

# Standard rules

Chapter 4, The Environmental Permitting  
(England and Wales) Regulations 2016

## Standard Rules SR2010 No06

### Mobile plant for landspreading of sewage sludge (land treatment resulting in benefit)

#### Introductory note

This introductory note does not form part of these standard rules.

When referred to in an environmental permit, these standard rules will allow the operator to operate mobile plant. The mobile plant shall be for land treatment activities resulting in benefit to agriculture or ecological improvement on:

- non-agricultural land; and
- agricultural land used for the production of non-food crops not grown in short term rotation with food crops.

The operator is permitted to use the following technology and associated plant necessary for treatment and associated storage:

- plant for the storage and mixing (not for treatment) of permitted wastes listed in table 2.2.
- plant for the spreading of wastes in order to carry out treatment of land.

The activities shall not be carried out within:

- 10 metres of any watercourse;
- groundwater Source Protection Zone 1; or
- if a Source Protection Zone has not been defined then within 50 metres of any well spring or borehole used for the supply of water for human consumption including from a private water supply or supplies.

These standard rules shall not be used to spread sludge where the Sludge (Use In Agriculture Regulations) 1989 apply.

The operator shall submit a deployment form to Natural Resources Wales, prior to the activity commencing.

The activities authorised by this permit cannot be carried out on the site where there is a facility regulated by a site based environmental permit if there is inconsistency between the requirements imposed by that site based permit and this permit.

**Status log of standard rules permit**

| <b>Document Version</b> | <b>Date Published</b> | <b>Summary of Changes</b>   |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|---|
| 2.0                     | 1 April 2013          | Natural Resource Wales formed with version 3.0 adopted  |
| 3.0                     | December 2015         | Improved formatting   |
| 4.0                     | January 2017          | Changed EPR 2010 to EPR 2016.   |
| 5.0                     | June 2017             | Amendments to condition 2.1.2, 2.1.7, 2.1.8, 2.3.2, 3.2.4 and 4.3.4.<br>Amendments to Tables 2.1 and 2.3.<br>Amendments to the Generic Risk Assessment and the Interpretations.   |
| 5.1                     | November 2024         | Minor revision to interpretation for deployment form.<br>Minor amendment to Condition 2.1.8 (a)<br>Interpretation for "closed periods" and "high readily available nitrogen wastes" amended to correct Welsh legislation. |

**End of introductory note**

# Rules

## 1 Management

### 1.1 General management

- 1.1.1 The operator shall manage and operate the activities:
- (a) in accordance with a written management system that identifies and minimises risks of pollution, so far as is reasonably practicable, including those risks arising from operations, maintenance, accidents, incidents, non-conformances and those drawn to the attention of the operator as a result of complaints; and
  - (b) using sufficient competent persons and resources.
- 1.1.2 Records demonstrating compliance with rule 1.1.1 shall be maintained.
- 1.1.3 Any person having duties that are or may be affected by the matters set out in these standard rules shall have convenient access to a copy of them kept at or near the place where those duties are carried out.
- 1.1.4 The operator shall comply with the requirements of an approved competence scheme.

### 1.2 Avoidance, recovery and disposal of wastes produced by the activities

- 1.2.1 The operator shall take appropriate measures to ensure that:
- (a) the waste hierarchy referred to in Article 4 of the Waste Framework Directive is applied to the generation of waste by the activities; and
  - (b) any waste generated by the activities is treated in accordance with the waste hierarchy referred to in Article 4 of the Waste Framework Directive; and
  - (c) where disposal is necessary, this is undertaken in a manner which minimises its impact on the environment.
- 1.2.2 The operator shall review and record at least every four years whether changes to those measures should be made and take any further appropriate measures identified by a review.

## 2 Operations

### 2.1 Permitted activities

2.1.1 The operator is only authorised to carry out the activities specified in table 2.1 below ("the activities").

**Table 2.1 activities**

| Description of activities  | Limits of activities   |
|--|--|
| <p><b>R13:</b> Storage of wastes pending the operation numbered R10.</p> <p><b>R10:</b> Land treatment resulting in benefit to agriculture or ecological improvement</p> | <p>Secure storage of waste listed in table 2.2, at the place where it is to be used for land treatment.</p> <p>For each deployment no more than 3000 tonnes in total of waste shall be stored at any one time. Of this no more than 1250 tonnes shall be non-stackable waste.</p> <p>No more than 3000 tonnes of waste shall be stored in a location at any one time. Of this no more than 1250 tonnes shall be non-stackable waste.</p> <p>Waste shall be stored for no longer than 12 months.</p> <p>The use of mobile plant to treat land with the types of waste listed in table 2.2 where such treatment results in benefit to agriculture or ecological improvement. Land includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• non agricultural land, or</li> <li>• agricultural land used for the production of non food crops not grown in short term rotation with food crops.</li> </ul> <p>The quantity of waste applied per hectare shall not exceed that in the agreed deployment form and in any case no more than 250 tonnes per hectare of waste shall be spread on the land in any period of 12 months.</p> |

2.1.2 At least 25 working days in advance of starting each land treatment activity Natural Resources Wales shall be notified using the deployment form LPD1. For each deployment the notified proposals shall be limited to:

- (a) no more than 10 waste streams, and
- (b) land not exceeding 50 hectares, or 100 hectares for a single continuously managed area of land..

