

How to apply for a derogation

Application forms will be available at:

- Water Management Unit, 17 Antrim Road, Lisburn, BT28 3AL Tel: (028) 9262 3189
- Your local DARD office – Contact Countryside Management Branch Staff
- On-line at www.ehsni.gov.uk or www.dardni.gov.uk

It is anticipated that regulations to implement the measures will be brought into operation, subject to completion of the required NI Assembly procedures, in early 2008.

A comprehensive Guidance Booklet will then be available and CAFRE will be organising a series of information meetings to support those farmers considering applying for a derogation.

This derogation is particularly important for intensive grassland farms in NI with higher than average stocking rates.

Nitrates Directive Derogation Summary

Eligible farmers can apply up to 250kg grazing livestock manure nitrogen per hectare per year provided certain measures are adhered to.

Deadline for applications
1 March 2008

A summary of the key measures contained in the derogation are shown inside this leaflet.

Summary of key measures required to comply with the **Nitrates Directive Derogation**

Deadline for applications **1 March 2008**

Management

Apply to EHS for derogation each year by 1 March

- Must operate below 250kg N/ha/yr from grazing livestock manure (cattle, sheep, deer, goats and horses).
- Have at least 80% of agricultural area grassland.
- Shall not exceed a Phosphorus* (P) balance of 10kg P/ha/yr.
- Must not exceed 272 kg N/ha/yr from chemical fertiliser or other organic manure not being livestock manure on grassland on dairy farms. Other livestock farms must not exceed 222 kg N/ha/yr.
- Soil sample at least every four hectares of land every four years.
- May not spread manure in autumn before grass cultivation.
- Temporary grassland must only be ploughed in spring.
- Ploughed grass must be followed by a crop with a high nitrogen demand.
- Must not grow leguminous (nitrogen fixing) plants. However clover swards with less than 50% clover and cereals and peas undersown with grass are allowed.

(*To convert P₂O₅ to P multiply by 0.436)

Fertilisation Plan

Prepare and have available a fertilisation plan by 1 March for that calendar year. It must include:

- planned average livestock numbers for the year;
- description of livestock housing and storage system;
- volume of livestock manure storage;
- planned livestock manure N and P produced on the farm;
- planned areas of grass and other crops to be grown and noted on farm map;
- N and P requirements of grass and other crops to be grown;
- soil analysis results when available;
- planned livestock manure to be imported or exported;
- planned N and P applications from livestock manure over each uniform area of soil type and crop;
- planned N and P to be applied from chemical and other organic; manures over each uniform area of soil type and crop.

Plans to be revised no later than seven days detailing any changes in agricultural practices.

Fertilisation Account

Prepare and submit a fertilisation account to EHS each year by 1 March for the previous calendar year. It must include:

- N and P chemical fertiliser usage and crop areas;
- livestock numbers;
- N livestock manure details including export and import details;

- the amount of P in agricultural products entering and leaving the farm, for example, concentrates, milk, livestock, eggs, livestock manures, fertilisers forages and crops;
- how dirty water is managed.