

## **Guidance Note**

### **Farms Stables and animal holding units Group**

#### **Introduction**

This note provides an explanation of the environmental conditions applicable to the Farms Stables and animal holding units as set out in GBR No.14. The conditions are aimed at improving the environmental performance of small and medium enterprises and are part of a comprehensive new approach to environmental protection based on EU legislation, but with an emphasis on those issues of most relevance to our densely populated island.

If you are uncertain about any of the conditions you should seek clarification from the Environmental Permitting Team in ERA (phone 22923712).

The environmental conditions set out in the GBR represent minimum requirements only and every enterprise involved in the husbandry of Animals should endeavour to act in a more environmentally sensitive manner so as to be a good citizen and to contribute to the development of a sustainable environment. Improved environmental performance can often be achieved at little cost and can create business advantages

ERA's tools and legislation controlling Farms, are mainly the requirement to register activities under Schedule 2, Activity 42 of LN 106 of 2007, Waste Management (Activity Registration) Regulations 2007 as amended (SL 549.45)(See Appendix I).

#### **1. The activities with thresholds are subject to controls under General Binding Rules:**

Activities subject to controls under the General Binding Rules as per provisions of Legal Notice 106 of 2007, Waste Management (Registration), Regulations 2007, are annexed below. Further details can be reviewed in the Legal Notice. For the purposes of the above mentioned regulations some activities do not require registration ("no registration"), others shall require registration ("registration only") whilst other activities require registration and must await confirmation from the Authority ("registration with confirmation") prior to commencement of operations. These can be found in Schedule 2 of the Legal Notice, however, relevant sections of are attached below for your information.

Class Number	Description of Class	Type of registration required
42	Generation and management of waste in establishments holding animal livestock including farms, stables and kennels	Registration with Confirmation
42(6)	The keeping of animals/birds/poultry in a domestic property and the transport of manure generated by the same animals in a private vehicle is exempt from registration See L.N.	No Registration

With reference to Activity 42, most establishments in this category require registration with confirmation, however, those falling under section (6) of this category, due to the following thresholds, registration is not required, however certain provisions also apply:

***“(6) The keeping of animals/birds/poultry in a domestic property and the transport of manure generated by the same animals in a private vehicle is exempt from registration:***

***Provided that:***

***(a) Conditions (a), (b) and (t) are observed (see LN).***

***(b) The owner of the property where the livestock is kept ensures that any waste is stored in a way that does not harm the environment.***

***(c) Manure generated by these animals should be spread on land in line with the Code of Good Agricultural Practice.***

***(d) This exemption from registration does not apply if more than 10 dogs, or 25 does/fowls, or 5 goats/sheep, or 2 horses, or any 100 animals/birds in total, are kept on the premises.”***

Some large farms also fall within the scope of IPPC regulations to which related guidance notes which can be accessed through the following link:

<http://eippcb.jrc.es/reference/>

**Appendix I - Excerpt from L.N. 106 of 2007 waste management (activity registration) Regulations 2007.**

**42. Generation and management of waste in establishments holding animal livestock including farms, stables and kennels**

- (1) The generation and management of wastes by the establishment generating the waste.
- (2) The operation of manure clamps.
- (3) The use of cesspits for foul water generated by establishments holding animal livestock other than for cesspits holding wastewater generated by toilets, showers and similar facilities intended for human use.
- (4) The operation of authorized slaughterhouses, meat cutting facilities and meat processing units.
- (5) The onsite treatment of waste generated by the same establishment (including the operation of separation equipment).

Provided that:

- (a) 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 agricultural practice as published by the Agricultural Department.
- (b) 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.
- (c) 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).
- (d) 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.

(e) 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.

(f) Cesspits are to be constructed in such a manner so as not to allow any leakages or spillages to the surrounding environment.

(g) Cesspits should be appropriately ventilated so as to avoid the accumulation of explosive, toxic or corrosive gasses.

(h) The area surrounding the cesspit should be rendered impermeable and the ground laid to fall towards the cesspit.

(i) 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.

(j) 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.

(k) 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.

(l) 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.

(m) The cesspit is to be emptied regularly at the waste holders expense so as to prevent overflowing and so as not to constitute a threat to human health and the environment.

(n) Farms having an authorized slaughtering unit should have a grease trap outside the slaughtering unit, connecting to the cesspit via a settling tank.

(o) 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.

(p) Dead or fallen animals and slaughterhouse wastes 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 Food and Veterinary Regulation Division.

(q) 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.

(r) 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.

(s) A registered waste carrier should transport any waste generated by the establishment. Consignment notes should accompany waste transfers where applicable.

(t) 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.

(u) A Waste Management Plan to the satisfaction of the Authority has been submitted together with the registration.

(6) The keeping of animals/birds/poultry in a domestic property and the transport of manure generated by the same animals in a private vehicle is exempt from registration:

Provided that:

(a) Conditions (a), (b) and (t) are observed.

(b) The owner of the property where the livestock is kept ensures that any waste is stored in a way that does not harm the environment.

(c) Manure generated by these animals should be spread on land in line with the Code of Good Agricultural Practice.

(d) This exemption from registration does not apply if more than 10 dogs, or 25 does/fowls, or 5 goats/sheep, or 2 horses, or any 100 animals/birds in total, are kept on the premises.