

Silage, Slurry and Agricultural Fuel Oil Regulations in England and Wales

Does this apply to me?

If you operate a farm in England or Wales that

- § makes or stores silage; or
- § stores slurry; or
- § stores fuel oil used for agricultural purposes; and
- § your storage facilities were constructed or substantially altered after 1991,

then these regulations apply to you.

Even for older facilities, you should consider applying the standards, as they will help to prevent pollution of water.

What do I need to do?

Below is a summary of the Control of Pollution (Silage, Slurry and Agricultural Fuel Oil) Regulations 1991 (as amended).

Silage Making and Storing

Silage Made in Silos

- § In England and Wales the Environment Agency should be notified, in writing, at least 14 days before a new or substantially altered silo is brought into use.
- § All new or substantially altered facilities should be constructed to last 20 years with proper maintenance.
- § The base should extend beyond any walls and include a perimeter drainage channel outside any walls to collect silage effluent.
- § The silo base, tank and drains should be impermeable and resistant to silage liquor
- § A silage liquor tank with a capacity 20 litres per cubic metre of silo capacity (up to 1500 cubic metres and then an additional 6.7 litres per cubic metre thereafter) should be provided.
- § The base and walls of the silo and the liquor tank should be resistant to attack from silage liquor and be designed to BS5502 part 22.
- § No part of the installation shall be within 10 metres of a watercourse.
- § Silo tanks that are below ground or partially below ground should be capable of lasting for 20 years without maintenance (certification is required)

Baled and Bagged Silage

- § Baled and bagged or wrapped silage should not be stored or opened within 10 metres of a watercourse.

Field Silage and Bulk Bags

- § The Environment Agency should be notified, in writing, at least 14 days before a site is first used to make field silage or silage in bulk bags is used. No part of the installation should be within 10 metres of a watercourse or 50 metres of a protected water supply source.

Slurry Storage

- § You should notify the Environment Agency in writing at least 14 days (28 days in Northern Ireland) before a new or substantially altered installation is brought in to use.
- § The base of storage tank, effluent tank and all parts of the drains and reception pit should be impermeable.
- § The base and walls of storage tank, reception pit and drains should be protected against corrosion as described in BS 5502 Part 50.
- § The slurry storage tank and reception pit should be designed to BS 5502, Part 50.
- § Reception pits and associated channels should normally hold at least two days slurry production including rainfall draining to the pit.
- § The slurry storage tank should hold a minimum of 4 months slurry production, including rainwater and have a minimum freeboard of 300mm.
- § Where less than 4 months storage is provided, a manure management plan should be prepared to make sure that the lower capacity is sufficient to avoid pollution.

- § No part of the slurry collection/storage system should be within 10 metres of a watercourse unless agreed with your Environmental Regulator.
- § All parts should be designed for 20 years life with routine maintenance.
- § Slurry stores must have two valves in series on any drainage pipe, and should be locked shut when not in use.
- § Where the walls of the slurry store are not impermeable the base should extend beyond the walls and perimeter drains and an effluent tank should be provided.
- § For earth bank stores, banks must be impermeable, and a minimum of 750mm freeboard should be maintained at all times.

Agricultural Fuel Oil Storage

Where more than 1500 litres of fuel oil are stored for agricultural purposes the following requirements are relevant.

- § Oil tanks, drums and IBCs, and their associated equipment, should be situated in a secondary containment system, e.g. a bund, which is capable of holding at least 110% of the largest tank's capacity or 25% of the total capacity if there is more than one tank, whichever is the greater. The secondary containment system should have no outlet and should be impermeable to oil and water and made to last for 20 years (with routine maintenance).
- § Bund walls must be constructed to contain any fuel that may jet from the side of a tank, especially if raised from the ground.
- § Valves and taps allowing oil to be discharged from the tank should be kept locked when the tank is not in use.
- § Flexible pipes should be fitted with an automatic closure valve and should be locked within the bund when not in use.
- § No part is to be within 10 metres of a watercourse into which fuel oil could enter if it were to escape.

Storage of oil not used in agricultural activities

- § If you store oil entirely for heating residential properties or other, non agricultural business activities carried out on you premises (B&B, kennels, workshops), the following will apply to the storage of that oil:
- § In **England**, if you store oil (such as petrol, diesel, vegetable, synthetic or mineral oil) in a container with a storage capacity of over 200 litres (44 gallons) then you may need to comply with the Control of Pollution (Oil Storage) (England) Regulations 2001. For further guidance on the Regulations use the link to 'Oil Storage' below.

For further guidance on the Regulations and for all sites storing oil, use the links below.

- § [Oil Storage](#)
- § [PPG02 Above ground oil storage tanks - Feb 2004 \(Acrobat, 214KB, 1.7 mins\)](#)

Plastic self-bunded tanks

Not all plastic tanks are necessarily compliant with the regulations for fuel oil storage

- § Check that the tank has a life of at least 20 years. Plastic is susceptible to deterioration from UV light.
- § Ensure that all the hoses and valves are contained within the outer skin of the tank. Alternatively a bund wall must be constructed.
- § Ensure that the tank has adequate protection from accidental damage.

For good practice guidance on fuelling and fuel use from the NetRegs Agriculture guidelines , follow the link below.

- § [Fuel Use and Fuelling Activities](#)

Where can I get more information?

In England and Wales, the following Sections of Defra's publication, '**Code of Good Agricultural Practice for the Protection of Water**', gives advice on how to avoid water pollution:

- § Section 4: Slurry
- § Section 8: Silage
- § Section 10: Fuel Oil

§ **Defra "Codes of Good Agricultural Practice" Home Page**

Design details for storage areas and tanks are given in the **Construction Industry Research and Information Association (CIRIA)** report no. 126 'Farm Waste Storage, Guidelines for Construction', which can be purchased on line from CIRIA.

§ **CIRIA Catalogue**

Construction Guidelines from Acorus (formerly published by ADAS)

CGN 100 Organising Contracts for Farm Waste Structures (Manure and Slurry)

CGN 001 Above-Ground Circular Concrete and Rectangular Weeping-Wall Slurry Stores

CGN 002 Earth-Banked Slurry Stores

CGN 003 In-Situ Concrete Slurry Stores

CGN 004 Above-Ground Circular Steel Slurry Stores

CGN 005 Silage Clamps and Effluent Tanks

CGN 008 Separation of Clean and Dirty Water, Dirty Water Storage, Yard Area Construction

CGN 009 Bunds for Agricultural Fuel Oil Tanks

CGN 010 Sluice Valves on Steel and Concrete Circular Above-Ground Slurry Stores

CGN 011 The use of Covers on Circular Steel and Concrete Slurry Stores

CGN 012 The use of HRA in Silage Clamps

All the construction guidelines listed above can be downloaded from the Acorus website by following the link below:

§ **Acorus Website for agricultural construction guidance notes**