

Statutory Management Requirements (SMRs) 2019

Information on SMRs

[1 Nitrate Vulnerable Zones \(SMR 1\)](#)

Reducing pollution in our waters

[2 Conservation of wild birds \(SMR 2\)](#)

Protecting wild birds, their eggs and nests

[3 Conservation of flora and fauna \(SMR 3\)](#)

Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)

[4 Food and feed law \(SMR 4\)](#)

Regulations governing animal feed

[5 Restrictions on the use of substances having hormonal or thyrostatic action and beta-agonists in farm animals \(SMR 5\)](#)

Rules on the use of stock-farming substances

[6 Pig identification and registration \(SMR 6\)](#)

Advice to reduce the risks of pig disease spreading

[7 Cattle identification and registration \(SMR 7\)](#)

Rules for the identification and registration of cattle

[8 Sheep and goat identification \(SMR 8\)](#)

Maintaining the identification and traceability of sheep and goats

[9 Prevention and control of transmissible spongiform encephalopathies \(TSEs\) \(SMR 9\)](#)

Minimising the risk to humans and animals from TSEs

[10 Restrictions on the use of plant protection products \(SMR 10\)](#)

Minimising risk to humans, animals and the environment

[11 Welfare of calves \(SMR 11\)](#)

Protecting the welfare of calves

[12 Welfare of pigs \(SMR 12\)](#)

Rules for the care, management and welfare of pigs

[13 Welfare of farmed animals \(SMR 13\)](#)

Minimum standards for the welfare and care of farmed animals

1 Nitrate Vulnerable Zones (SMR 1)

Date published: 1 January, 2015

The aim of these rules is to reduce the pollution of waters caused by nitrates from agricultural sources and to prevent such pollution occurring in the future.

They apply to land within a Nitrate Vulnerable Zones (NVZ).

If you farm land in a NVZ you must comply with the conditions of the NVZ action programme.

Full details of the NVZ Action programme can be found in the [NVZ guidance for farmers booklets](#) published on the Scottish Government website. Information on the revised NVZ locations (from 1 January 2016) can be found on the [NVZ pages](#) of the Scottish Government website.

These are the key requirements of the action programme rules:

You must:

1. prepare and implement a Fertiliser and Manure Management Plan before 1 March each year. This must contain the following elements if relevant to your business:

- Risk Assessment for Manures and Slurries (RAMS) map
- a calculation and record of the capacity of slurry storage facilities
- a calculation and record of the 170 kg/N/ha loading limit for livestock manure
- an Nmax (maximum permitted amount of nitrogen from any source that a crop can receive) calculation for each crop type grown on the farm, including grassland

2. keep adequate records for each year, containing the following information:

- the area of each field within the NVZ
- the soil type in each field
- the crop or crops grown in each field
- the quantity and type of chemical and organic fertiliser applied to each field and the date of application
- the number of livestock kept on the farm, detailing the species, the age category and the length of time kept on the farm
- the type and quantity of any livestock manure is moved onto or off of the farm
- the date that any livestock manure is moved onto or off of the farm
- the nitrogen content of any livestock manure moved onto or off of the farm
- the name and address of the person receiving or supplying the manure
- the quantity and type of chemical fertiliser brought onto the farm, used on the farm and retained on the farm

3. make sure that all storage facilities for livestock manure and silage effluent are maintained so that they are structurally sound and do not leak

You must not:

- exceed the Nmax for any crop type
- apply chemical fertiliser or organic manure with a high available nitrogen content during the relevant closed period
- exceed the relevant farm and field-based limits for organic manure
- apply any kind of nitrogen fertiliser when the land is waterlogged, flooded or covered by snow
- apply any kind of nitrogen fertiliser on soil that has been frozen for 12 hours or longer in the preceding 24 hours
- apply organic manure within 10 metres of any surface water
- apply organic manure within 50 metres of any well, borehole which provides drinking water
- store livestock manure in a temporary field heap for longer than 12 months

[Download guidance](#)

Click 'Download this page' to create a printable version of this guidance you can save or print out.

2 Conservation of wild birds (SMR 2)

Date published: 7 February, 2019

For recent changes to this guidance, please see the bottom of the page.

The aim of these rules is to protect wild birds, their eggs and nests. This SMR 2 relates to all farmers and all land with additional rules if you have land classified as a Special Protection Area (SPA).

You must not:

Carry out any activities which are likely to result in the disturbance of birds or the deterioration of habitats affecting birds, e.g.