2.1.3 Each notification shall contain an assessment that shows that benefit will be conferred by spreading of the waste. The assessment shall be made by a person with appropriate technical expertise and contain evidence demonstrating the reasons for their opinion.

2.1.4 The activities shall not begin at any site until Natural Resources Wales has agreed a deployment form in writing for that particular site.

2.1.5 The activities shall only be carried out in accordance with the requirements of the agreed deployment form unless otherwise agreed in writing by Natural Resources Wales.

2.1.6 Records demonstrating compliance with rules 2.1.3, 2.1.4 and 2.1.5 shall be maintained.

2.1.7 The activities shall not be carried out within:

- (a) 10 metres of any watercourse;

- (b) Groundwater Source Protection Zone 1; or
- (c) if a Source Protection Zone has not been defined then within 50 metres of any well spring or borehole used for the supply of water for human consumption including from a private water supply or supplies.

2.1.8 High readily available nitrogen wastes shall only be stored or spread within a groundwater Safeguard Zone for nitrate:

- (a) in periods outside of the closed periods for spreading organic manure with high readily available nitrogen;
- (b) at application rates of  $\leq 50\text{m}^3/\text{ha}$ , with a minimum 3 week gap between applications; and
- (c) to a maximum application rate of 250 kg total N per any given hectare.

## 2.2 Waste Acceptance

2.2.1 Waste shall only be accepted if:

- (a) it is of a type listed in tables 2.2 of these standard rules;
- (b) it conforms to the description in the documentation supplied by the producer and holder; and
- (c) it conforms to the agreed deployment form.

2.2.2 Records demonstrating compliance with rule 2.2.1 shall be maintained.

**Table 2.2 Waste types**

| Waste Code   | Description   |
|--------------|---|
| <b>19</b>    | <b>WASTE FROM WASTE MANAGEMENT FACILITIES, OFF-SITE WASTE WATER TREATMENT PLANTS AND THE PREPARATION OF WATER INTENDED FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION AND WATER FOR INDUSTRIAL USE</b> |
| <b>19 08</b> | <b>waste from waste water treatment plants</b>  |
| 19 08 05     | sludges from treatment of urban waste water   |

## 2.3 Operating techniques

2.3.1 The activities shall be operated using the techniques and, in the manner, described in Table 2.3 below:

| <b>Table 2.3 Operating techniques</b>  |
|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. All non-stackable waste shall be stored within a secure container (including lagoons).</li> <li>2. Non-stackable waste shall not be stored within 0.3 metres of the top of an open storage container or within 0.75 metres of the top of a lagoon.</li> <li>3. Field heaps shall occupy as small a surface area as is practically required to support the heap and prevent it from collapsing and must not be located within 30m of surface water if the land is steeply sloping.</li> </ol> |

2.3.2 Waste must not be spread on land if:

- (a) the land has been frozen for 12 hours or more in the preceding 24 hours;
- (b) the land is waterlogged, frozen or snow covered.

### **3 Emissions and monitoring**

#### **3.1 Emissions to air, water or land**

- 3.1.1 There shall be no point source emissions to land, except from the sources listed in the agreed deployment form.
- 3.1.2 The limits given in the agreed deployment form shall not be exceeded.

#### **3.2 Emissions of substances not controlled by emission limits**

- 3.2.1 Emissions of substances not controlled by emission limits (excluding odour) shall not cause pollution. The operator shall not be taken to have breached this rule if appropriate measures, including, but not limited to, those specified in any approved emissions management plan, have been taken to prevent or where that is not practicable, to minimise, those emissions.
- 3.2.2 The operator shall:
  - (a) if notified by Natural Resources Wales that the activities are giving rise to pollution, submit to Natural Resources Wales for approval within the period specified, an emissions management plan;
  - (b) implement the approved emissions management plan, from the date of approval, unless otherwise agreed in writing by Natural Resources Wales.
- 3.2.3 All liquids in containers, whose emission to water or land could cause pollution, shall be provided with secondary containment, unless the operator has used other appropriate measures to prevent or where that is not practicable, to minimise, leakage and spillage from the primary container.
- 3.2.4 High readily available nitrogen wastes shall be covered to prevent, or where that is not practicable, to minimise the loss of ammonia when stored within 200 metres of a European Site, Ramsar Site or a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

