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Overview of Cross Compliance Standards and Inspection processes utilised by DARD and NIEA

1 Background

This paper provides a brief overview of cross compliance, the associated standards and the actual process of inspection within Northern Ireland.

Cross compliance is a key feature of the Common Agricultural Policy direct payments (Pillar 1) and certain programmes within the rural development programme (Pillar 2) that make up the CAP.

In basic terms cross compliance means that all farmers within Northern Ireland claiming support under a range of EU programmes linked to the CAP are required to meet a series of requirements towards the protection of the environment, animal health and welfare and public health.

The list of CAP programmes to which these cross compliance requirements apply in 2015 is as follows:

- Basic Payment Scheme;
 - Greening Payment;
 - Young Farmer Scheme;
 - Areas of Natural Constraint Scheme;
 - Environmental Farming Scheme;
 - Forestry Expansion Scheme;
 - Forest Protection Scheme;
 - Woodland Investment Grant;
- and the following schemes which will continue in 2015 and beyond:

- Organic Farming Scheme;
- NI Countryside Management Scheme;
- Woodland Grant Scheme (agreements signed after 1/1/07);
- Farm Woodland Premium Scheme (agreements signed after 1/1/07);
- Sustainable Forest Operation Grant Scheme (agreements signed after 1/1/07).

2 Legislative basis for cross compliance

Table 1 below provides an overview of the legislation that enables cross compliance at an EU and Northern Ireland level, as well as highlighting some of the key features/elements of each.

Table 1: Cross Compliance Legislative basis in Northern Ireland

Origin	Legislation	Key sections
EU (Parliament and Council)	Regulation 1306/2013 of the European Parliament on the financing, managing and monitoring of the common agricultural policy ¹	<p>Lays down rules on the operation of cross compliance within the CAP (Article 1)</p> <p>Dedicated Title V1 – on cross compliance rules. 2 chapters and 11 articles covering issues as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provisions for administrative penalties for beneficiaries who don't comply with cross compliance (Article 91) • definition of beneficiaries subject to cross compliance – those receiving direct payments (Article 92) • setting rules on cross compliance in terms of statutory management requirements and standards for good agricultural and environmental condition of land (Article 93) • identification of obligations of Member States in relation to good agricultural and environmental condition (Article 94) • requirement to provide cross compliance

¹ [Regulation \(EU\) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the financing, management and monitoring of the common agricultural policy and repealing Council Regulations \(EEC\) No 352/78, \(EC\) No 165/94, \(EC\) No 2799/98, \(EC\) No 814/2000, \(EC\) No 1290/2005 and \(EC\) No 485/2008, 17 December 2013](#)

Origin	Legislation	Key sections
		<p>information to beneficiaries (Article 95)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • checks of cross compliance – use of administration and control systems and requirement to carry out on the spot checks (Article 96) • Application of administrative penalties (Article 97) • Application of administrative penalties in Bulgaria, Croatia and Romania (Article 98) • Calculation of administrative penalty (Article 99): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ non-compliance due to negligence – reduction shall not exceed 5% and in case of reoccurrence shall not exceed 15% ➤ intentional non-compliance reduction not less than 20% and up to total exclusion • Amounts resulting from cross compliance – Member States can retain 25% of reductions and exclusion (administrative penalties) (Article 100) • Commission powers to develop implementing Acts (Article 101) <p>Annex II of the Regulation also identifies the requirements and standards in relation to Statutory Management Requirements (SMRs) and Good Agricultural and Environmental Condition (GAEC)</p>
EU (Commission)	Commission Implementing Regulation 809/2014 laying down rules for the application of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council with regard to the integrated administration and control system, rural development measures and cross compliance ²	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notifications – requirement for Member States to inform the Commission of results of cross compliance checks. Also required to report options chosen for the control of the cross-compliance requirements and the competent control bodies responsible for the checks of the cross-compliance requirements and standards (Article 9) • Sets requirement for on-the-spot checks to ensure effective verification of the requirements and standards relevant for cross-compliance (Article 24) • Announcement of on the spot checks - shall not exceed 48 hours in relation to animal inspections (Article 25) • Control report – notification of non-compliance (Article 41) • Control system as regards cross-compliance (Article 65) • Minimum control rate of on the spot checks - carry out on-the-spot checks on at least 1 % of the total number of beneficiaries (Article 68) • Selection of the control sample - between 20 % and 25 % of the minimum number of beneficiaries should be selected randomly (Article 69)

² [Commission Implementing Regulation laying down rules for the Commission Implementing Regulation \(EU\) No 809/2014 application of Regulation \(EU\) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament, 17 July 2014](#)

Origin	Legislation	Key sections
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calculation and application of administrative penalties in case of negligence - maximum reduction shall not exceed 5 % of the total amount. Where a reoccurrence is determined together with another non-compliance or another reoccurrence, the resulting percentage reductions shall be added together. The maximum reduction shall, however, not exceed 15 % of the total (Article 74) • Calculation and application of administrative penalties in case of intentional non-compliance
EU (Commission)	Commission Delegated Regulation 640/2014 supplementing Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council with regard to the integrated administration and control system and conditions for refusal or withdrawal of payments and administrative penalties applicable to direct payments, rural development support and cross compliance ³	<p>TITLE IV CONTROL SYSTEM AND ADMINISTRATIVE PENALTIES IN RELATION TO CROSS-COMPLIANCE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provisions concerning the maintenance of permanent pasture in relation to cross-compliance; a harmonised basis for the calculation of administrative penalties related to cross-compliance, and conditions for the application and calculation of the administrative penalties related to cross-compliance (Article 1 and 37) • Transitional rules as they relate to cross compliance (Article 42) • General rules covering cross-compliance non-compliance (Article 38) • Calculation and application of administrative penalties in the case of negligence - on negligence of the beneficiary, a reduction shall be applied. That reduction shall, as a general rule, be 3 % of the total amount resulting from the payments and annual premiums, but can be decreased to 1% or increased to 5% (Article 39) • Calculation and application of administrative penalties in cases of intentional non-compliance - the reduction to be applied to the total amount shall, as a general rule, be 20 % of that total amount, but can reduce to 15% or increase to up to 100% (Article 40) • Cumulation of administrative penalties (Article 41)
NI	The Common Agricultural Policy Direct Payments and Support Schemes (Cross Compliance) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014 ⁴	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishes the Competent Control Authorities for each SMR and GAEC • Establishes powers of authorised persons – application to inspectors • Establishes requirement for farmer, employee, agent, contractor or tenant of a farmer to provide

³ [Commission Delegated Regulation \(EU\) No 640/2014 supplementing Regulation \(EU\) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council with regard to the integrated administration and control system and conditions for refusal or withdrawal of payments and administrative penalties applicable to direct payments, rural development support and cross compliance, 11 March 2014](#)

⁴ [The Common Agricultural Policy Direct Payments and Support Schemes \(Cross Compliance\) Regulations \(Northern Ireland\) 2014, Statutory Rules of Northern Ireland, 2014 No. 291, Agriculture](#)

Origin	Legislation	Key sections
		assistance to authorised person <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishes offences and penalties in relation to obstructing or failing to assist authorised person – level 3 fine on summary conviction • Revokes previous regulations • Sets out the actual GAEC standards utilised in Northern Ireland within Schedule 1

3 Cross compliance requirements

There are effectively two types of cross compliance requirement that farmers across the EU are required to meet as follows:

- Statutory Management Rules (SMRs);
- Good Agricultural and Environmental Condition (GAEC).

In numerical terms there are a total of thirteen SMR and seven GAEC requirements within the current CAP. It is also worth noting that the SMR requirements are fixed across the EU, whilst Member States (and regions within them in the case of the UK) have the ability to tailor the GAEC requirements to their particular environmental circumstances.

DARD publishes and regularly updates a booklet detailing the Northern Ireland Cross Compliance Verifiable Standards⁵, with the latest version having been released in August 2015. The latest version of the booklet provides farmers and other stakeholders with information on each of the cross compliance requirements and also details the types of information that farmers may be asked for if they are subject to a cross compliance inspection. A summary of each of the requirements and associate verifiable standards is provided in Appendix 1.

Within Northern Ireland responsibility for adherence to the cross compliance requirements is split across a number of departments/public bodies as set out in table 2.

