

Changes To And Reminders For NVZ Regulations



Booklet Change

For full information on the new NVZ changes, please refer to the new NVZ handbook entitled '*Guidance On Complying With The Rules For Nitrate Vulnerable Zones In England For 2013 To 2016*'

This replaces the previous pack of separate leaflets 1 to 9.

A PDF version can be found at

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/261371/pb14050-nvz-guidance.pdf Alternatively call Defra Publications: 020 7238 6575

Nitrogen Planning

- A fertiliser plan must be prepared before any Nitrogen (from either muck or a bag) is applied.
- To be compliant with NVZ rules it should take into account nitrogen in the soil, crop nitrogen requirement and any available nitrogen in organic manures.
- It is likely that your agronomist will be preparing such a plan for you on your arable land.
- However, please check that you have these records along with a nitrogen plan for any areas such as grassland and gamecover which fall outside of the normal arable remit.

NMax

- NEW RULE - From Jan 2014 the NMax calculation must include all organic manures which include compost, sewage sludge and digestate. Total and available Nitrogen figures can be obtained from either RB209/PLANET or actual sample results provided by the supplier/manufacturer.
- Cattle and Pig slurry available N values have increased. See NVZ booklet pg. 124 for further details.

Organic Manure N Farm Limit

- N Farm limit still 170kg N/ha total N but now includes digestate, compost and sewage sludge.
- Records also need to be kept of any imports/exports of organic manures with specific information required on amount, name & address and date of import/export.
- The N Farm Limit calculation must be done annually.
- Remember the area that can be included in the N Farm Limit calculation includes all of the farmed area on the holding including arable, permanent/temporary grass, stewardship areas and gamecover. Woodland and farm tracks/concrete/buildings must be excluded!

Bagged Nitrogen NO SPREAD periods

Grassland	Tillage Land	Notes
15 th Sept – 15 th Jan	1 st Sept – 15 th Jan	Some crops such as OSR can have bagged N at certain times in closed period – see NVZ handbook

Manure NO SPREAD periods (for high available N manures such as slurries, poultry manure and digestate)

	Grassland	Tillage Land
Sandy or shallow soils (some chalks!)	1 st Sept – 31 st Dec	1 st Aug – 31 st Dec
All other soils	15 th Oct – 31 st Jan	1 st Oct – 31 st Jan

N.B Shallow soil is defined as 'soil less than 40cm deep'

Please note that providing the ground is not waterlogged, snow covered or frozen, some manures such as FYM and compost can be spread all year round.

Slurry/manure applications

- 10m 'no spread zone' for manures next to watercourses can now be reduced to 6m if using precision application i.e. Injectors or trailing shoe
- All farms in an NVZ need a manure risk map for all fields where manure is or will be spread in the future.
- For those areas on farms in NVZ's where manure is not spread and for farms not in an NVZ only a basic risk map is required showing watercourses, springs, wells and boreholes along with the appropriate 'no spread' buffer zones. CMP have the ability to produce professional digital maps if required. Please contact the office for further information.
- Only 30m³/ha of slurry (rather than 50m³/ha as before) or 8t/ha poultry manure may be applied at any one time between the end of the manure closed period and the end of February. There must be an interval of 3 weeks between applications.
- Make sure net field spreadable areas (*field area minus no spread zones*) of fields are used when working out how much manure to apply to a field in order to keep within the 250kg total N/ha field limit.

Field Manure Heaps

- DO NOT locate within 10m of surface water (including ditches) or of a land drain.
- DO NOT locate within 50m of a spring, well or borehole.
- NEW RULE - Effective from 16 May 2014 YOU MUST NOT build or maintain a field heap within 30m of surface water (including ditches) if the land slopes steeply (12 degrees (1 in 5, or 20%) or greater).
- Move any field heap at least every twelve months, leave a 2 year gap before returning to the same site. Same as before
- Keep a record of the sites used for field heaps, and the dates of use. Same as before

Compost

- Maximum of 500kg/ha total N can now be applied every 2 years. In other words, you can apply more than the usual 250kg/ha TOTAL N under this rule providing the 2 year total does not exceed 500kg N/ha.
- To take advantage of this new rule the compost applied must be PAS100 certified.