

Important Changes to Northern Ireland Cross-Compliance Verifiable Standards with effect from 2019 onwards

The Verifiable Standards booklets published by 1 January every year set out the requirements you must meet under each of the Statutory Management Requirements (SMR) and Good Agricultural and Environmental Condition (GAEC). As these standards may change from year to year, it is important that you read these documents to familiarise yourself with the requirements.

Recent changes include:

- Nitrates Action Programme Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014 (as amended) and the Phosphorus (Use in Agriculture) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014 have now been replaced by the Nutrient Action Programme regulation (Northern Ireland) 2019 (as amended). Revisions have been made to **SMR1** and **GAEC1**.
- SMR 6: Pig Identification and Registration.
- SMR 7: Cattle Identification and Registration.
- SMR 8: Sheep and Goat Identification and Registration.

The full Northern Ireland Cross-Compliance Verifiable Standards for 2020 can be found at <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/cross-compliance>

Other Important Changes from 2020

UK Exit from the EU (Brexit)

Legislation

The Withdrawal Agreement setting the terms for the withdrawal of the UK from the EU disapplies the EU direct payments regulation (Regulation No. 1307/2013) and associated regulations in the UK for the 2020 scheme year. However, the Withdrawal Agreement requires the UK to operate direct payments schemes in 2020 which are equivalent to the EU schemes. Therefore the EU direct payment regulations are reapplied in UK law for the 2020 scheme year by the Direct

Payments to Farmers (Legislative Continuity) Act. Any references in the Cross-Compliance Verifiable Standards are to be taken as references to those provisions, as retained in UK law, for the 2020 scheme year by the Direct Payments to Farmers (Legislative Continuity) Act and corresponding secondary legislation.



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