#### **3.3 Odour**

- 3.3.1 Emissions from the activities shall be free from odour at levels likely to cause pollution outside the site, as perceived by an authorised officer of Natural Resources Wales, unless the operator has used appropriate measures, including, but not limited to those specified in any approved odour management plan, to prevent or where that is not practicable, to minimise, the odour.
- 3.3.2 The operator shall:
  - (a) maintain and implement an odour management plan;
  - (b) if notified by Natural Resources Wales that the activities are giving rise to pollution outside the site due to odour, submit to Natural Resources Wales for approval within the period specified, an odour management plan;
  - (c) implement the approved odour management plan, from the date of approval, unless otherwise agreed in writing by Natural Resources Wales.

#### **3.4 Noise and vibration**

- 3.4.1 Emissions from the activities shall be free from noise and vibration at levels likely to cause pollution outside the site, as perceived by an authorised officer of Natural Resources Wales, unless the operator has used appropriate measures, including, but not limited to, those specified in any approved noise and vibration management plan, to prevent or where that is not practicable, to minimise, the noise and vibration.

3.4.2 The operator shall:

- (a) if notified by Natural Resources Wales that the activities are giving rise to pollution outside the site due to noise and vibration, submit to Natural Resources Wales for approval within the period specified, a noise and vibration management plan;
- (b) implement the approved noise and vibration management plan, from the date of approval, unless otherwise agreed in writing by Natural Resources Wales.

## **4 Information**

### **4.1 Records**

4.1.1 All records required to be made by these standard rules shall:

- (a) be legible;
- (b) be made as soon as reasonably practicable;
- (c) if amended, be amended in such a way that the original and any subsequent amendments remain legible, or are capable of retrieval; and
- (d) be retained, unless otherwise agreed by Natural Resources Wales, for at least 6 years from the date when the records were made.

4.1.2 The operator shall keep on site all records, plans and the management system required to be maintained by these standard rules, unless otherwise agreed in writing by Natural Resources Wales.

### **4.2 Reporting**

4.2.1 The operator shall send all reports and notifications required by these standard rules to Natural Resources Wales using the contact details supplied in writing by Natural Resources Wales.

4.2.2 Within one month of the end of each quarter, the operator shall submit to Natural Resources Wales using the form made available for the purpose, the information specified on the form relating to the site and the waste accepted and removed from it during the previous quarter.

### **4.3 Notifications**

4.3.1 Natural Resources Wales shall be notified without delay following the detection of:

- (a) any malfunction, breakdown or failure of equipment or techniques, accident or emission of a substance not controlled by an emission limit which has caused, is causing or may cause significant pollution;
- (b) the breach of a limit specified in these standard rules; or
- (c) any significant adverse environmental effects.

4.3.2 Written confirmation of actual or potential pollution incidents and breaches of emission limits shall be submitted within 24 hours.

4.3.3 Where Natural Resources Wales has requested in writing that it shall be notified when the operator is to undertake monitoring and/or spot sampling, the operator shall inform Natural Resources Wales when the relevant monitoring and/or spot sampling is to take place. The operator shall provide this information to Natural Resources Wales at least 14 days before the date the monitoring is to be undertaken.

4.3.4 Natural Resources Wales shall be notified at least 48 hours but no more than 7 days in advance of the intention to commence spreading operations. In the event that spreading operations stop for

more than 7 days Natural Resources Wales shall be notified at least 48 hours but no more than 7 days in advance of the intention to recommence spreading.

4.3.5 Natural Resources Wales shall be notified within 14 days of the occurrence of the following matters except where such disclosure is prohibited by Stock Exchange rules:

(a) Where the operator is a registered company:

- any change in the operator's trading name, registered name or registered office address; and
- any steps taken with a view to the operator going into administration, entering into a company voluntary arrangement or being wound up.

(b) Where the operator is a corporate body other than a registered company:

- any change in the operator's name or address; and
- any steps taken with a view to the dissolution of the operator.

(c) In any other case:

- the death of any of the named operators (where the operator consists of more than one named individual);
- any change in the operator's name(s) or address(es); and
- any steps taken with a view to the operator, or any one of them, going into bankruptcy, entering into a composition or arrangement with creditors, or, in the case them being in a partnership, dissolving the partnership.

## 4.4 Interpretation

4.4.1 In these standard rules the expressions listed below shall have the meaning given.

4.4.2 In these standard rules references to reports and notifications mean written reports and notifications, except when reference is being made to notification being made "without delay", in which case it may be provided by telephone.