Table 2: Bodies responsible for Cross Compliance requirements in Northern Ireland (Competent Control Authorities)

Body	SMR responsibilities	GAEC responsibilities
DARD Service Delivery Group – Agri-Food Inspection Branch	SMR 4 – Food and Feed Law SMR 10 – Restrictions on the use of Plant Protection Products	None
DARD Service Delivery Group – Countryside Inspectorate	None	GAEC 4 – Minimum Soil Cover GAEC 5 – Minimum land management reflecting site specific conditions to limit erosion GAEC 6 – Maintenance of soil organic matter level through

⁵ [Northern Ireland Cross-Compliance Verifiable Standards \(effective from 1 January 2015\) \(Revised 1 August 2015\), DARD](#)

Body	SMR responsibilities	GAEC responsibilities
		appropriate practices GAEC 7 – Retention of landscape features
DARD Veterinary Service	SMR 5 – Prohibition on the use in stockfarming of substances having a hormonal or thyrostatic action on beta-agonists SMR 6 – Pig identification and registration SMR 7 – Cattle identification and registration SMR 8 – Sheep and Goat identification and registration SMR 9 – Prevention control and Eradication of Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (TSE) SMR 11 – Minimum standards for the protection of calves SMR 12 – Minimum standards for the protection of pigs SMR 13 – Protection of animals kept for farming processes	None
Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA)	SMR 1 – Protection of water against nitrate pollution SMR 2 – Conservation of wild birds SMR 3 – Conservation of natural habitats and of wild flora and fauna	GAEC 1 – Establishment of buffer strips along watercourses GAEC 2 – Where use of water for irrigation is subject of authorisation, compliance and authorisation procedures GAEC 3 – Protection of Groundwater against pollution
Health and Safety Executive Northern Ireland (HSENI)	SMR 10 – Restrictions on the use of Plant Protection Products It should be noted however that DARD's Agri-Food Inspection Branch carries out inspections in relation to this SMR	None

In terms of which CAP beneficiaries the individual SMR and GAEC requirements apply to, table 3 below highlights provides a summary.

Table 3: CAP beneficiary cross compliance requirements⁶

CAP beneficiaries	SMR	GAEC
All Claimants	SMR 1 – Protection of water against nitrate pollution	GAEC 4 – Minimum Soil Cover GAEC 5 – Minimum land management reflecting site specific conditions to limit erosion GAEC 6 – Maintenance of soil organic matter level through appropriate practices

⁶ [Northern Ireland Cross-Compliance Verifiable Standards \(effective from 1 January 2015\) \(Revised 1 August 2015\), DARD, derived from table page 4.](#)

CAP beneficiaries	SMR	GAEC
		GAEC 7 – Retention of landscape features
Claimants with a Special Protection Area (SPA) on their land	SMR 2 – Conservation of wild birds	None
Claimants with a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) on their land	SMR 3 – Conservation of natural habitats and of wild flora and fauna	None
Claimants who use chemical fertiliser and organic manure	None	GAEC 1 – Establishment of buffer strips along watercourses
Claimants who abstract or impound water	None	GAEC 2 – Where use of water for irrigation is subject of authorisation, compliance and authorisation procedures
Claimants who handle, store or dispose of listed substances	None	GAEC 3 – Protection of Groundwater against pollution
Claimants who are food or feed producers, rearing animals for food or producing products of animal origin	SMR 4 – Food and Feed Law	None
Claimants who keep farmed animals	SMR 5 – Prohibition on the use in stockfarming of substances having a hormonal or thyrostatic action on beta-agonists SMR 6 – Pig identification and registration SMR 7 – Cattle identification and registration SMR 8 – Sheep and Goat identification and registration SMR 9 – Prevention control and Eradication of Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (TSE) SMR 11 – Minimum standards for the protection of calves SMR 12 – Minimum standards for the protection of pigs SMR 13 – Protection of animals kept for farming processes	None
Claimants who use plant protection products	SMR 10 – Restrictions on the use of Plant Protection Products	None

Looking at the data in table 3 it could be argued that the majority of farmers within Northern Ireland may well be subject to either all or the majority of the SMR and GAEC requirements.

4 Cross compliance inspections

As highlighted in table 1 within this paper, the cross compliance regulations require checks to be made on 1% of all beneficiaries in order to establish if the requirements are being adhered to. It should also be noted that in relation to a number of SMRs,

namely SMR 7 - Cattle identification and registration and SMR 8 - Sheep and Goat identification and registration, cross compliance inspection rates are actually set as 3% if cattle and sheep/goat herds.

The percentage of beneficiaries that need to be inspected are selected both randomly (25%) and on a risk basis (75%). The risk selection criteria utilised in this process are unique to each of the Control Authorities, but this information is not published. Conversations with DARD officials⁷ have however established some of the criteria that are utilised in relation SMRs 4 and 10, and GAECs 4 to 7 as follows:

- *Positive weightings for membership of the Farm Quality Assurance Scheme and other environment related schemes (earned recognition);*
- *A negative weighting is applied if the business did not receive a Cross-Compliance inspection in the previous year;*
- *A negative weighting is applied if the business received a Cross-Compliance penalty in the previous year;*
- *A negative weighting is applied if the business applied to remove a field boundary but was refused;*
- *A negative weighting is applied if the business sought permission under the EIA Regs and was refused;*
- *A negative weighting is applied if the applicants land contains an archaeological feature;*
- *A negative weighting is applied if the business produces animal feeds on farm;*
- *A negative weighting is applied if the applicants land contains SDA or DA land;*
- *A negative weighting is applied if the applicant received a warning letter under the dairy hygiene domestic legislation in the past 12 months;*
- *A negative weighting is applied if the applicants farm produces eggs;*
- *Negative weightings are applied if the applicant declared certain land uses on their Single Application Form; and*
- *It may also be necessary to target certain areas of Northern Ireland if the inspection results for these areas showed a higher than average level of breaches in the previous year.*

All the inspection weightings are totalled for each business and then they are ranked from the riskiest to the least risky. The riskiest businesses are selected for inspection.

Farmers who are selected for inspection are generally given advance notice that they are to be inspected, so long as advance notice does not jeopardise the purpose of the inspection. In relation to land related inspections this advance notice will not exceed 14 days, whilst it will not exceed 48 hours for inspections involving animals⁸.

⁷ Telephone conversation and email correspondence with Mr Ken Laverty, EU Area Reform Branch, DARD 24th Nov 2015

⁸ [Cross compliance questions and answers, DARD website, 27th November 2015](#)

All cross compliance inspections are carried out by ‘on the spot’/‘field’ physical inspections with inspectors from the relevant Control Authority. Upon completing their inspection the inspector will give the farmer a chance to see and sign their inspection report form before it is submitted for processing.

If there are no instances of non-compliance the process ends here, but if there are breaches DARD writes to the farmer to inform them, provide details on the breach and identify any proposed penalty/payment reduction. Farmers who are identified and informed as having breached the requirements may also avoid any payment reduction/penalty and may instead receive a warning letter.

Any farmers found to be in breach of the requirements can ask for their case to be reviewed as part of DARD’s formal review process.

5 Observations and possible questions

- The complexity and volume of both the 13 Statutory Management Rules (SMRs), 7 Good Agricultural and Environment Conditions (GAECs) and associated verifiable standards (as set out in Appendix 1), highlight how challenging both adherence to the standards and any cross compliance inspection can be for farmers and officials alike;
 - Given the complexity of the verifiable standards what training do inspectors get to fulfil their function and how is a consistent approach achieved? – ie there could be differing interpretations of the same standard? Do DARD, NIEA or the EU benchmark this process?;
 - Does DARD believe that the GAEC standards as utilised in NI, which are not as fixed as the SMRs, meet the EU’s minimal requirement – ie is there room for simplification or reduction here?
 - Whilst DARD does publish detailed and summary information on the verifiable standards, that includes information on what to expect during an inspection, could there be value in producing additional advice for farmers such as that utilised in Wales⁹ which includes accessible templates for the collection of data?
 - Given that DARD submits cross compliance adherence data to the EU is there any indication as to how Northern Ireland compares to other regions/Member States in relation to adherence to the standards, and in particular the SMR requirements which are fixed for all Member States/regions? If DARD is aware of any differences what are possible reasons for this – ie reflect higher compliance or non-compliance or stricter inspection?
 - What opportunities exist for farmers to amend or challenge the findings of an inspection report before the need to proceed to the formal review of decisions process? Are there statistics as whether or how often this occurs?

⁹ [When the inspector calls, A helpful guide for farmers, Welsh Government, August 2015](#)

- Are the risk criteria in terms of inspection benchmarked by DARD and EU – how do they compare to those employed in other jurisdictions?
- It could be argued that there may be an additional cross compliance complication in Northern Ireland due to the fact that responsibility for the SMRs and GAECs and any associated inspections is split across DARD Service Delivery Group (Agri-food Inspection Branch and Countryside Inspectorate), NIEA and DARD Veterinary Service;
- What effects, if any, will the impending merging of DOE and DARD into a new department have on the cross compliance process and peoples' experience of it?

