



GBR No. 14

Environmental Conditions

Farms, Stables and Animal Holding Units

ERA, Environment and Resources Authority regulates the environmental impact of enterprises through two key mechanisms. Smaller scale activities are regulated through a set of General Binding Rules (GBRs) which apply to all enterprises within a common group (e.g. Miscellaneous Group). Larger scale activities are regulated through an Environmental Permit issued on an individual basis by ERA. Certain enterprises of limited environmental significance (e.g. insurance companies) are exempt from control through a GBR or Permit.

The environmental conditions set out in this General Binding Rule (GBR) are aimed at improving the environmental performance of small scale enterprises involved in animal husbandry and dairy production. This group includes the following NACE classes:

- 01 Crop and animal production, hunting and related service activities
 - 01.41 Raising of dairy cattle
 - 01.42 Raising of other cattle and buffaloes
 - 01.43 Raising of horses and other equines
 - 01.45 Raising of sheep and goats
 - 01.46 Raising of swine/pigs
 - 01.47 Raising of poultry
 - 01.49 Raising of other animals
 - 01.62 Support activities for animal production

Environmental Permits

The classes of enterprises listed above are subject to regulation by either an IPPC Permit, Environmental Permit or this GBR.

An IPPC Permit for operation of the establishment must be obtained from ERA in respect of:

- Installations for the intensive rearing of poultry or pigs with more than:
 - 40 000 places for poultry
 - 2000 places for the production of pigs (over 30 kg), or
 - 750 places for sow

The Environmental Conditions in this GBR:

- Apply immediately on start-up of operations by new enterprises
- Apply to an existing enterprise from 6 months after first notification of the GBR
- Do not override the requirements of any other legislation, including any possible need for development consent
- Will be enforced through ERA inspections and penalties
- Apply until such time as they may be superseded for individual enterprises by the requirements of an Environmental Permit, other legal requirements or the amendment of this GBR.

Operators have an obligation to understand and implement the requirements of the GBR. An explanation of these conditions and practical advice on their implementation is given in the ERA General Guidance No 14

1. General Requirements

- 1.1. The keeping of animals and waste management on farms has to follow the guidelines listed in the Code of Good Agricultural Practice as published by the Agriculture Department.

- 1.2. All businesses have a duty of care to protect the environment. The operator shall become familiar with his legal obligations and good environmental practice.
- 1.3. Staff shall be made aware of the importance of environmental protection and receive appropriate training as specified in the Guidance Note.
- 1.4. The site shall be maintained in a tidy condition, free from litter and waste (whether arising from own activities or external sources).
- 1.5. In the event of cessation of business activity on the site, all wastes (including end-of-life or abandoned machinery, tanks and equipment) and hazardous materials must be removed from the site and disposed of appropriately.

2. Waste Management

- 2.1. The waste holder shall prevent escape of waste from his/her control and shall ensure that waste is safely stored and presented for collection, and safely contained.
- 2.2. The manure clamp is to be constructed of an impervious material and contaminated waste-water generated in the manure clamp is to be directed into a cesspit, which is not the same cesspit as that used for waste arising from facilities aimed at human use (e.g. toilets, showers, etc).
- 2.3. The volume of the manure clamp has to be large enough to store manure to be produced by the full quota of animals that the establishment can legally support.
- 2.4. No manure produced by the establishment is to be spread on land during the period between 15th October and the 15th of March. During this same period, no manure is allowed to be stored in areas other than a manure clamp.
- 2.5. Cesspits are to be constructed in such a manner so as not to allow any leakages or spillages to the surrounding environment.
- 2.6. Cesspits should be appropriately ventilated so as to avoid the accumulation of explosive, toxic or corrosive gases.
- 2.7. The area surrounding the cesspit should be rendered impermeable and the ground laid to fall towards the cesspit.

