.

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# Introduction

The Water Resources (Control of Agricultural Pollution) (Wales) Regulations 2021 require all farms to protect water from pollution. Agricultural pollution can be detrimental to public health, the environment, local communities and to the agricultural industry itself.

The regulations set definitions for some materials and specify measures which must be carried out if you intend to undertake certain agricultural activities. While the regulations apply to all land transitional periods have been provided for certain requirements, for land not previously falling within a Nitrate Vulnerable Zone.

This Factsheet should be read in conjunction with [The Water Resources \(Control of Agricultural Pollution\) \(Wales\) Regulations 2021 Guidance for Farmers and Land Managers](#).

## Requirements applying to all land from 1 January 2023

### Record keeping requirements

Ensure compliance with all record keeping requirements. The records required from 1 January 2023 include:

- For holdings with animals kept in a building or hardstanding during the storage period – the amount of slurry or poultry manure that will be produced by the anticipated number of animals during the storage period and the storage capacity required.
- For holdings spreading nitrogen fertiliser – copies of nitrogen management

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plan and record of subsequent applications. For holdings importing or exporting livestock manure or slurry – records of all imports and exports to include dates, manure type, volume nitrogen content and destination.

- Take all sources of nitrogen into account - soil supply, organic manures and manufactured fertilisers when writing your nitrogen plan and calculating nitrogen crop requirements

**Full details of all record keeping requirements, including exemptions, are available in [The Water Resources \(Control of Agricultural Pollution\) \(Wales\) Regulations 2021 Guidance for Farmers and Land Managers](#).**

All records must be kept for a minimum of five years and must be made available for inspection on request.

## Spreading organic manures

- If you spread organic manure, you must produce and update a map of the holding (a 'Risk Map'). A copy of the Risk Map must be made available on request. Details of what must be included on the risk map and guidance on how to produce the risk map is available in [The Water Resources \(Control of Agricultural Pollution\) \(Wales\) Regulations 2021 Guidance for Farmers and Land Managers](#).
- Spread organic materials and fertilisers as accurately as possible and in a way which does not contaminate water courses, taking into account slope, ground cover, proximity to surface water, weather conditions, soil type and presence of land drains
- Do not carry out spreading of organic manures within the no spread zones
  - 50m of a borehole, spring or well
  - 10m of surface water (6m if precision spreading)
- When applying specific organic manure to bare soil or stubble, you must incorporate it into the soil as soon as possible, and within 24 hours at the latest (exemptions may apply – see guidance)

- Spread slurry using equipment with a low spreading trajectory (below four metres from the ground).

## Spreading manufactured fertilisers

- Manufactured nitrogen fertilisers must not be spread within two metres of surface water.
- Comply with the closed periods for manufactured nitrogen fertilisers (exemptions may apply). Further clarification regarding closed periods for applying manufactured nitrogen fertiliser are set out in the guidance

## Nitrogen limits

- Do not spread more than 250 kg/ha total nitrogen from organic manures on any given hectare in any 12-month period
- The total amount of nitrogen (organic and manufactured) permitted to be spread on specified crops must not exceed the maximum nitrogen limit (See guidance for specified individual crop limits).

## Storage of organic manures other than slurry

- Comply with rules on the location and storage of solid manures, including poultry manure.
- Comply with the temporary field heap location and duration requirements

## Silage storage

- Make sure that silage storage systems are built in accordance with the relevant construction standards, and field silage site rules are met (see

guidance). [Natural Resources Wales / Silage and slurry storage](#)

- Carry out regular inspections of installations and make timely repairs where necessary
- Comply with any notices served by Natural Resources Wales (NRW) that require improvements to be made to an installation or field silage site.

## Notifications

- Notify NRW in writing about a new, substantially enlarged, or substantially reconstructed silo or slurry storage system at least 14 days before beginning construction. [Natural Resources Wales / Silage and slurry storage](#)
- Notify NRW of the place where field silage (made on open ground) is to be made at least 14 days before that site is first used

Additional requirements will apply to all land from 1 April 2023 and 1 August 2024 – these are set out in the guidance. You should ensure you are able to comply with these changes from 1 April 2023 and 1 August 2024.

## Requirements applying only to land previously within a Nitrate Vulnerable Zone (NVZ)

View a map of [land previously falling within a Nitrate Vulnerable Zone \(NVZ\) on DataMapWales](#).

## Slurry storage

- Make sure that slurry is collected and stored in systems that meet the requirements for, durability, maintenance and safety zones, are built in accordance with the relevant construction standards and have sufficient

capacity to meet all the requirements of the regulations [Natural Resources Wales / Silage and slurry storage](#)

- Carry out regular inspections of installations and make timely repairs where necessary

## Whole holding limit

- Limit the total nitrogen in livestock manure applied to land either by spreading, or directly grazing animals so as not to exceed of 170kg/ha across the farm

## Closed periods for high nitrogen organic manures

- Comply with closed periods and post closed period limits for high nitrogen fertilisers, including slurry.
- Ensure adequate storage capacity for all livestock manure or slurry to meet the requirements of the closed periods, associated rules and other requirements as set out in the guidance.

## Field checks applying to all land from 1 April 2023

- Check compliance with the Control of Agricultural Pollution Regulations requirements including record keeping requirements. All records will be checked at inspection.
- Check storage of organic manures (other than slurry) are stored correctly including temporary field heaps.
- Check organic manures and manufactured fertiliser has been applied as required in regulations
- Check for notice to NRW of any new or substantially re constructed slurry or

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silage storage system.

- Assess capacity, durability, maintenance and safety zones for the making and storage of silage in clamps, bales and field heaps.
- Do not go into silage effluent tanks – inspect them from the outside only.

## **Field checks applying only to land previously within a Nitrate Vulnerable Zone (NVZ)**

- Check compliance with all requirements of the Control of Agricultural Pollution Regulations.
- Check actions have been taken in line with any notices issued by NRW.
- Assess capacity, durability, maintenance and safety zones for the storage of slurry.
- Assess farmer's regular inspection regime (inspection plan and records, as appropriate for the installation and components) and check for corrosion, damage, and leaks.

## **Good practice**

- Read the guidance literature to help you comply with all the requirements.
- Refer to the guidance which provides templates as an aid to completing the necessary plans, records, and calculations.
- If contractors are spreading organic manures for you, provide them with a copy of your risk map.
- Ensure regular soil and manure analysis and use the results to influence nutrient planning, to include phosphate as well as nitrogen.



## Further information

For further information please contact:

- Agricultural Pollution Regulations Helpline (ADAS) 01974 847000
- Natural Resources Wales
- Farming Connect

or see [Cross compliance: useful contacts \(2022\)](#) factsheet within this pack.

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