Appendix 1 - Cross compliance standards in Northern Ireland 2015 – overview of Statutory Management Rules (SMRs) and Good Agricultural and Environmental Condition (GAEC) requirements¹⁰

Requirement	What exactly is the requirement – title, description and verifiable standards	Who requirement applies to	Chances of inspection and who carries it out	Inspection elements
SMR 1	<p>Protection of water against nitrate pollution</p> <p>Aims to improve water quality by protecting water against pollution caused by nitrates from agricultural sources. In particular, it is about promoting better management of animal manures, chemical nitrogen fertilisers and other nitrogen containing materials spread onto land.</p> <p>Verifiable standards</p> <p>Compliance with Nitrates Action Programme (NAP) measures including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nitrogen (N) fertiliser, chemical and organic (including dirty water), must not be allowed to directly or indirectly enter a waterway or water contained in underground strata. • N fertilisers, chemical and organic (with the exception of dirty water), must not be applied to land during the closed spreading periods. In addition to the closed spreading periods for chemical nitrogen fertiliser and organic manures, farm yard manure is subject to a closed spreading period from 31 October until 31 January each year. There are additional land management requirements on farms that have nitrate derogations. • All N fertilisers, chemical and organic, must be applied in accordance with the land application restrictions as specified in the NAP. • N fertiliser application must not exceed crop requirement. Additional action is required on derogated farms. • Nitrogen from livestock manure on non-derogated farms must not exceed 170kgN/ha/yr and Nitrogen from grazing livestock manure 	All claimants	<p>1% of 26,200 total scheme applicants in 2015 – ie 262 applicants</p> <p>NIEA</p>	<p>Inspections in respect of this measure will include checking of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compliance with the Action Programme Measures. • Farm practices and facilities. • Farm records kept in accordance with the Action Programme Measures. <p>These field checks will be reviewed and implemented in accordance with any amendments to the Action Programme.</p>

¹⁰ derived from [Northern Ireland Cross-Compliance Verifiable Standards \(effective from 1 January 2015\) \(Revised 1 August 2015\), DARD](#)

Requirement	What exactly is the requirement – title, description and verifiable standards	Who requirement applies to	Chances of inspection and who carries it out	Inspection elements
	<p>on derogated farms must not exceed 250kg N/ha/yr. Additional action is required on derogated farms.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All livestock manure and silage effluent must be collected, stored and managed in accordance with the livestock manure storage requirements as specified in the NAP Regulations. • All farms must carry out crop and soil management to minimise soil erosion and nutrient run-off. Additional action is required on derogated farms. • Adequate farm records must be kept and made available for inspection, upon request, covering a minimum period of five years, and covering a range of information including cropping, livestock numbers, and the use of nitrogen fertilisers and organic manures. Additional action is required on derogated farms. • Derogated farms must not exceed a surplus of 10kg phosphorus per hectare per year on a derogated holding. • You must comply with the terms of a notice served under the NAP Regulations. 			
<p>SMR 2</p>	<p>Conservation of wild birds</p> <p>All European Community Member States are required to identify internationally important areas for breeding, overwintering and migrating birds and designate them as Special Protection Areas (SPAs).</p> <p>Verifiable Standards</p> <p>If you have a Special Protection Area (SPA) on your holding, you will have been formally notified by NIEA and will already be aware of the environmental obligations which exist on that land.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You must not carry out or cause or permit to be carried out operations or activities specified in the Area of Special Scientific Interest notification that are likely to damage the interests of the site and for which NIEA have neither been notified nor consented. 	<p>Claimants with a Special Protection Area (SPA) on their land</p>	<p>1% of 26,200 total scheme applicants in 2015 – ie 262 applicants</p> <p>NIEA</p>	<p>In carrying out field checks, inspectors will look for compliance with the Main Requirements and relevant Verifiable Standards as detailed.</p> <p>Inspections in respect of this measure will include checking of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SPAs for works which cause significant damage. Activities such as ploughing, reseeding, new drains, new roads/lanes and large scale scrub clearance are not normally permitted. <p>Routine land management operations such as rush control,</p>

Requirement	What exactly is the requirement – title, description and verifiable standards	Who requirement applies to	Chances of inspection and who carries it out	Inspection elements
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You must comply with the terms of any management notice served by NIEA or the terms of any restoration order served by a court. You must not intentionally or recklessly destroy or damage the special flora of the area or disturb any of the special fauna. (This requirement can apply to actions that take place other than on the Special Protection Area itself, but which have the same consequences). <p>You will not break the rules for a SPA as outlined above if you have a reasonable excuse</p>			<p>fence repairs, control of encroaching scrub and minor drain maintenance are normally permitted.</p>
SMR 3	<p>Conservation of natural habitats and of wild flora and fauna</p> <p>Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) are those sites which have been given greater protection under the Habitats Directive. You must be aware of your responsibilities as an owner/occupier of land within an SAC to ensure that the special features are not inadvertently damaged during the course of land management operations.</p> <p>Verifiable Standards</p> <p>If you have a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) on your holding, you will have been formally notified by the NIEA and will already be aware of the environmental obligations which exist on that land.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> You must not carry out or cause or permit to be carried out operations or activities specified in the Area of Special Scientific Interest notification that are likely to damage the interests of the site and for which NIEA have neither been notified nor consented. You must comply with terms of management notices served by NIEA or the terms of any restoration order served by a court. You must not recklessly destroy or damage the special flora of the area or disturb any of the special fauna. (This requirement can apply to actions that take place other than on the Special Area of Conservation itself, but which have the same consequences). <p>You will not break the rules for a SAC as outlined above if you have a reasonable excuse</p>	<p>Claimants with a Special Conservation Area (SCA) on their land</p>	<p>1% of 26,200 total scheme applicants in 2015 – ie 262 applicants</p> <p>NIEA</p>	<p>In carrying out field checks, inspectors will look for compliance with the Main Requirements and relevant Verifiable Standards as detailed.</p> <p>Inspections in respect of this measure will include checking of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SACs for works which cause significant damage. Activities such as ploughing, reseeding, new drains, new roads/lanes and large scale scrub clearance are not normally permitted. <p>Routine land management operations such as rush control, fence repairs, control of encroaching scrub and minor drain maintenance are normally permitted.</p>

Requirement	What exactly is the requirement – title, description and verifiable standards	Who requirement applies to	Chances of inspection and who carries it out	Inspection elements
SMR 4	<p>Food and Feed Law</p> <p>Food and feed production must be carried out in a manner that is compliant with the relevant EU statutory controls and places primary responsibility on farmers, as food business operators, for ensuring feed and food safety at the beginning of the chain. Also further specific hygiene standards in addition to the general requirements for milk and egg producers</p> <p>Verifiable standards</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food safety, withdrawal and recall – range of standards • Feed safety, withdrawal and recall – range of standards • Traceability – of inputs to farm and produce • Hygiene of foodstuffs and feed hygiene – range of standards • Dairy Hygiene Requirements – range of standards • Egg Hygiene Requirements – range of standards 	Claimants who are food or feed producers, rearing animals for food or producing products of animal origin	<p>1% of 26,200 total scheme applicants in 2015 – ie 262 applicants</p> <p>DARD – Agri Food Inspection Branch</p>	<p>General</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence of unsafe food or feed being produced or stored on the production holding. Also, evidence of food or feed being placed on the market for sale that is deemed to be injurious to health. Adequate notification, recall, withdrawal and disposal provisions should be in place commensurate to type and scale of business. • Systems and procedures to provide traceability of inputs and outputs of products arriving and leaving the farm. Record keeping should include a record of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - names/addresses of suppliers/customers; - nature and quantity of products received/supplied; - dates of relevant transactions; - veterinary medicine purchases and use; - analytical results (for example, individual milk cow testing for high SCC/antibiotics); - use of plant production products and biocides; - any use of genetically modified seeds as feed. • Storage and handling of waste and hazardous substances (any

Requirement	What exactly is the requirement – title, description and verifiable standards	Who requirement applies to	Chances of inspection and who carries it out	Inspection elements
				<p>substances which have the potential to cause an adverse effect on health).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Correct storage of food and feedstuffs. Different food or feed to be separately stored and the storage facilities to be appropriate to the product stored. • Adequate measures to prevent the spread of contagious disease transmissible to humans through food. Examples are Tuberculosis and Brucellosis testing of cattle. <p>Other elements dairy and eggs</p>
SMR 5	<p>Prohibition on the use in stockfarming of substances having a hormonal or thyrostatic action and beta-agonists</p> <p>Regulations prohibit most uses of substances having a hormonal or thyrostatic action and beta-agonists in all species of farmed animals. However, legal administration of some of these substances is permitted under veterinary prescription for a very limited number of uses.</p> <p>Verifiable Standards</p> <p>To comply with these requirements: You must not:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Give food producing animals restricted substances, unless given in line with any permitted exceptions. • Have substances on your farm: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - which contain oestradiol 17β, or its ester like derivatives; - which contain beta-agonists to induce tocolysis in cows when calving; 	Claimants who keep farmed animals	<p>1% of 26,200 total scheme applicants in 2015 – ie 262 applicants</p> <p>DARD – Veterinary Service</p>	<p>Checks for the presence of residues of banned substances and unauthorised substances in animals on farms and at abattoirs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Checks that where authorised veterinary medicines have been used, any residues present in the animals, presented for slaughter for human consumption, do not exceed EU maximum residue limits. • Check medicine records as part of on-farm visit. • Targeted sampling is also carried out during the year and animals are selected on the basis of specific criteria laid down in Commission Decision 98/179/EC.