- 2.8. At any particular instance the applicant can be requested by ERA to submit assurance from a competent professional that the cesspit conforms to all above conditions.
- 2.9. Waste water is to pass through a settling tank prior to being channelled into a cesspit, in order to separate any slurry present in the waste water and preventing sediment from accumulating in the cesspit
- 2.10. Settling tanks should be connected to the cesspit by means of a T-shaped pipe, half H pipe thereby enabling any solids present in the waste water to remain in the settling tank.
- 2.11. Cesspits are **not** to be connected to the main sewer but are to be emptied by means of a pump into a tanker, or by a vacuum.
- 2.12. The cesspit is to be emptied regularly at the waste holder's expense so as to prevent overflowing and so as not to constitute a threat to human health and the environment.
- 2.13. Farms having an authorized slaughtering unit should have a grease trap outside the slaughtering unit, connecting to the cesspit via a settling tank.
- 2.14. In the case of dairy farms a separate cesspit/reservoir will have to be used to store waste water containing cleaning detergents that are used to clean the milking machine and coolers. When the detergents used for cleaning are caustic soda and/or hypochlorite in heavily diluted concentrations, water from this cesspit/reservoir may be recycled for use in the cleaning of other farm surfaces.
- 2.15. Dead or fallen animals are to be transported to the public abattoir incinerator for incineration or any appropriate management as may be directed from time to time by the Veterinary and Phytosanitary Regulations Division .
- 2.16. Public conveniences on farms should be connected to the sewerage system or to a separate cesspit other than that collecting liquid waste generated on the farm.
- 2.17. The operator of the establishment is requested to keep records of the amount and volume of solid and liquid waste as well as information on where such wastes are directed to.

- 2.18. All operations concerning the management of waste are subject to the legal provisions of Legal Notice 337 Waste Management (Permit and Control) Regulations of 2001 and Legal Notice 106 Waste Management (Activity Registration) Regulations, 2007, as amended (SL 549.45)
- 2.19. Wastes should preferably be collected for recycling/re-use. When practical, recyclable wastes should be segregated to facilitate recycling.
- 2.20. All wastes shall be stored within a designated and controlled storage area(s) prior to ultimate disposal; wastes to be recycled should be stored in a designated container or area and not mixed with other wastes.
- 2.21. Liquid and hazardous wastes shall be stored in a labelled, closed container(s) within a designated and controlled storage area(s) prior to ultimate disposal. Wastes of different natures should not be mixed in the same container.
- 2.22. Waste oils must be stored in a secure leak proof container and may only be disposed of through a company authorised for the collection of waste oils or at an authorised site. A record must be maintained of the quantities, nature, manner and date of dispatch of the oil.
- 2.23. A registered waste carrier should transport any waste generated by the establishment. Consignment notes should accompany waste transfers where applicable.
- 2.24. No waste is to escape in any way into public areas at any time from the time the waste is being generated to the time the waste is being disposed of in an appropriate manner.
- 2.25. The storage of waste on garrigue or any other natural or semi-natural land is prohibited.
- 2.26. Off-site disposal or recycling of wastes may only take place at a facility licensed for that purpose (e.g. only inert waste may be disposed of at a landfill licensed for inert waste).
- 2.27. Records shall be maintained for the disposal of all waste, including quantities, dates, contractor name and manner of disposal. The records should be maintained for a period of 5 years and be made available, upon request, to an authorised inspector.

3. Emissions to Atmosphere

- 3.1. All processes which generate significant levels of airborne contaminants shall have effective local collection and shall discharge (after treatment where necessary) through a stack or vent located / designed in such a way as to avoid local nuisance (see definition in Guidance Note).
- 3.2. Cesspits should be appropriately ventilated so as to avoid the accumulation of explosive, toxic or corrosive gasses
- 3.3. Extracted fumes and gases, and/or exhaust gases from oil or solid fuel boilers/generators shall vent through stacks extending at least 3 m above roof level or as otherwise specified in DC Policy and Design Guidance document issued by the Planning Directorate. The design and location of the exhaust system should take into account noise and visual intrusion.
- 3.4. Minor exhausts, such as wall grills, shall discharge above head height and be directed upwards.
- 3.5. The exhaust from general building ventilation (e.g. extractors or fans in walls or roofs) shall be vented in such a way as to avoid local nuisance.
- 3.6. For those activities where it can be shown to the satisfaction of ERA that the above venting requirements are not practical, sensible or necessary, stacks and vents shall be located and designed so as to minimise local nuisance in accordance with policies issued by the Planning directorate.
- 3.7. In the event of a local nuisance from emissions to air, the operator must, at the written request of ERA and within 30 working days, identify the specific cause of the nuisance and examine means for its elimination or minimisation including:
 - Relocating / redesigning the stack(s) or vent(s) to a point where nuisance is minimised.
 - Replacement of fuel by lower sulphur content or cleaner burning fuel
 - Use of additional abatement measures
 - Improved storage of materials
 - Closure of certain doors or windows
- 3.8. All abatement equipment and ducting shall be cleaned and maintained according to manufacturer product specifications in a way so as to ensure proper functioning of the equipment. This is to