- cutting/trimming hedges in the bird breeding and rearing season (1 March and 31 August) without an exemption (see GAEC 7)
- cutting or lopping branches off trees in the bird breeding and rearing season (1 March and 31 August) without an exemption. (see GAEC 7)
- ploughing/reseeding rough grazing or other semi-natural areas unless approved as part of an environmental impact assessment (EIA*) (see GAEC 6)
- draining wetlands areas unless approved as part of an environmental impact assessment (EIA*)
- removing/burning scrub and gorse in the bird breeding and rearing season (1 March and 31 August)
- carrying out muirburn* outside the burning season (standard muirburn season runs from 1 October to 15 April inclusive)

Special Protection Area (SPA)

SPAs are sites which are designated under the Birds Directive due to their international importance for threatened habitats and species.

Many SPAs are also designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). Special Protection Areas are an additional level of protection which recognises their international importance.

There are 153 of them in Scotland.

If you have a Special Protection Area on your land

You must:

1. get Scottish Natural Heritage's (SNH) consent in writing before carrying out, causing or permitting any specified operation listed in an SSSI's legal documents - referred to as Operations Requiring Consent (ORC) - or listed within a special nature conservation order
2. comply with all management notices served by Scottish Natural Heritage or the terms of any restoration order served by a court relevant to the purpose of the Special Protection Area

You must not:

1. intentionally or recklessly destroy or damage the special interest features of the area or disturb any fauna that are a special interest feature (this requirement can apply to actions that take place other than on the Special Protection Areas itself but which have the same consequence)

You will not break the rules above, if:

- you have a planning permission to carry out the work
- you have consent from a public body or statutory authority that has complied with its duty to consult Scottish Natural Heritage before giving it consent
- it is an emergency operation (provided that Scottish Natural Heritage is told as soon as possible after the emergency)

*Explanation of terms

'EIA' relates to The Agriculture, Land Drainage and Irrigation Project (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017.

[Further information](#)

You can find out more information about Special Protection Areas, including whether your land is in a SPA, by contacting your [local Scottish Natural Heritage office](#) or by visiting the [Special Protection Areas](#) pages of the Scottish Natural Heritage website.

[Previous versions](#)

[Previous versions of this page](#)

[Previous versions](#)

[Previous versions of this page](#)

[Download guidance](#)

Click 'Download this page' to create a printable version of this guidance you can save or print out.

3 Conservation of flora and fauna (SMR 3)

Date published: 1 January, 2015

The aim of these rules is to conserve land designated as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC).

SACs are sites which are designated under the Habitats Directive due to their international importance for threatened habitats and species. Many SACs are also designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

SACs are an additional level of protection which recognises their international importance. In Scotland there are 239 SACs.

If you have Special Areas of Conservation on your land.

You must:

1. get Scottish Natural Heritage's (SNH) consent in writing before carrying out, causing or permitting any specified operation listed in an SSSI's legal documents - referred to as Operations Requiring Consent (ORC) - or listed within a special nature conservation order
2. comply with all management notices served by SNH or the terms of any restoration order served by a court relevant to the purpose of the SAC (a management notice legally obliges the recipient to carry out certain activities)

You must not:

1. intentionally or recklessly destroy or damage the special interest features of the area or disturb any fauna that are a special interest feature. This requirement can apply to actions that take place other than on the SAC itself but which have the same consequence

You will not break the rules above, when:

- you have a planning permission to carry out the work
- you have consent from a public body or statutory authority that has complied with its duty to consult SNH before giving it consent
- it is an emergency operation (provided that SNH is told as soon as possible after the emergency)

Further information

You can find out more information about Special Areas of Conservation, including whether your land is in a SAC by contacting your [local Scottish Natural Heritage office](#) or by visiting the [Special Areas of Conservation](#) pages of the Scottish Natural Heritage website.

Download guidance

Click 'Download this page' to create a printable version of this guidance you can save or print out.

4 Food and feed law (SMR 4)

Date published: 1 January, 2015

The aim of these rules is to ensure the safe production of food for human consumption and food or feed that is fed to food-producing animals.

You must:

Food and feed safety, withdrawal and recall:

1. arrange for unsafe food or unsafe feed to be withdrawn from the market if you believe you have supplied it, and inform both your local authority and Food Standards Scotland (FSS)
2. destroy any unsafe feed unless the competent authority tells you not to do so
3. tell consumers of food, or the users of the feed, of the reason for any withdrawal if it may have reached them
4. arrange for unsafe food or unsafe feed to be recalled if there is no other way of achieving a sufficiently high level of health protection
5. immediately tell both your local authority and the FSS if food which you have supplied, or is in your possession and you intend to sell, could be harmful to health and of the actions you have taken to prevent risks to the final consumer. In the case of feedstuffs containing veterinary medicinal products (medicated feedstuffs) and / or specified feed additives (coccidiostats or histomonostats) at levels greater than their prescribed or authorised levels, or feedstuffs which are contaminated with such products, which may be harmful to health, the Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD) should also be informed