Requirement	What exactly is the requirement – title, description and verifiable standards	Who requirement applies to	Chances of inspection and who carries it out	Inspection elements
	<p>- with a hormonal or thyrostatic action - unless they have been prescribed by your veterinary surgeon.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have food producing animals on your farm to which have been administered any restricted substances, unless given in line with any permitted exceptions. • Place on the market or send animals for slaughter to which have been administered any restricted substance, unless given in line with any permitted exceptions. • Sell meat, or any other animal product, derived from an animal to which any restricted substance has been administered, unless given in line with any permitted exceptions. <p>You must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Observe the relevant withdrawal period if your food producing animals have been given any of the restricted substances in line with the permitted exceptions. • Make veterinary medicinal records relating to restricted substances available to the competent authority on request. 			<p>Sampling of animals or carcasses where an authorised officer suspects that they may contain a residue of either an illegal substance or a veterinary medicine in excess of the relevant maximum is also undertaken.</p>
<p>SMR 6</p>	<p>Pig Identification and Registration It is essential that all pig movements can be traced so that notifiable pig diseases, such as Swine Fever, Foot and Mouth Disease and Aujeszky’s disease, can be controlled. These requirements also serve to protect keepers against fraud and theft.</p> <p>Verifiable Standards</p> <p>Registration and Identification You must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Register with DARD before you move pigs (including pet pigs) onto your holding. Notify DARD in advance if you are going to start to keep pigs on new premises. • Notify DARD within 7 days of any changes to your registration details, for example, your address or if you no longer keep pigs on 	<p>Claimants who keep farmed animals</p>	<p>1% of 26,200 total scheme applicants in 2015 – ie 262 applicants</p> <p>DARD – Veterinary Service</p>	<p>Inspections in respect of this measure will include checks that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Records in the holding register meet the Requirements set out above. • Movement documents have been used and retained appropriately; and • Pigs are identified appropriately.

Requirement	What exactly is the requirement – title, description and verifiable standards	Who requirement applies to	Chances of inspection and who carries it out	Inspection elements
	<p>any premises.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By the time your pigs reach 6 months of age, or before they leave your holding if sooner, correctly identify them as shown below: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - for pigs that are destined for slaughter under the age of 6 months a holding code on an eartag, ear tattoo or slapmark (however finished pigs going direct to slaughter may be identified with a slapmark bearing a 4-digit curer mark); - for pigs over 6 months of age (breeding pigs) and any pigs intended for breeding moved off your holding before 6 months of age - a holding code and an individual identification number of up to 4 digits; or - pigs must be identified with an eartag bearing a holding code and individual identification number of up to 4 digits if they are moving to a show or market. This also applies for pigs destined for other Member States, unless with the permission of DARD. • Replace any lost or illegible (unreadable) means of identification within 28 days of discovery and before the pigs leave your holding. <p>You must not:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alter, remove, or duplicate any identification mark on a pig. <p>On-farm records</p> <p>You must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Once per year record in your holding register the total number of pigs on your holding. • Record the following information in your holding register within 48 hours of the event: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - for movements on and off - the date of movement, the number of pigs moved and the movement document serial number; - for identification marks replaced with a different mark - the date of replacement, the number of pigs and the old and new identification marks. 			

Requirement	What exactly is the requirement – title, description and verifiable standards	Who requirement applies to	Chances of inspection and who carries it out	Inspection elements
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that these on-farm records are up to date, are kept for at least 3 years and are shown to an inspector on demand. • Ensure that movement documents, signed by the keeper, accompany pigs during movements. These should specify: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - name, address and the holding code of the holding of departure; - name and address of the holding of destination; - date of the movement; - number of pigs that the document covers; and - identification mark of each pig being moved (including the individual identification number). • Where pigs are moved off your holding, send a copy of the movement document to DARD within 7 days of the movement, except if the movement is to a market, slaughterhouse or show. • Retain a copy of movement documents for movements onto and off your holding for at least 3 years and show them to an inspector on demand. 			
<p>SMR 7</p>	<p>Cattle Identification and Registration</p> <p>EC Regulations require a system for the identification and registration of bovine animals to ensure traceability of animals in the event of a disease outbreak or a risk to human health</p> <p>Tagging You must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Double-tag with DARD approved ear tags within the following timescales: - all calves born on your holding - within 20 days of birth or before 	<p>Claimants who keep farmed animals</p>	<p>1% of 26,200 total scheme applicants in 2015 – ie 262 applicants. This 1% also contributes to the 3% of cattle herds that DARD is required to inspect.</p> <p>DARD – Veterinary Service</p>	<p>Inspections in respect of this measure will include the checking of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ear tag numbers of all cattle. • Tagging of all animals in accordance with the DARD valid identification formats listed on the DARD website. • Tagging of all animals within 20 days of birth. • Records kept by keepers corresponding with information stored on APHIS, and actual

Requirement	What exactly is the requirement – title, description and verifiable standards	Who requirement applies to	Chances of inspection and who carries it out	Inspection elements
	<p>the animal leaves your holding, whichever is the earlier;</p> <p>- all cattle imported from outside the EU - within 20 days of release from import checks or before the animal leaves your holding, whichever is the earlier.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replace lost or illegible ear tags within 28 days of discovering the loss or before the animal leaves your holding, whichever is the earlier (where both tags have been lost and two new tags are applied, you must prove the identity of the animal). <p>You must not:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove or replace ear tags without permission from DARD; • Alter or deface an ear tag. <p>Notification of births, movements and deaths</p> <p>You must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notify all births of cattle on your holding to DARD no later than 27 days after the birth. • Notify DARD of any movements of cattle onto and off your holding (including cattle lost or stolen) within 7 days of the movement. • Notify DARD of any cattle deaths on your holding within 7 days. • Notify DARD of all cattle imported from outside the EU within 15 days of tagging the animal. <p>On-farm records (herd register)</p> <p>You must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep an up-to-date herd register for your holding in a format approved by DARD, which includes where appropriate the following details for each animal: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ear tag number; - if appropriate, any retag number and the date of retagging, or the 			<p>animals currently kept on the holding.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Records kept by keepers meeting cattle identification requirements and all movements, birth, and deaths are reported within the timescales noted above.

Requirement	What exactly is the requirement – title, description and verifiable standards	Who requirement applies to	Chances of inspection and who carries it out	Inspection elements
	<p>date a replacement tag is applied;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - colour, breed, and sex; - date of birth; - if the calf was born on your holding, the dam’s ear tag number; - date of movements on and off your holding; - details of where the animal has moved to or from; - date of death. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete the herd register within the following timescales: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - movement - 36 hours of its taking place; - birth of a dairy calf - 7 days; - birth of any other calf - 30 days; - a death - 7 days; - ear tag replacement - 36 hours of the replacement. • Keep the herd register for 10 years from the date of the last entry and make it available on request. 			
SMR 8	<p>Sheep and Goat Identification and Registration</p> <p>EC regulations require the maintenance of a system for the identification and registration of sheep and goats to facilitate their traceability, in particular in the event of a disease outbreak</p> <p>Verifiable Standards</p> <p>Tagging</p> <p>You must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify all sheep and goats with the correct means of identification within 9 months of birth or within 6 months of birth, if intensively kept (kept for milking or are normally housed overnight) or before they leave the holding of birth, whichever is sooner. • Double-tag sheep and goats with two identical identification tags, including one electronic device, for third country or intra-community trade. 	Claimants who keep farmed animals	<p>1% of 26,200 total scheme applicants in 2015 – ie 262 applicants. This 1% also contributes to the 3% of sheep and goat herds that DARD is required to inspect.</p> <p>DARD – Veterinary Service</p>	<p>During on-farm inspections inspectors will check that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sheep/goats are tagged in accordance with the legislation, including the replacement of lost tags. • Movement documents for movements on and off the holding have been completed and retained in date order. • CPR tag lists for movements of sheep to a CPR have been retained in date order with the keeper’s movement document and holding register; and movement documents for animals leaving a

