

**Summary of Main Changes in Nitrates Regulations (SI No. 610 of 2010)**

<p>Transitional Provisions for Pig / Poultry Manure and Spent Mushroom Compost (SMC)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A limited extension of the previous transitional arrangement until 1 January 2013, after which the excess P that may be applied will be limited to 5kg per hectare. From 1 January 2015, that excess may not exceed 3kgs / ha. From 1 January 2017; the application of SMC and pig or poultry manures; may not exceed the maximum P rates set down in the Regulations (Art. 34 (3)).</li> </ul>
<p>Nitrogen (N) Application Limits and Nitrogen Availability</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The maximum fertilisation rates of N on winter wheat have been increased to 210, 180, 120 and 80 kg/ha across N index 1-4 (Schedule 2, Table 16).</li> <li>• The reference yield for spring barley has been reduced to 6.5 tonnes/ha (Schedule 2, Table 16).</li> <li>• Where malting barley is grown under a contract to a purchaser of malting barley, an extra 20 kg N/ha may be applied where it is shown on the basis of agronomic advice that additional nitrogen is needed to address a proven low protein content in the grain (Schedule 2, Table 16).</li> <li>• The reference to 'any crop receiving dressings of organic fertiliser' has been deleted from the nitrogen index for tillage crops table (Schedule 2, Table 10).</li> <li>• The prescribed nitrogen availability figure for SMC has been reduced to 20% (Schedule 2, Table 9).</li> <li>• Nitrogen availability figures have been prescribed for composts (other than SMC); these are based on the carbon (C): nitrogen (N) ratio of the compost (Schedule 2, Table 9A).</li> </ul>
<p>Phosphorus (P) Application Limits</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Where proof of higher yields is available, an additional 3.8 kg P/ha may be applied to cereals on soils at phosphorus indices 1, 2 or 3 for each additional tonne above a reference yield of 6.5 tonnes/ha. The higher yields shall be based on the best yield achieved in any of the three previous harvests, at 20% moisture content. (Schedule 2, Table 17).</li> <li>• In the case of grassland, an additional 15 kg of phosphorus per hectare may be applied on soils at phosphorus indices 1, 2, or 3 for each hectare of pasture establishment undertaken (Schedule 2, Table 13).</li> <li>• The P contribution from concentrates fed to grazing livestock must be calculated on the basis of the previous years concentrate use (Art. 16 (4)).</li> <li>• The P contribution from concentrates fed to grazing livestock must be based on either known P concentrations (phosphorus content provided by the feed supplier in the case of compound feedingstuffs or standard phosphorus value in the case of straight feedingstuffs) or the default P concentration of 0.5 kg</li> </ul>

	P/100 kg of concentrate used (Art. 16 (4)).
Ploughing and Green Cover	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The dates where the establishment of a green cover is required following either (1) the ploughing of arable land or (2) the application of a non-selective herbicide to arable land or grassland have been revised. The date of 15<sup>th</sup> January is replaced by 30<sup>th</sup> November (Art. 21).</li> </ul>
Setback Distances from Waters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The setback distance for the application of chemical fertiliser to land in the vicinity of a watercourse has been increased to 2 metres (Art. 17 (1)).</li> <li>In the case of organic fertiliser or soiled water; site-specific and risk-based approach to be used by Local Authorities in setting setback distances around drinking water abstraction points, following assessment of conditions (Art. 17 (2), (3), (4), (5), (6), (7), (8) and (9)).</li> </ul>
Other amendments of the Regulations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Silage bales shall not be stored outside of farmyards within 20 metres of a watercourse or drinking water abstraction point in the absence of adequate facilities for the collection and storage of any effluent arising (Art. 17 (17)).</li> <li>For holdings that lie in more than one zone the higher manure storage requirement applies where 20% or more of the holding lies in the zone with the greater storage requirement (Schedule 3, 2).</li> <li>The soil sampling area permitted (in exceptional circumstances where soil types and cropping of lands were similar during the previous five years) for the taking of a soil sample for the analysis of phosphorus or organic matter content is reduced to 8 hectares (Schedule 1).</li> </ul>