Traceability

6. put in place systems and procedures for the traceability of inputs (for example food, feed, food-producing animals and any other substance intended or expected to be incorporated into a feed) to your farm, which identify:
 - the name and address of your supplier
 - the type and quantity of inputs that were supplied to you
 - the date of the delivery of these inputs to your farm
7. put in place systems and procedures for the traceability of products when they leave your farm, which identify:
 - the name and address of the businesses you supplied
 - the nature and quantity of the products that were supplied to those businesses
 - the date on which the products left your farm
8. store this information in a format which is readily available and produce it when requested

Hygiene of foodstuffs and feed hygiene

9. store and handle waste and hazardous substances (any substances that have the potential to cause an adverse effect on human health or animal health) separately and securely, in order to prevent contamination of your food products or feed products
10. take account of the results of any relevant analysis carried out on samples taken from primary products or other samples relevant to feed safety
11. store feed away from chemicals or any other products banned for use as animal feed
12. keep storage areas and containers clean and dry and implement appropriate pest-control measures where necessary. Take particular care when cleaning storage areas and containers which are used to contain medicated and non-medicated feed
13. store seed properly and in such a way that it is not accessible to animals
14. handle medicated and non-medicated feeds separately to prevent cross-contamination and store medicated feeds in such a way so they can't be fed by mistake to animals for which they're not intended

15. make sure the on-farm feed distribution system sends the right feed to the right destination. During distribution and feeding, feed must be handled in such a way as to ensure that contamination does not occur from contaminated storage areas and equipment
16. periodically clean on-farm feed transport vehicles and feeding equipment, in particular when used to deliver and distribute medicated feed
17. use feed additives, veterinary medicinal products and biocides correctly (if you use them on your farm) with dosage, application and storage as stated on the label or as prescribed. This includes making sure that food you produce does not contain residues of pesticides or veterinary medicinal products that are higher than the permitted maximum residue level for the pesticide used or the maximum residue limit for the medicine used
18. take adequate measures to prevent the introduction and spread of contagious diseases transmissible to humans through food such as abiding by the statutory herd testing for bovine tuberculosis (TB). This means carrying out all TB tests (for example routine tests, inconclusive reactor tests, tracing tests, etc) within the relevant timescales
19. source and use feed, for food-producing animals, from establishments that are registered or approved by your local authority. In the case of feed containing specified feed additives, source the feeding stuffs from establishments that are approved by the Veterinary Medicines Directorate
20. take appropriate remedial action when informed of problems identified during official controls
21. keep up-to-date records on all of the following, if they are relevant to your business and make them available on request to an inspector:
- veterinary medicinal products, or other treatments, given to your animals (including the dates of the treatment and the withdrawal period)
 - the use of plant protection products and biocides
 - the results of any analyses carried out on samples taken from food-producing animals, plants, animal feed or other samples taken for diagnostic purposes that have importance for human and animal health
 - any relevant reports on checks carried out on animals or products of animal origin
 - any use of genetically modified seeds in feed production

If you are a producer of raw milk (from any species), or handle raw milk or produce colostrum, the following extra rules apply:

22. make sure that raw milk and colostrum comes from animals that:
- are in a good general state of health
 - show no sign of disease that might result in the contamination of milk or colostrum. In particular, not suffering from any infection of the genital tract with discharge, enteritis with diarrhoea and fever, or a recognisable inflammation of the udder
 - do not have any udder wound likely to affect the milk or colostrum
 - are not within the prescribed withdrawal period following the administration of authorised products or substances
 - have not been given any unauthorised substances or products
23. make sure that:
- raw milk and colostrum comes from animals belonging to herds/holdings which have disease-free status for tuberculosis and brucellosis
 - if your herd or holding is not disease-free you may sell raw milk from your non-reactor animals if you are selling to a wholesaler who will heat treat the milk before marketing it for human consumption, or the raw milk is from sheep or goats and is intended to be made into cheese that has a maturation period of at least two months
 - make sure that raw milk and colostrum from any animal not complying with these requirements is not placed on the market for human consumption
24. effectively isolate animals that are infected, or suspected of being infected, with brucellosis or tuberculosis so that there is no adverse effect on other animals' milk

25. make sure that milking equipment and the premises where raw milk and colostrum are stored, handled or cooled are located and constructed to limit the risk of contamination of milk and colostrum

26. make sure that premises used for the storage of raw milk and colostrum:

- are protected against vermin, including birds and birds' nests, and adequately separated from premises where animals are housed
- have suitable refrigeration equipment in order to meet the post-milking cooling rules

27. make sure the surfaces of equipment that come into contact with raw milk or colostrum are easy to clean and disinfect (where this is necessary)