Requirement	What exactly is the requirement – title, description and verifiable standards	Who requirement applies to	Chances of inspection and who carries it out	Inspection elements
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replace any lost or illegible means of identification within 28 days of noticing their loss or illegibility or before the animal leaves the holding - whichever is the earlier. You must not: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove or replace ear tags without permission from DARD, except when replacing lost or illegible tags; • Alter or deface any means of identification attached to an animal. Record keeping • Keep up-to-date farm records in a format approved by DARD with the required information, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > an annual inventory of the animals kept on a date between 1 and 5 December; > details of the movement of sheep and goats on and off your holding, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the date of the movement; - the number of animals moved; - the destination or origin of animals; - the transportation details for animals leaving your holding; > information on any replacement means of identification; > for animals born after 31 December 2009: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the identification code of the animals; - the year of birth and date of identification of animals born on your holding; - the month and year of death of animals on your holding. • Ensure that your farm records are available for inspection on demand. 			<p>CPR have been retained in date order with the holding register.</p> <p>Note: You must ensure that the information on documents given to you by a CPR is accurate, including your name and address and flock number, the date of movement, the transport details, the number of animals in the batch, and the amount of tag numbers provided. You should also read the tags in a sample of sheep you have bought to ensure that they are on the document.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For farm to farm moves, all individual tag numbers are recorded accurately on the movement document. • Records in the flock or herd register are in accordance with the legislation. The following events must be recorded:-- Births; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Movements on/off; - Replacement tags (including the cross-referencing of old and new tags where appropriate); - Deaths; and - Annual inventory. • The number of sheep/goats on your holding is consistent with your annual inventor
SMR 9	Prevention control and Eradication of Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (TSE)	Claimants who keep farmed animals	1% of 26,200 total scheme applicants in 2015 – ie 262	Farm inspection visits will include checks on:

Requirement	What exactly is the requirement – title, description and verifiable standards	Who requirement applies to	Chances of inspection and who carries it out	Inspection elements
	<p>Laying down rules for the prevention, control and eradication of transmissible spongiform encephalopathies as implemented by the TSE Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2010.</p> <p>Verifiable Standards You must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immediately notify the Divisional Veterinary Officer of any animal or carcass in your possession or under your charge known or suspected of being infected by a TSE. • On notification of a TSE suspect or confirmed case, fully comply with movement restrictions, including any order to slaughter and destroy the animal(s), or any other notices served by an inspector imposing measures concerning that animal or other animals under the TSE Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2010; in particular your attention is drawn to restrictions placed on cattle born before 1 August 1996 in your possession (if applicable). • Not feed to ruminants, any animal protein or any feeding stuff, which contains animal protein, except the following (subject to required sourcing and processing): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - milk, milk-based products and colostrum; - eggs and egg products; - gelatine from non-ruminants; - hydrolysed proteins derived from non-ruminants or from ruminant hides and skins; - liquid milk replacers for unweaned ruminants containing fishmeal, if registered with DARD. • Not feed ruminant and non-ruminant farmed animals the following prohibited derived products, either directly or in feedingstuffs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - processed animal protein (with specific exemptions); - gelatine from ruminants e.g. beef gelatine (including in surplus food). • Not use the following restricted proteins (i.e. proteins which can 		<p>applicants</p> <p>DARD – Veterinary Service</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any non-notification to DARD of a suspect TSE animal or carcass. • Compliance with any movement restrictions in respect of a suspect or confirmed TSE animal or any other notices imposing measures concerning that animal or other animals under the TSE Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2010 and in particular any restriction notice issued regarding cattle born before 1 August 1996. • Compliance with the ban on feeding to ruminants of any animal protein or products containing animal protein. • Compliance with the ban on feeding of prohibited animal proteins to any farmed animals. • Compliance with authorisation requirement for use of restricted proteins for production of feed for non-ruminants. <p>The authorisation and registration requirement referred to is followed by DARD (AFIB) inspection which will confirm permission to use restricted proteins.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compliance with registration requirement for use of feed products containing restricted proteins on farms where ruminant

Requirement	What exactly is the requirement – title, description and verifiable standards	Who requirement applies to	Chances of inspection and who carries it out	Inspection elements
	<p>be fed only to nonruminants), for on-farm production of feed for non-ruminants unless they are authorised by DARD to do so (applies whether ruminants are present or not):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - fishmeal; - blood products; - blood meal, pig and poultry processed animal proteins only where fed to farmed fish; - dicalcium phosphate and tricalcium phosphate of animal origin, (mineral derived versions are permitted for all livestock and are most commonly used - feed labels not specifying 'animal origin' can be taken to be mineral). • Not use feed products containing restricted proteins on premises where ruminants are present unless they have registered with DARD as doing so. The registration referred to in this point requires farmers to have adequate on-farm measures, including storage, and feeding arrangements to ensure that feed containing restricted proteins are not fed to ruminants and are kept adequately separated from ruminant feed to prevent contamination. • Not export from the UK any bovine animal born or reared in the UK or imported into the UK before 1 August 1996. • Not place on the market any product consisting of or incorporating any material derived from a bovine animal born or reared in the UK or imported into the UK before 1 August 1996 except for milk. • Comply with restrictions placed on the progeny of BSE suspect or BSE positive animals. • Not place on the market the semen, ova or embryos of TSE suspect or infected cattle, sheep and goats without complying with documentation requirements and restrictions applying to sale or export of such products. 			<p>animals are present.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On-farm measures and feeding arrangements to ensure that feed containing restricted proteins for non-ruminant use are not fed to ruminants or contaminate ruminant feed. • Documentation issued by DARD to confirm any authorisation/registration required for the production /use of restricted proteins for non-ruminant feed. • Compliance with the ban on export from the UK of any bovine animal born or reared in the UK or imported into the UK before 1 August 1996 (does not apply to export to Great Britain). • Compliance with the ban on placement on the market of any product derived from a bovine animal born or reared in or imported into the UK before 1 August 1996 (except for milk). • Compliance with the ban on placement on the market or export of progeny which were born to BSE positive animals during the 2 year period preceding or anytime after clinical onset of the disease in the BSE positive animal. • Compliance with documentation requirements and restrictions applying to any placement on the

Requirement	What exactly is the requirement – title, description and verifiable standards	Who requirement applies to	Chances of inspection and who carries it out	Inspection elements
				market of semen, ova or embryos of TSE suspect or infected cattle, sheep and goats.
SMR 10	<p>Restrictions on the use of Plant Protection Products</p> <p>Plant protection products must be used in accordance with the principles of good plant protection practice. Farmers must only use plant protection products (pesticides) that have been approved</p> <p>Verifiable Standards</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You must only use approved plant protection products. • Plant protection products must be used in accordance with the conditions attached to the approval and they must also be used in accordance with the information specified on the product label. • You must follow the principles of good plant protection practice as set out in the Code of Practice for Using Plant Protection Products. 	Claimants who use plant protection products	<p>1% of 26,200 total scheme applicants in 2015 – ie 262 applicants</p> <p>DARD – Agri Food Inspection Branch</p>	<p>During on-farm inspections inspectors will check the following if applicable:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The use of plant protection products must be carefully and properly planned, including completion of an appropriate risk assessment, e.g. LERAP. • Application must be confined to the target area e.g. crop / land. • An emergency action plan must be prepared and equipment available. • Storage of pesticides. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All pesticides must be stored in their original containers; - The pesticide store must be suitably sited, soundly constructed of fire resistant materials, have a suitable entrance and exit, be capable of containing spillage and leakage to the extent of 110% of the store's normal liquid contents storage capacity, be dry and protected from frost, have adequate lighting (natural or otherwise), be ventilated (natural or fan assisted), be marked (yellow and black hazard warning triangle symbol) and be secured

Requirement	What exactly is the requirement – title, description and verifiable standards	Who requirement applies to	Chances of inspection and who carries it out	Inspection elements
				<p>against theft and vandalism.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pesticide application equipment (visual examination); - There must be evidence of basic calibration (the operator either having calibrated the machine or at least being aware of the need to maintain a specified forward speed and specified working pressure) to achieve the target application rate. The recommended pressure should not be exceeded as this may result in drift. The operator must also be aware of the importance of only working in suitable wind / weather conditions; - The correct Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) must be available and in use at the appropriate times. • Storage of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). - Facilities for cleaning and storing equipment and PPE after use must be arranged to avoid contamination of the environment and there must be suitable provision for the safe disposal of surplus pesticide and empty containers; - Appropriate measures must be taken to prevent spillage and

