

## Farming Rules for Water: How to Comply

Rule Number and description	Any overlaps with Cross Compliance (XC) or Nitrate Vulnerable Zone (NVZ) requirement	Extra points to consider
<p><b>Rule 1</b></p> <p>a) Application of organic manures and manufactured fertilisers to <b>cultivated land*</b> must be planned in advance to meet soil and crop nutrient needs and not exceed these levels</p> <p>b) Planning must take into account where there is a significant risk of pollution** and the results of testing for Phosphorus, Potassium, Magnesium, pH and Nitrogen levels (through Soil Nitrogen Supply SNS) in the soil, which must be done at least every 5 years.</p>	<p>Yes. Compliance with NVZ rules and / or XC SMR1 will ensure FRfW compliance <b>for N, but see ‘extra points...’</b></p>	<p>Key difference to pre-FRfW in non-NVZ areas, where this is a completely new ask. If you <b>are</b> in a Nitrate Vulnerable Zone (NVZ), then compliance with NVZ rules will ensure compliance with elements of FRW Rule 1a &amp; b, but planning and applications need to take account of <b>more than just N</b>.</p> <p>* Cultivated land – not just physically cultivated. Be clear on the definition by checking the detail.</p> <p>** Significant risk of pollution – Identify the areas of land and / or agricultural operations which have previously, or may in future, lead to significant loss of soil and / or nutrients, bearing in mind weather and ground conditions.</p>
<p><b>Rule 2</b></p> <p>Organic manures must not be stored on land:</p> <p>a) within 10 metres of inland freshwaters or coastal waters / 50m spring, well or borehole</p> <p>b) where there is significant risk of pollution entering inland freshwaters or coastal waters</p>	<p>2a) Yes. XC SMR 1 / NVZ</p> <p>2b) Yes. In SMR 1 there is a list of requirements for siting field heaps which if met will deliver most but not necessarily all of this.</p>	<p>The FRfW describe the desired outcome ie no pollution, rather than listing numerous individual actions and conditions which must be implemented or met.</p>
<p><b>Rule 3</b></p> <p>Organic manures or manufactured fertilisers must not be applied:</p> <p>a) if the soil is waterlogged, flooded, or snow covered</p> <p>b) if the soil has been frozen for more than 12 hours in the previous 24 hours - <b>NVZ rule (SMR 1)</b></p> <p>c) if there is significant risk of causing pollution</p>	<p>3a) Yes. XC SMR 1 / NVZ</p> <p>3b) Yes. XC SMR 1 / NVZ</p> <p>3c) Some. Not part of NVZ <b>but</b> it is mentioned under some of XC SMR 1</p>	<p>XC SMR 1 is all about NVZ compliance, and covers all the NVZ rules. However, it also covers some additional requirements which broadly add the need not to pollute.</p>

<p><b>Rule 4</b> Organic manures must not be applied: a) within 10 metres of any inland freshwaters or coastal waters, except, if precision equipment is used, within 6 metres of inland freshwaters or coastal waters b) within 50 metres of a spring, well or borehole</p>	<p>4a) Yes. XC SMR 1 &amp; GAEC 1, plus NVZ 4b) Yes. XC SMR 1 &amp; GAEC 1, plus NVZ</p>	
<p><b>Rule 5</b> Manufactured fertiliser must not be applied within 2 metres of inland freshwaters or coastal waters</p>	<p>Yes. XC SMR 1 &amp; GAEC 1, plus NVZ</p>	
<p><b>Rule 6</b> You must take all reasonable precautions** to prevent significant soil erosion and runoff from: a) the application of organic manure or manufactured fertiliser b) land management and cultivation practices (such as seedbeds, tramlines, rows, beds, stubbles (including harvested land with haulm), polytunnels and irrigation) c) poaching by livestock</p>	<p>6a) Some. Not specifically mentioned in XC, though soil loss from cultivations is (GAEC 5). 6b) Yes. XC GAEC 5 6c) Yes. XC GAEC 5</p>	<p>** Reasonable precautions – employ mainstream farming practices to mitigate likely runoff and / or erosion, based on local knowledge and experience of the land.</p>
<p><b>Rule 7</b> Any land within 5 metres of inland freshwaters and coastal waters must be protected from significant soil erosion (20 metres long x 2metres wide) by preventing poaching by livestock</p>	<p>Yes. XC GAEC 5</p>	
<p><b>Rule 8</b> Livestock feeders must not be positioned: a) within 10 metres of any inland freshwaters or coastal waters b) within 50 metres of a spring, well or borehole c) where there is significant risk of pollution from poaching around the feeder entering any inland freshwaters or coastal waters</p>	<p>Some. These specific distances are not part of XC but damage from supplementary feeding is covered by GAEC 5 <b>where this practice causes soil erosion.</b></p>	

Useful links: <https://ahdb.org.uk/nutrient-management-guide-rb209> <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/cross-compliance-2019>