28. clean (and disinfect where necessary) the surfaces of equipment that come into contact with raw milk or colostrum after each use, and maintain in a sound condition

29. carry out milking hygienically, especially making sure that:

- before milking starts the teats, udder and adjacent parts are clean
- you satisfactorily identify animals undergoing any medical treatment which is likely to transfer residues to the milk or colostrum
- raw milk or colostrum from any animals that are still within the withdrawal period after receiving medication is not used for human consumption

30. hold raw milk in a clean place, designed and equipped to avoid contamination, immediately after milking. The milk must be cooled immediately to:

- not more than 8°C if it is collected daily
- not more than 6°C if it is not collected daily

You will not break the rule to cool raw milk immediately after milking if the milk is going to be processed within two hours of milking or you have received permission from the competent authority because of the dairy products that will be made from this milk.

31. hold colostrum in a clean place, designed and equipped to avoid contamination, immediately after milking. Colostrum must be stored separately and be cooled immediately to:

- not more than 8°C if it is collected daily
- not more than 6°C if it is not collected daily or it must be frozen

If you are an egg producer the following additional rules apply:

32. keep eggs clean and dry, free of strong odour, effectively protected from shocks and out of direct sunshine

You must not:

Food and feed safety, withdrawal and recall:

1. place unsafe food or unsafe feed on the market
2. feed unsafe feed to food producing animals

Further information

For information and general enquiries about food and feed safety or to report an incident, call Food Standards Scotland on 01224 285100.

For emergencies/incidents please call 01224 285138 or 01224 285196.

Or visit their website [Food Standards Scotland](#)

Find out more about bovine TB from the Scottish Government and the Animal and Plant Health Agency.

[Scottish Government](#)

[Animal and Plant Health Agency](#)

Download guidance

Click 'Download this page' to create a printable version of this guidance you can save or print out.

5 Restrictions on the use of substances having hormonal or thyrostatic action and beta-agonists in farm animals (SMR 5)

Date published: 1 January, 2015

The aim of these rules is to prohibit the illegal use in stock farming of substances that have a hormonal or thyrostatic action and beta-agonists.

The rules also aim to prevent the residues these substances leave in meat and other foodstuffs from entering the human or animal food chain.

You must:

1. observe the relevant withdrawal period if your food-producing animals have been given any of the restricted substances in line with the permitted exceptions
2. make veterinary medicinal records relating to restricted substances available to the competent authority, or anyone acting on behalf of the competent authority, on request

You must not:

1. give food-producing animals restricted substances* (unless in line with any permitted exceptions*)
2. have substances on your farm that contain beta-agonists to induce tocolysis in cows when calving (for example, clenbuterol hydrochloride)
3. have food-producing animals on your farm to which a restricted substance has been administered (unless given in line with any permitted exceptions)
4. place on the market, or send to slaughter for human consumption, any animal to which a restricted substance has been administered (unless given in line with any permitted exceptions)
5. place on the market 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)

Further information

The Product Information Database on the Veterinary Medicines Directorate website contains the most up-to-date information on medicines authorised for use in farm animals in the UK.

The database includes any withdrawal periods.

Veterinary Medicines Directorate: tel 01932 336911

[Product Information Database](#)

***Explanation of terms**

'*Restricted substances*' means thyrostatic substances, stilbenes, stilbene derivatives, their salts and esters, oestradiol 17 β and its ester-like derivatives and substances having oestrogenic, androgenic or gestogenic action and beta-agonists.

'*Exceptions*' exist for the use in certain circumstances of veterinary medicines containing testosterone, progesterone, allyl trenbolone and beta-agonists, and having oestrogenic, androgenic or gestagenic action.

Download guidance

Click 'Download this page' to create a printable version of this guidance you can save or print out.

6 Pig identification and registration (SMR 6)

Date published: 1 January, 2015

The aim of these rules is to maintain a system for the identification, registration and traceability of pigs.

You must:

Registration and identification

1. register your details with your local Rural Payments and Inspections Division (RPID) office within 30 days from the date you first keep pigs:

- you must also inform your local Animal Plant and Health Agency office (APHA) where you are going to keep pigs and they will give you a herdmark for your holding
- notify them of any change to your details (including if you stop keeping pigs) within 30 days of the change

2. correctly identify your pigs (depending on their age and destination) before they leave your holding:

- pigs must be identified with an eartag, tattoo or a slapmark
- pigs moving to a market or slaughterhouse must be identified with an eartag, tattoo or slapmark
- pigs less than 12 months old can be identified with a temporary mark, such as a paint mark, when moving between farms
- pigs moving to a show or exhibition, a semen collection centre, for breeding purposes, intra-community trade or export or under a walking licence must be identified with an eartag or a tattoo with a unique identification number