Requirement	What exactly is the requirement – title, description and verifiable standards	Who requirement applies to	Chances of inspection and who carries it out	Inspection elements
				<p>leakage, e.g. during mixing and filling of equipment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fields where pesticides have been applied. • Local Environment Risk Assessment for pesticides (LERAP) records (if required);. • Pesticide application records (as required in SMR 4 Food and Feed Law). <p>Inspectors will also discuss with the applicant their on-farm procedures for the safe storage, use and disposal of pesticides.</p>
SMR 11	<p>Minimum standards for the protection of calves</p> <p>Owners and keepers are required to comply fully with the relevant domestic legislation for the welfare of calves kept for farming purposes. Owners and keepers must take all reasonable steps to ensure the welfare of calves they own or keep and must ensure that calves are not caused any unnecessary pain, suffering, injury or disease.</p> <p>Verifiable Standards</p> <p>Inspection:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You must inspect all housed calves at least twice a day. • If you keep calves outside, you must inspect them at least once a day to check that they are in a good state of well-being. <p>Freedom of Movement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each of your calves must be able to stand up, turn around, lie down, rest and groom itself without difficulty. • You must not tether your calves. The only exception to this 	Claimants who keep farmed animals	<p>1% of 26,200 total scheme applicants in 2015 – ie 262 applicants</p> <p>DARD – Veterinary Service</p>	<p>In addition to the checks on standards listed in SMR 13 (Protection of Animals Kept for Farming Purposes) farm inspection visits will include checks to ensure that you have complied with the verifiable standards in respect of inspection, freedom of movement, accommodation, environment and equipment and feed, water and other substances</p>

Requirement	What exactly is the requirement – title, description and verifiable standards	Who requirement applies to	Chances of inspection and who carries it out	Inspection elements
	<p>requirement is that you may tether group-housed calves, for up to one hour, when you are feeding them milk or milk substitute.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tethers must not cause pain or injury to your calves. You must regularly inspect the tethers and adjust them if necessary to make sure they are a comfortable fit. Each tether must avoid the risk of strangulation, pain or injury and allow your calf to lie down, rest, stand up and groom itself without difficulty. • You must not muzzle your calves. Accommodation, Environment and Equipment • You must not keep a calf in an individual stall or pen after the age of eight weeks unless a veterinary practitioner certifies that its health or behaviour means it needs to be isolated to receive treatment. If necessary, you must isolate sick or injured calves in suitable accommodation with dry comfortable bedding. • The width of any individual stall or pen for your calf must be at least equal to the height of the calf at the withers, measured in the standing position. The length must be at least equal to the body length of your calf - measured from the tip of the nose to the rear of the pin bone - multiplied by 1.1. • Individual stalls or pens for your calves (except for those isolating sick animals) must have perforated walls which allow your calves to have direct visual and physical contact with each other. Some but not all open fronted pens do not meet this description. • If you keep calves in groups, the unobstructed space you must allow for each calf must be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - at least 1.5 square metres for each calf with a liveweight of less than 150 kilograms (kg); - at least two square metres for each calf with a liveweight of 150kg or more but less than 200kg; and - at least three square metres for each calf with a liveweight of 200kg or more. 			

Requirement	What exactly is the requirement – title, description and verifiable standards	Who requirement applies to	Chances of inspection and who carries it out	Inspection elements
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you keep your calves in a building, the floors must be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - smooth but not slippery so as to prevent injury to the calves; - designed so they do not cause injury or suffering to calves standing or lying on them; - suitable for the size and weight of the calves; and - rigid, even and stable. • You must keep all housed calves (including those you keep in hutches or temporary structures) on, or at all times give them access to, a lying area. This area must be clean, comfortable, well-drained and well-maintained with appropriate dry bedding. It must not affect the calves in any negative way. • If you keep your calves in an artificially lit building, you must provide artificial lighting for a period which is at least equal to the period of natural light normally available between 9.00am and 5.00pm. • You must properly clean and disinfect housing, stalls, pens, equipment and utensils used for your calves to prevent cross-infection and the build-up of disease-carrying organisms. You must remove dung, urine and left-over food as often as necessary to reduce smells (as far as possible) and to avoid attracting flies or rodents. <p>Feed, Water and Other Substances</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You must feed all weaned calves at least twice a day. • If you keep your calves housed in a group and they do not have continuous access to feed, or are not fed by an automatic-feeding system, you must make sure each calf has access to food at the same time as the others in the feeding group. • As well as the general requirements for providing drinking water in SMR 13, you must give your calves fresh drinking water at all times in hot weather conditions or when they are ill. • You must give all calves food which contains enough iron to make sure they have a blood haemoglobin level of at least 4.5mmol/litre. 			

Requirement	What exactly is the requirement – title, description and verifiable standards	Who requirement applies to	Chances of inspection and who carries it out	Inspection elements
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You must provide fibrous food daily to calves over 2 weeks of age; at least 100 grams must be provided at 2 weeks of age, rising in line with growth to at least 250 grams at 20 weeks old. You must make sure that each calf receives bovine colostrum as soon as possible after it is born. This must be within the first six hours of life. 			
SMR 12	<p>Minimum standards for the protection of pigs</p> <p>Owners and keepers are required to comply fully with the relevant domestic legislation for the welfare of pigs. Owners and keepers must take all reasonable steps to ensure the welfare of animals they own or keep and must ensure that pigs are not caused any unnecessary pain, suffering, injury or disease</p> <p>Verifiable standards</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Freedom of Movement – range of standards Accommodation, Environment and Equipment– range of standards Feed, Water and Other Substances – range of standards Mutilations and Interventions– range of standards Specific Requirements for Boars – range of standards Specific Requirements for Sows and Gilts – range of standards Specific Requirements for Piglets – range of standards Specific Requirements for Weaners and Rearing Pigs – range of standards 	Claimants who keep farmed animals	<p>1% of 26,200 total scheme applicants in 2015 – ie 262 applicants</p> <p>DARD – Veterinary Service</p>	In addition to the checks on standards listed in SMR 13 (Protection of Animals Kept for Farming Purposes) farm inspection visits will include checks to ensure that you have complied with the verifiable standards in respect of freedom of movement, accommodation, environment and equipment, feed, water and other substances, mutilations and interventions as well as the specific requirements relating to boars, dry sows and gilts, piglets and weaners and rearing pigs.
SMR 13	<p>Protection of animals kept for farming purposes</p> <p>Owners and keepers are required to comply fully with the relevant</p>	Claimants who keep farmed animals	11% of 26,200 total scheme applicants in 2015 – ie 262	Farm inspection visits will include checks to ensure that you have

Requirement	What exactly is the requirement – title, description and verifiable standards	Who requirement applies to	Chances of inspection and who carries it out	Inspection elements
	<p>domestic legislation for the welfare of animals kept for farming purposes. Owners and keepers must take all reasonable steps to ensure the welfare of animals they own or keep and must ensure that animals kept for farming purposes are not caused any unnecessary pain, suffering, injury or disease.</p> <p>Staffing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You must make sure that your animals are cared for by sufficient staff who have the appropriate ability, knowledge and professional skills. <p>Inspection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You must inspect your animals thoroughly at least once a day to check that they are well if kept in husbandry system where their welfare depends on frequent human attention. <p>In systems other than this, you must inspect them at intervals which will avoid them suffering. You will find the specific requirements relating to calves in SMR 11.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You must have enough lighting so that you can carry out a thorough inspection at any time. This lighting may be fixed or portable. • Where any animals (other than poultry) are kept in a building they shall be kept on, or have access at all times to, a lying area which is well drained or well maintained with dry bedding. Poultry (other than laying hens in establishments of more than 350 birds) kept in a building, shall be kept on or have access at all times to well-maintained litter or a well-drained area for resting. <p>If any of your animals appear ill or injured, you must care for them immediately. If they do not respond to this care, you must get veterinary advice as soon as possible. If necessary, you must isolate sick or injured animals in suitable accommodation with dry comfortable bedding.</p> <p>Keeping Records</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You must keep a record of: 		<p>applicants</p> <p>DARD – Veterinary Service</p>	<p>complied with the verifiable standards in respect of staffing, inspection, record keeping, freedom of movement, accommodation, environment and equipment, feed, water and other substances, mutilations and interventions and breeding procedures</p>