*"accident"* means an accident that may result in pollution.

*"agricultural land"* has the meaning given by section 109 of the Agriculture Act 1947 and includes land for the production of timber and non-food agricultural crops.

*"Annex II"* means Annex II to Directive 2008/98/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on waste.

*"authorised officer"* means any person authorised by Natural Resources Wales under section 108(1) of The Environment Act 1995 to exercise, in accordance with the terms of any such authorisation, any power specified in Section 108(4) of that Act.

*"closed periods"* has the meaning given in The Water Resources (Control of Agricultural Pollution) (Wales) Regulations 2021

*"continuously managed area of agricultural land"* means a single waste stream for a single crop on a single continuous parcel of land (field) of up to 100 hectares under the control of a single land occupier, who may be the landowner or tenant.

*"deployment form"* means Natural Resources Wales form (LPD1) that requires site specific information and control measures to be provided and agreed prior to the use of any mobile plant.

*"domestic purposes"* has the same meaning as in section 218 of the Water Industry Act 1991.

*"emissions to land"* include emissions to groundwater.



*“emissions of substances not controlled by emission limits”* means emissions of substances to air, water or land from the activities, either from emission points specified in these standard rules or from other localised or diffuse sources, which are not controlled by an emission limit.

*“European Site”* means candidate or Special Area of Conservation and proposed or Special Protection Area in England and Wales, within the meaning of Council Directives 79/409/EEC on the conservation of wild birds and 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild flora and fauna and the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010. Internationally designated Ramsar sites are dealt with in the same way as European sites as a matter of government policy and for the purpose of these rules will be considered as a European Site.

*“food production purposes”* means the manufacturing, processing, preserving or marketing purposes with respect to food or drink for which water supplied to food production premises may be used, and for the purposes of this definition “food production purposes” means premises used for the purposes of a business of preparing food or drink for consumption otherwise than on the premises.

*“frozen”* means when the soil is frozen for more than 12 hours in the previous 24 hours. Days when soil is frozen overnight but thaws out during the day do not count.

*“groundwater”* means all water, which is below the surface of the ground in the saturation zone and in direct contact with the ground or subsoil.

*“groundwater Safeguard Zone”* has the meaning given in the document titled “Groundwater Protection: Principles and practice” (GP3) published by the Environment Agency in 2013

*“groundwater Source Protection Zone”* has the meaning given in the document titled “Groundwater Protection: Principles and practice” (GP3) published by the Environment Agency in 2013

*“high readily available nitrogen wastes”* has the meaning given in The Water Resources (Control of Agricultural Pollution) (Wales) Regulations 2021

*“Natural Resources Wales”* means the Natural Resources Body for Wales established by article 3 of the Natural Resources Body for Wales (Establishment) Order 2012. The Natural Resources Body for Wales (Functions) Order 2013 transferred the relevant functions of the Countryside Council for Wales, and functions of the Environment Agency and the Forestry Commission in Wales to the Natural Resources Body for Wales.

*“pollution”* means emissions as a result of human activity which may—

- a) be harmful to human health or the quality of the environment,
- b) cause offence to a human sense,
- c) result in damage to material property, or
- d) impair or interfere with amenities and other legitimate uses of the environment.

*“quarter”* means a calendar year quarter commencing on 1 January, 1 April, 1 July or 1 October.

*“R”* means a recovery operation provided for in Annex II to Directive 2008/98/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on waste.

*“secure storage”* means storage where waste cannot escape and members of the public do not have access to it

*“site”* means the place where mobile plant is deployed as detailed in the agreed deployment form(s).

*“sludge”* means residual sludge from sewage plants treating domestic or urban waste waters and from other sewage plants treating waste waters of a composition similar to domestic and urban waste waters.

*“SSSI”* means Site of Special Scientific Interest within the meaning of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000).

“*stackable*” means a material which is solid enough to be stacked in a free-standing heap without slumping, and which does not give rise to free drainage from within the stacked material. “Non-stackable” shall be interpreted accordingly.

“*steeply sloping*” means land of slope 12 degrees (1 in 5 or 20%) or greater

“*treated sludge*” means sludge which has undergone biological, chemical or heat treatment, long-term storage or any other appropriate process so as significantly to reduce its fermentability and the health hazards resulting from its use.

“*waste code*” means the six digit code referable to a type of waste in accordance with the list of wastes established by Commission Decision 2000/532/EC as amended from time to time (the ‘List of Wastes Decision’) and in relation to hazardous waste, includes the asterisk.

“*waterlogged*” means when the whole of the plough layer is saturated/filled with water by virtue of a high water table or water collected (perched) above a compacted soil.

“*year*” means calendar year commencing on 1 January.

**End of standard rules**