Movements

3. notify ScotEID* whenever you move a pig, either prior to the movement taking place or on the day of the movement. The notification must specify the following information:

- the full address, including postcode and County Parish Holding (CPH) number, of the holding from and to which the pigs are being moved
- the date of the movement
- the number of pigs moved
- the identification mark of each pig moved
- in the case of pigs moved from a market, the lot numbers of the pigs being moved

On-farm records:

4. once a year, record the number of pigs on your holding in your holding register

5. you can keep your register, in any format you wish. However, it must contain at least the following information:

- the name and address of the keeper, including CPH number
- the date the pigs were moved
- the temporary mark or identification number, including the unique individual identification number, if applicable*
- the number of pigs moved
- the address and CPH number where the pig(s) were moved from
- the address and CPH number where the pig(s) were moved to

6. this information must be recorded in the holding register within 48 hours of a movement on or off your holding. You must make sure that these on-farm records are up to date, kept for at least three years and are available on request to an inspector

You must not:

Registration and identification

1. remove or replace identification without permission from your local authority unless it is lost, illegible or removed for welfare reasons. In all cases you must replace the identification appropriately

Further information

The 'Pig Identification and Registration – Guidance for Keepers in Scotland' gives full guidance on how to comply with the pig identification and registration rules, and can be found on the Scottish Government website:

[Pig Identification and Registration](#)

***Explanation of terms**

'*ScotEID*' is the movement reporting database used to notify Scottish Government when pigs are moved.

'*If applicable*' for moves to shows or exhibitions, for breeding purposes (if the pigs are returning to the holding), to semen collection centres, for intra-community trade or export, or under a walking licence this must include a unique identification number.

Download guidance

Click 'Download this page' to create a printable version of this guidance you can save or print out.

7 Cattle identification and registration (SMR 7)

Date published: 18 January, 2017

For recent changes to this guidance, please see the bottom of the page.

The aim of these rules is to maintain a system for the identification, registration and traceability of cattle.

You must:

Eartags

1. Tag all calves born on your holding, or cattle imported from outside the European Union (EU)* with Defra-approved eartags* within the following timescales:

- dairy calves – with one eartag within 36 hours of birth and with the second eartag within 20 days of birth
- bison calves – within nine months of birth or when they are separated from their mother if this is earlier
- other calves – within 20 days of birth
- all animals leaving your holding – with both tags before they leave
- cattle imported from outside the EU – within 20 days of release from import checks

2. Replace illegible or lost eartags within 28 days of noticing the damage or loss*

Notifications

3. Notify births on your holding BCMS within seven days of tagging by making an application for a passport to the British Cattle Movement Service (BCMS) through an approved channel*

4. Notify cattle imported from within the EU, but outside Great Britain, within 15 days of its arrival on your holding by sending the foreign passport/movement document to BCMS and making an application for a passport

5. Notify cattle imported from outside the EU within 15 days of tagging the animal and no later than 35 days from its release from import checks by making an application for a passport from BCMS

6. Notify BCMS through an approved channel* of any movements of cattle onto and off your holding within three days of the movement. If you elect to use ScotMoves to notify within-business moves, the notification period to SCOTEID is three days

7. Notify BCMS through an approved channel* of any cattle deaths on your holding within seven days of the date of death*. If your chosen method is to complete the death details section of the passport, you must return the passport within seven days of the date of the death*

8. Notify BCMS by returning the passport of any lost or stolen animal within seven days of becoming aware of the loss or theft

On-farm records (herd register)

9. Keep on-farm records for your holding, which include the following appropriate details for each animal:

- official eartag number
- dam's official eartag number
- date of birth
- sex
- date of movements on and off your holding
- details of where the animal has moved to or from
- breed
- date of death

10. Complete the herd register within the following timescales:

- movements – 48 hours of the movement taking place

- birth of a dairy calf – seven days
- birth of any other calf – 30 days
- a death – seven days
- eartag replacement where the eartag number is changed – 36 hours of the replacement

11. Holding registers must be retained for 10 years from the end of the calendar year in which the last entry was made. Other registers (e.g. those kept at markets) must be retained for three years from the end of that year.

You must not:

Tagging

1. Remove or replace eartags without permission from Scottish Ministers (obtained through BCMS), except when replacing lost or illegible tag
2. Alter, obliterate or deface an eartag

Further information

Full guidance on how to comply with identification rules can be found here:

[Guidance on keeping cattle, bison and buffalo in Great Britain](#)

***Explanation of terms**

'Cattle imported from within the EU' must keep their original identification.

'Eartags' should be applied one in each ear and bear the same unique identification code. You can get these from the manufacturers listed on our website.

'Replacement eartags' should bear the same number if cattle were born after 1 January, 1998. For older cattle a new tag number may be used and a new passport requested.