Requirement	What exactly is the requirement – title, description and verifiable standards	Who requirement applies to	Chances of inspection and who carries it out	Inspection elements
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - any medicinal treatment given to your animals; and - the number of deaths found when the animals are inspected. • You must keep these records for at least three years under animal welfare laws (from the date on which the treatment was given, or the date of the relevant inspection for deaths). You must make the records available to any authorised person at an inspection or when otherwise asked for. • Veterinary medicine records that you currently keep for other purposes are acceptable for this requirement, providing they meet the minimal requirements set out by the Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD). <p>Freedom of Movement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You must not restrict your animals’ freedom of movement if this causes them unnecessary suffering or injury. You should take account of the species of animal, established experience and scientific knowledge. Where appropriate you should also note the requirements for calves (SMR 11) and pigs (SMR 12). • If your animals are continuously or regularly tethered or confined, you must give them enough space to avoid unnecessary stress. You must also allow them to exhibit their normal behaviour in line with established experience and scientific knowledge. Where appropriate you should also note the requirements relating to tethering - for calves (SMR 11) and pigs (SMR 12). <p>Accommodation, Environment and Equipment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Materials used in building accommodation must not be harmful to your animals. This would include, for example, lead paint or excessively rusting metal. This particularly refers to the pens, cages, stalls and equipment which your animals may come into contact with. • You must use materials that can be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected. • You must build and maintain accommodation so that there are no sharp edges or anything that sticks out and could injure your 			

Requirement	What exactly is the requirement – title, description and verifiable standards	Who requirement applies to	Chances of inspection and who carries it out	Inspection elements
	<p>animals.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You must keep air circulation, dust levels, temperature, relative air humidity and gas concentrations within limits which will not harm your animals. • When you keep animals in buildings, you must not keep them in permanent darkness. • You must provide enough artificial lighting if there is not enough natural light in a building to meet the animals' biological needs and normal behaviour. In this case, you must also give them an appropriate period of rest from artificial lighting. • Where appropriate you should also note the requirements for calves (SMR 11) and pigs (SMR 12). • You must, if necessary, give animals protection from adverse weather conditions, predators and risks to their health when not kept in buildings. At all times, they must have access to a well-drained lying area. • If you have any automated or mechanical equipment that is essential for the health and wellbeing of your animals, you must inspect it at least once a day to check that there are no faults with it and that no parts of the equipment have become seriously worn. If you discover any faults or you find parts of the equipment that have become seriously worn, you must correct these immediately. If this is impossible, you must take appropriate steps to protect the health and wellbeing of your animals until you can get the fault rectified. These steps may include using other methods of feeding and watering and methods of providing and maintaining a satisfactory environment. • If the health and wellbeing of your animals depends on an artificial ventilation system, you must have an appropriate back-up system which, if the main system fails, guarantees enough air renewal. • If the health and wellbeing of your animals depends on an artificial ventilation system, an alarm system must be provided, 			

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	<p>independent of the principal electricity supply, to give warning of any failure of the system.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You must thoroughly inspect the ventilation back-up system at least once every seven days and test each alarm system at least once every seven days to check that they work. If you find any faults (whether at inspection or at any other time), you must put them right immediately. If you have an audible alarm, you must respect the requirement relating to exposure of pigs to noise (SMR 12). Feed, Water and Other Substances • You must feed your animals a wholesome diet which is appropriate to their age and species. They must receive enough food to keep them healthy, meet their nutritional needs and promote a positive state of wellbeing. • You must give all animals access to feed at intervals appropriate to their biological needs (and, in any case, at least once a day). This applies unless your vet has told you otherwise. Where appropriate you should also note the requirements for calves (SMR 11). • You must give all animals either access to a suitable water supply and enough fresh drinking water each day or they must be able to get enough fluid in any other way. • You must not give your animals food or liquid in a manner, or containing any substance, which may cause them unnecessary suffering or injury. • You must design, build, place and maintain feeding and watering equipment so that you minimise any contamination of food and water and the harmful effects of competition between animals. • You must not administer a substance which is harmful to your animals' health and welfare apart from those given on the advice of a veterinary practitioner for treatment or preventative reasons. <p>Mutilations and Interventions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The general rule regarding mutilations and interventions is that you should not carry out such actions on your animals. 			

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • However, some procedures may be justified because of the overall welfare benefit obtained through performing them. Where such an acceptable mutilation is carried out on livestock species, it must be done so with an anaesthetic in accordance with United Kingdom law and by an appropriately trained person. Where United Kingdom law requires a veterinary practitioner to carry out a mutilation, it must not be done by anyone else. The Welfare of Animals (Permitted Procedures by Lay Persons) Regulations (NI) 2012 lists the procedures which may be carried out on farm species in Northern Ireland and the conditions attached to these procedures. <p>Breeding Procedures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You must not carry out natural or artificial breeding or breeding procedures which cause, or are likely to cause, suffering or injury to any of your animals (such as inappropriate mating with an immature or unsuitably sized female). This does not prevent you from using natural or artificial breeding procedures that are likely to cause minimal or momentary suffering or injury, or that might require interventions which would not cause lasting injury. You can continue using procedures that are currently allowed under existing law. • You must not keep animals for farming purposes unless it can reasonably be expected, on the basis of the normal genetic and physical characteristics of their breed, that you can keep them without any negative effects on their health or welfare. <p>Electrical Immobilisation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You must not apply an electrical current to any animal for the purpose of immobilisation 			
GAEC 1	<p>Establishment of buffer strips along watercourses</p> <p>To protect water against pollution and run-off by restricting the application and storage of chemical and organic fertilisers along water courses and near wells, boreholes and springs.</p>	Claimants who handle, store or dispose of listed substances	1% of 26,200 total scheme applicants in 2015 – ie 262 applicants NIEA	When performing GAEC inspection checks in respect of this measure inspectors will look for compliance with the relevant

Requirement	What exactly is the requirement – title, description and verifiable standards	Who requirement applies to	Chances of inspection and who carries it out	Inspection elements
	<p>Verifiable standards</p> <p>You must not apply chemical fertiliser within 2 metres of a waterway.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You must not apply organic manure within <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 20 metres of lakes; or - 10 metres of any other waterway, including open areas of water, open field drains or any drain which has been backfilled to the surface with permeable material such as stone/aggregate. <p>However this may be reduced to 3 metres, provided the land has an average incline of less than 10% towards the waterway, and the organic manures are spread by band spreaders, trailing shoe, trailing hose or soil injection; or where the adjoining area is less than one hectare in size, or not more than 50 metres in width, or 50 metres of a borehole, spring or well, or 250 metres of a borehole used for a public water supply, or 15 metres of exposed cavernous or karstified limestone features (such as swallowholes and collapse features).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You must not apply fertilizers on grassland with an average incline of greater than 15% and any other land with an average incline of greater than 12% -for organic manures within— <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 30m of lakes; or - 15m of any waterway, other than lakes, including open areas of water, open field drains or any drain which has been backfilled to the surface with permeable material such as stone/aggregate; and for chemical fertiliser within— - 10m of lakes; or - 5m of any waterway, other than lakes, including open areas of water, open field drains or any drain which has been backfilled to the surface with permeable material such as stone/aggregate 			<p>Verifiable Standards as detailed above to include visual verification that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chemical fertiliser has not been applied within two metres of a waterway; and • Organic manure has not been applied within the defined distances of waterways, lakes, wells, boreholes, springs, swallow holes and springs
GAEC 2	Where use of water for irrigation is subject of authorisation, compliance and authorisation procedures	Claimants who abstract or impound water for	1% of 26,200 total scheme applicants in 2015 – ie 262	Inspections in respect of this measure will include checking:

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	<p>The aim of these requirements is to manage the use of water for irrigation.</p> <p>Verifiable standards</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you are abstracting or impounding more than 10m³ but less than 20m³ of water in any 24 hour period you must have an authorisation and adhere to the requirements of the authorisation. • If you are abstracting or impounding 20m³ or more of water in any 24 hour period you must hold an abstraction licence and adhere to the requirements of the licence. 	<p>irrigation</p>	<p>applicants</p> <p>NIEA</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Authorisations or Licences issued under the Water Abstraction & Impoundment (Licensing) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006; • Records providing information on abstracted volumes, locations of abstractions, dates of abstraction and the area of land irrigated.
<p>GAEC 3</p>	<p>Protection of Groundwater against pollution</p> <p>To protect groundwater against pollution by controlling the discharge or disposal of hazardous substances or non-hazardous pollutants. These requirements apply to you if you handle, store or dispose of listed substances, for example sheep dip, pesticides, ammonia and biocides.</p> <p>Verifiable standards</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you are disposing of hazardous substances or non-hazardous pollutants to land you must obtain and meet the conditions of a Groundwater Authorisation. • You must produce on request satisfactory records, as detailed in the Groundwater Authorisation. • There must be no evidence of the pollution of groundwater by hazardous substances or non-hazardous pollutants. • You must ensure the proper siting, operation and maintenance of a sheep dipper (as outlined in the Code of Good Agricultural Practice for the Prevention of Pollution of Water, Air and Soil). • You must comply with any Notice served by NIEA under the 	<p>Claimants who handle, store or dispose of listed substances</p>	<p>1% of 26,200 total scheme applicants in 2015 – ie 262 applicants</p> <p>NIEA</p>	<p>Inspections in respect of this measure will include checking of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The need for a Groundwater Authorisation for disposal of hazardous substances (such as sheep dip, biocides or plant protection product waste /washings). No authorisation is required for the disposal of biocide or plant protection product washings back on to the target crop nor for re-using such waste to make more solution to apply to the target crop nor for the treatment of such waste under the terms of a registered exemption from waste management licensing. • Written records detailing any disposals carried out in the last four years in accordance with