be carried out on a regular basis and records kept of any such maintenance.

4. Effluent Discharge

- 4.1. This GBR does not exonerate the applicant from applying with the Superintendence of Public Health for the construction of the cesspit(s) or from the requirements of LN 337 Waste Management (Permit and Control) Regulations of 2001 and LN 106 Waste Management (Activity Registration) Regulations, 2007 as amended (SL 549.45)
- 4.2. Foul sewer drains must be strictly segregated from stormwater drains.
- 4.3. The discharge of any type of effluent (including wash waters and contaminated stormwater) to land, stormwater drains or sea is prohibited, unless specifically approved under a permit issued by ERA.
- 4.4. All discharges to the foul sewer (other than from domestic sewage or equivalent) shall comply with the requirements of a license issued by the Water Services Corporation.
- 4.5. Stormwater from areas where contamination by oil or chemicals is likely (such as loading/unloading and bunded areas) shall pass through an adequately sized interceptor.
- 4.6. All reasonable measures to minimise wastage of water should be implemented. Techniques to be employed include regular monitoring of water usage, identification of sources of high water usage, use of triggers on hoses and water efficient taps and appliances.
- 4.7. Contaminated discharges to the land and foul sewer (including wash waters) shall be prohibited unless otherwise permitted by the WSC or ERA. Where requested by the WSC, effluent should pass through an adequately sized and well maintained interceptor.
- 4.8. Open yards catering for animals, are to be constructed in such a manner so as not to allow any leakages or spillages of foul water and manure to the surrounding environment.

- 4.9. All pipe work linking animal holding units and manure clamp to the cess pit, are to be closed and not open to the elements.
- 4.10. Contaminated runoff must be trapped prior to escape into the exterior surroundings to the site.

5. Storage

- 5.1. No storage of waste, equipment or materials is permitted on property outside the site premises.
- 5.2. Non-hazardous waste awaiting collection may be placed outside the site premises for a period not exceeding 12 hours.
- 5.3. Hazardous waste awaiting collection shall never be left unattended or placed outside the site premises and should be disposed of in sites permitted by ERA to receive such waste.
- 5.4. All bulk oil storage tanks shall be provided with an adequately designed bund system with an impermeable base and walls. The capacity of the bund shall be a minimum of 110% of the largest tank within the bund or 25% of the total volume of all the tanks within the bund, whichever is greater. All filling and off-take points shall be located within the bund.
- 5.5. Bulk storage tanks for liquids and associated bunding and pipe work shall be visually inspected at least once a month and certified by a warranted engineer on an annual basis. Records for such inspections should be kept for a minimum period of two years and should be made available upon request by ERA.
- 5.6. Drums and containers of chemicals/oils shall be stored in designated and secure storage areas. Storage areas shall be bunded or otherwise designed so that surface and ground waters cannot be contaminated by spillages.
- 5.7. The construction of fuel tanks shall comply with relevant REWS Regulator for Energy and Water Services standards.
- 5.8. All storage of materials or waste shall take place only in locations where thorough clean-up and site reinstatement can be readily undertaken.

5.9. Spillages of oil or other hazardous material shall receive immediate attention to prevent escape to drain, surface water or land. Spilled material shall be disposed of in an appropriate manner.