'Approved channels' are, a pre-printed application form, CTS online, CTS Web Services or CTS Self Service Line. This includes (but not exclusively) moving to another farm, market, collection centre, export assembly centre, abattoir or showground.

** 'Approved channels' are CTS Online, CTS Web Services, CTS Self Service Line, through an Agent or by Movement Card (if applicable).

If an animal is slaughtered outside a slaughterhouse but sent to a slaughterhouse for dressing, you must complete the 'death details section' in the passport and send it with the animal to the slaughterhouse. Responsibility then lies with the occupier of the slaughterhouse to return the passport to BCMS within seven days of the death.

If the other methods are chosen, the Cattle Identification Regulations 2007 (as amended) require you to return the passport within 'seven days of the date of death'. This is not a Cross Compliance rule, but failure to do so is an offence under the Cattle Identification Regulations.

Recent changes

Section	Change
You must not	Information referring to passports and registration removed.

Previous versions

[Previous versions of this page](#)

Download guidance

Click 'Download this page' to create a printable version of this guidance you can save or print out.

8 Sheep and goat identification (SMR 8)

Date published: 7 February, 2019

For recent changes to this guidance, please see the bottom of the page.

The aim of these rules is to maintain a system for the identification, registration and traceability of sheep and goats.

You must:

Identification

1. identify all sheep and goats with the correct means of identification within six months of birth for intensively farmed animals and nine months for extensively farmed animals, or before they leave the holding of birth, whichever is sooner
2. for intra-community trade, identify sheep and goats with two identically numbered eartags. If identified on or after 31 December, 2009, one identifier must be electronic
3. 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
4. only keep sheep or goats identified with a single slaughter tag beyond the age of 12 months if the animals are completely traceable. You must then replace the single means of identification with two new identifiers. For sheep, one of the identifiers must be electronic

Record keeping

5. for animals born and identified before 31 December, 2009 keep on-farm records with the required information, including:
 - details of the movement of sheep and goats on and off your holding, including:
 - the date of the movement
 - the number of animals moved
 - the destination or origin of the animals moved
 - the transport details for the animals leaving your holding
 - additionally, for animals born or identified on or after 31 December, 2009 these details must include:
 - the individual identification numbers of individually identified animals and in the case of batches of animals identified with a single slaughter tag which originate from different holdings of birth, the number of animals with each different flock/herd mark
 - in the holding of birth, the individual identification number of the animal, number of animals identified, year of birth and date of identification
 - the breed and, if known, the genotype
 - the individual identifier, month and year of death of an animal on the holding
 - for all animals, an annual inventory of the animals kept at 1 December
6. make sure that these on-farm records are up to date, kept for at least three years from the last day when an animal referred to in the register dies or leaves the holding and are available on request to an inspector

You must not:

Identification

1. alter, obliterate or deface any means of identification attached to an animal. However you may apply additional management information provided the legibility of the UK flock mark or UK individual ID number is not affected

[Further information](#)

The 'Sheep and Goat Identification and Traceability – Guidance for Keepers in Scotland' gives full guidance on how to comply with the sheep and goat identification rules.

[Sheep and Goat Identification](#)

[Previous versions](#)

[Previous versions of this page](#)

[Download guidance](#)

Click 'Download this page' to create a printable version of this guidance you can save or print out.

9 Prevention and control of transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (TSEs) (SMR 9)

Date published: 14 November, 2017

For recent changes to this guidance, please see the bottom of the page.

The aim of these rules is to minimise the risk posed to human and animal health by certain transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (TSEs). They apply to you if you keep farmed animals.

You must:

1. notify the duty veterinary officer of your local Animal and Plant Health Agency office immediately if you know or suspect that an animal or carcass in your possession, or under your charge, is infected with a transmissible spongiform encephalopathy (TSE)
2. fully comply with any movement restrictions imposed
3. fully comply with any order to slaughter and destroy any animal
4. fully comply with any other notices served by an inspector
5. fully comply with the inquiry carried out by an inspector to identify all animals at risk

You must not:

1. feed animal protein, or any feeding stuff that contains animal protein, to ruminants*, with the exception of the following (subject to required sourcing and processing, for example, it cannot be catering waste):
 - milk, milk-based products and colostrums
 - eggs and egg products
 - gelatine from non-ruminants
 - hydrolysed proteins derived from non-ruminants or from ruminant hides and skins
 - milk replacer powder for unweaned ruminants containing fishmeal*

If you are intending to feed any of the above animal protein to ruminants you must visit the [UK Government website](#) for full details.