Requirement	What exactly is the requirement – title, description and verifiable standards	Who requirement applies to	Chances of inspection and who carries it out	Inspection elements
	Groundwater Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2009			conditions of the Groundwater Authorisation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence of pollution of Groundwater by hazardous substances or non-hazardous pollutants. • Any dippers to assess if they pose a threat to groundwater, for example, through cracks or unsealed drain holes
GAEC 4	<p>Minimum Soil Cover To protect soil as a resource by ensuring minimum soil cover to prevent soil erosion</p> <p>Verifiable standards After harvesting a crop you must establish minimum soil cover by ensuring that from harvest until 15 January in the following year one of the following conditions is met on that land at any time:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the stubble of the harvested crop remains in the land; or - the land is sown with a crop which will take up nitrogen or where soil or weather conditions prevent a subsequent crop from being sown, appropriate measures are put in place to limit soil erosion. Appropriate measures could include chisel ploughing (where soil conditions are favourable) or where soils are waterlogged, leaving residues undisturbed. <p>Exceptions to the standards Exceptions will be granted where one or more of the following applies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The soil is waterlogged only within 5 metres of a gateway or other access point and 	All claimants	1% of 26,200 total scheme applicants in 2015 – ie 262 applicants DARD – Countryside Inspectorate	When performing GAEC inspection checks on this measure Inspectors will look for the following acceptable and not acceptable features or activities: <p>Acceptable</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence of permission not to comply with the Minimum Soil Cover Requirement. <p>Not acceptable</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence of ploughed surface; disced surface, finely tilled seedbed during the winter. • Evidence of a legume sown as a green cover crop

Requirement	What exactly is the requirement – title, description and verifiable standards	Who requirement applies to	Chances of inspection and who carries it out	Inspection elements
	<p>access is required to an area of land that is not waterlogged;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The area is an established track to land that is not waterlogged; • Mechanical operations are required to improve the drainage of the land; • Poaching of soil is a necessary consequence of works that are required to ensure the welfare of humans or animals; • It is necessary for the protection of animal welfare during periods of extreme weather conditions; • DARD has granted a temporary exemption from this rule because of extreme weather conditions, in which case you will need to comply with any conditions that are attached including reinstatement requirements. • The area has been ploughed as part of practice for a ploughing match 			
GAEC 5	<p>Minimum land management reflecting site specific conditions to limit erosion To protect soil as a resource by preventing soil erosion.</p> <p>Verifiable Standards</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You must protect soils from erosion and maintain soil structure by preventing land from being excessively trampled, poached or rutted including on bank sides and along water courses. • You must not carry out any cultivations if water is standing on the surface, or if the soil is waterlogged. Cultivations include any mechanical field operation, for example, harvesting, manure spreading, ploughing or discing. • Supplementary feeding sites and sacrifice areas should be rotated and managed to prevent excessive trampling, poaching or vehicle rutting to minimise soil erosion and must not cause runoff to waterways. Sacrifice areas must be ploughed and sown in the following spring. Natural regeneration (recovery of the sward) and 	All claimants	<p>1% of 26,200 total scheme applicants in 2015 – ie 262 applicants</p> <p>DARD – Countryside Inspectorate</p>	<p>When performing GAEC inspection checks in respect of this measure Inspectors will look for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence of excessive trampling, rutting or poaching causing soil erosion on any land. • Evidence of soil run-off into waterways. • Evidence of cultivations occurring on waterlogged soils or where water is standing on the surface. • Evidence of supplementary feeding sites on semi-natural habitats, within 10m of an archaeological site; or 10m from

Requirement	What exactly is the requirement – title, description and verifiable standards	Who requirement applies to	Chances of inspection and who carries it out	Inspection elements
	<p>surface seeding will be permitted provided there is at least 90% grass/crop coverage by the end of spring.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> You must avoid overgrazing grassland, semi-natural habitat, or archaeological sites with livestock in such numbers which would damage the growth, quality or species composition of vegetation on that land to any significant degree (that is, where there is no vegetative cover and/or there is evidence of run-off or standing water). 			<p>waterways; or 50m from boreholes or wells; or 250m from boreholes used for public water supply.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evidence of excessive trampling, poaching, soil erosion or vehicle rutting as a result of supplementary feeding livestock. Evidence of overgrazing i.e. where there is no vegetative cover and/or there is evidence of run-off or standing water), or damage to an archaeological site. Evidence of burning heather, gorse whin or fern between 15 April and 31 August
GAEC 6	<p>Maintenance of soil organic matter level through appropriate practices</p> <p>To protect soil as a resource through maintaining soil carbon stocks</p> <p>Verifiable Standards</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On agricultural land you must not burn any of the following crop residues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> cereal straw; cereal stubble; residues of oil-seed rape; field beans harvested dry or peas harvested dry; <p>unless the burning is for the purposes of disease control or the elimination of plant pests where a notice has been served under Article 32 of the Plant Health Order (Northern Ireland) 2006.</p>	All claimants	<p>1% of 26,200 total scheme applicants in 2015 – ie 262 applicants</p> <p>DARD – Countryside Inspectorate</p>	<p>When performing GAEC inspection checks in respect of this measure Inspectors will look for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evidence of crop residues, cereal straw or cereal stubble being burned or having been burnt. A notice served under Article 32 of the Plant Health Order (Northern Ireland) 2006. Evidence of reclamation / infilling or mineral extraction on semi natural habitats. Evidence of a breach of the DARD EIA (Agriculture) Regulations 2007.
GAEC 7	Retention of landscape features	All claimants	1% of 26,200 total scheme	When performing GAEC

Requirement	What exactly is the requirement – title, description and verifiable standards	Who requirement applies to	Chances of inspection and who carries it out	Inspection elements
	<p>To retain landscape features, ensure a minimum level of maintenance for their protection and prevent encroachment by invasive species⁸</p> <p>Verifiable Standards</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You must prevent encroachment by invasive species. (Invasive species are Rhododendron, Giant hogweed, Japanese knotweed, Himalayan balsam, wild oat, dock, thistle and ragwort). • You must not remove landscape features (dry stone walls, ditches or sheughs, hedgerows, including trees in hedgerows and earthbanks) except by prior written permission from DARD. This includes infilling or laying drainage pipes in open ditches or sheughs; • If you have received written permission from DARD to remove a landscape feature (dry stone walls, ditches or sheughs, hedgerows, including trees in hedgerows, and earthbanks) you must carry out the mitigating action set out in the written permission within the deadline set by DARD. • Hedge, tree or scrub cutting (including trimming and laying) is not permitted between 1 March and 31 August, except when a derogation has been granted by DARD. Such a derogation granted to individual applicants will permit hedge cutting from 15 of August to facilitate farmers wishing to plant oilseed rape or reseed grasses or other herbaceous forage (clovers, Lucerne, sainfoin and forage vetches) on arable land • You must not damage archaeological sites including not siting supplementary feeding sites/sacrifice areas within 10 metres of a site. 		<p>applicants in 2015 – ie 262 applicants</p> <p>DARD – Countryside Inspectorate</p>	<p>inspection checks in respect of this measure Inspectors will look for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence of invasive species. i.e. Rhododendron, Japanese knotweed, Giant hogweed and Himalayan balsam; • Evidence of noxious weeds infestation; • Evidence of landscape feature (dry stone walls, sheughs or ditches, hedges, including trees in hedgerows and earthbanks) removal without prior DARD permission. Retention of landscape features on the ground may be checked against maps and aerial photography; • Evidence of hedge trimming or laying carried out between 1 March and 31 August; • Evidence of hedge trimming or laying carried out between 15 August and 31 August without prior permission from DARD in a derogation; • Damage to archaeological sites.