2. feed products containing prohibited proteins* to any farmed animals, or mix prohibited proteins with feedstuffs
3. use restricted proteins* to produce feed for non-ruminants unless you have received authorisation from competent authority
4. use feed products containing restricted proteins on a farm where there are ruminants present unless you are registered with competent authority
5. export from the UK any bovine animal born or reared in the United Kingdom before 1 August, 1996
6. place on the market or export any products consisting of or incorporating any material (other than milk) derived from a bovine animal born or reared in the United Kingdom before 1 August, 1996
7. place on the market or export first generation offspring, the semen, ova or embryos of cattle, sheep or goats (of any age) without fully complying with the documentation requirements and restrictions applying to the sale or export of such products
8. move any cattle born or reared in the UK before 1 August, 1996 from their registered premises unless you have obtained a movement licence from the Animal and Plant Health Agency

Further information

Mineral-derived versions of dicalcium phosphate and tricalcium phosphate are permitted for all livestock and are most commonly used. Feed labels which do not specify 'animal origin' can be taken to be mineral.

For more information on TSEs or for contact details of your local Animal and Plant Health Agency office, please visit their website.

[Animal and Plant Health Agency](#)

To receive an application form to move cattle born or reared in the UK before 1 August, 1996 from their registered premises, also visit the Animal and Plant Health Agency website

[Animal and Plant Health Agency – movement licence](#)

***Explanation of terms**

'*Ruminant*' includes: cattle, sheep, goats, camelids, bison, buffalo, deer, antelope and wildebeest.

You can only feed liquid milk replacer to unweaned ruminants containing '*fishmeal*' if the manufacturer is authorised to make milk replacer powder containing fishmeal and you are registered to feed such replacer to ruminants.

'*Prohibited proteins*' are processed animal protein (with specific exemptions) and gelatine from ruminants, for example gelatine (including in surplus food).

'*Restricted proteins*' are animal proteins restricted to non-ruminant feed production (fishmeal, blood products of non-ruminant origin, dicalcium phosphate and tricalcium phosphate of animal origin). Also included are processed animal proteins of non-ruminant origin, including pig and poultry meal, for aquaculture animals.

Recent changes

Section	Change
Main section	Additional guidance regarding feeding animal protein to ruminants.

Previous versions

[Previous versions of this page](#)

Download guidance

Click 'Download this page' to create a printable version of this guidance you can save or print out.

10 Restrictions on the use of plant protection products (SMR 10)

Date published: 11 January, 2018

For recent changes to this guidance, please see the bottom of the page.

SMR 10

The aim of these rules is to ensure that plant protection products * are used correctly and to minimise their risk to humans, animals and the environment.

You must:

1. Use the authorised or permitted plant protection product in accordance with any requirements or conditions of the authorisation, permit or in any extension of use

- products must be authorised or permitted for use on the crop, land or situation
- products must be authorised for method of application
- observe application dates/harvest intervals
- follow the maximum dose/concentration
- follow the maximum number of applications

2. Comply with label conditions for the authorised or permitted plant protection product, for example:

- safe storage (e.g. keep out of reach of children, in original containers, protected from frost and stored to prevent environmental contamination)
- safe disposal (e.g. empty containers disposed of safely and containers not reused)
- operator safety (e.g. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) available for use when handling concentrate)
- general warnings (e.g. extreme care should be taken to avoid spray drift)

There are record-keeping requirements for plant protection products. These fall within the Cross Compliance rules for [SMR 4 – Food and feed law](#).

You must not:

1. use any plant protection product unless it is authorised or has a valid parallel trade permit

Further information

[Scottish Government pesticide pages](#)

[The Code of Practice for Using Plant Protection Products](#)

[Chemicals Regulation Division](#)

[Health and Safety Executive guidance on storing pesticides for farmers and other professional users](#)

*Explanation of terms

Plant Protection Products are 'pesticides' that protect crops.

A 'pesticide' is something that prevents, destroys, or controls a harmful organism ('pest') or disease, or protects plants or plant products.

The term includes, amongst others: herbicides, fungicides, insecticides, acaricides, nematocides, molluscicides, rodenticides, growth regulators, repellents, rodenticides and biocides.

A more detailed definition can be found via the following link: https://ec.europa.eu/food/plant/pesticides_en

Previous versions

[Previous versions of this page](#)

[Previous versions](#)

[Previous versions of this page](#)

[Download guidance](#)

Click 'Download this page' to create a printable version of this guidance you can save or print out.

11 Welfare of calves (SMR 11)

Date published: 1 January, 2015

The aim of these rules is to protect the welfare of calves by setting minimum standards for their care and husbandry. These rules apply in addition to the rules for the [Welfare of farmed animals \(SMR 13\)](#).

You must:

Inspection

1. inspect all housed calves at least twice a day, and those kept outside at least once a day

Accommodation and freedom of movement

2. make sure that individual stalls or pens satisfy the minimum width and length rules and that they have perforated walls which allow the calves to see each other and have physical contact with one another (except for those isolating sick animals*):

- width rule: must be at least equal to the height of the calf at the withers, when measured in the standing position

- length rule: at least equal to the body length of the calf (measured from the tip of the nose to the rear of the pin bone (tuber ischii), multiplied by 1.1

3. make sure that each of your calves can stand up, turn around, lie down, rest and groom itself without difficulty

4. make sure that each calf, when kept in a group, has its minimum allowance of unobstructed floor space*:

- at least 1.5 square metres for each calf with a live weight of less than 150kg

- at least two square metres for each calf with a live weight of 150kg or more but less than 200kg

- at least three square metres for each calf with a live weight of 200kg or more

5. provide flooring, for those calves kept in buildings, that is:

- smooth but not slippery

- designed so there is no injury or suffering to the calves standing or lying on it

- suitable for the size and weight of the calves

- rigid, even and stable

Environment

6. for calves kept in artificially lit buildings, provide artificial lighting for a period that is at least equal to the period of natural light normally available between 9am and 5pm

7. clean and disinfect housing and equipment used for your calves. Remove dung, urine and leftover food as often as necessary to reduce smells and avoid attracting flies or rodents

8. keep all housed calves on, or at all times give them access to, a lying area that is clean, comfortable, well drained and has dry bedding

9. give all calves appropriate bedding

Feed, water and other substances

10. feed all weaned calves at least twice a day

11. make sure when feeding group-housed calves that each calf either:

- has access to feed at the same time as the others in the feeding group

- has continuous access to feed

- is fed by an automatic feeding system

12. give all your calves fresh drinking water at all times in hot weather conditions or when they are ill

13. make sure that each calf receives bovine colostrum as soon as possible after it is born and within the first six hours of life

14. give all calves food that contains enough iron, to ensure a blood haemoglobin level of at least 4.5mmol/litre

15. provide the specified minimum daily ration of fibrous food for each calf above two weeks old. The daily fibrous food ration rises in line with the growth of the calf - starting at 100g at two weeks old and rising to 250g at 20 weeks

You must not:

Accommodation and freedom of movement

1. keep a calf in an individual stall or pen after the age of eight weeks (unless it needs to be isolated to receive treatment)*
2. muzzle your calves
3. tether your calves. This rule will not be broken if tethers are applied to group-housed calves, for up to one hour, when you are feeding them milk or milk substitute. In this case any tether must be regularly inspected and adjusted to make sure that it does not cause pain or injury to the calf and allows it to lie down, rest, stand up and groom itself



***Exemptions**

These rules do not apply to holdings with fewer than six calves or calves kept with their mothers for suckling.

[Download guidance](#)

Click 'Download this page' to create a printable version of this guidance you can save or print out.

12 Welfare of pigs (SMR 12)

Date published: 1 January, 2015

The aim of these rules is to protect pigs by setting minimum standards for their care and management and welfare. These rules apply as well as the rules for the welfare of farmed animals (SMR 13).

For all pigs*:

You must:

Accommodation and buildings

1. make sure that each of your pigs is free to turn around without difficulty at all times, including while tethered (where this is allowed)
2. make sure that the accommodation for your pigs allows them to:
 - stand up, lie down and rest without difficulty
 - have a clean, comfortable and adequately drained place in which to rest (including making sure that any bedding is clean, dry and not harmful to the pigs)
 - see other pigs (unless the pig is isolated for veterinary reasons or for farrowing)
 - maintain a comfortable temperature
 - have enough space to allow all of them to lie down at the same time
3. make sure that individual stalls or pens satisfy the minimum size rules (see table 1.0 – these do not apply in certain excepted situations)
4. provide artificial lighting of at least 40 lux for at least eight hours each day, for pigs kept in an artificially lit building
5. provide flooring, for those pigs kept in building, that is:
 - smooth but not slippery
 - suitable for the size and weight of the pigs
 - rigid, even and stable, if there is no litter
 - designed, constructed and maintained so there is no injury or suffering to the pigs standing or lying on it
6. provide flooring of the correct measurements (for openings and slats) if you use concrete slatted floors (see table 1.1 below – this applies for all pigs in groups)

Feed, water and environmental enrichment

7. make sure that when feeding group-housed pigs each pig either:
 - has access to feed at the same time as the others in the feeding group
 - has continuous access to feed
 - is fed by an automatic feeding system
8. give all pigs above two weeks old permanent access to a sufficient supply of fresh drinking water
9. give permanent access to enough manipulate material which allows proper investigation and manipulation, for example, straw, hay, wood, sawdust, mushroom compost, peat or a mixture of such, which does not upset the health of your animals

Prevention of fighting

10. take measures to prevent fighting which goes beyond normal behaviour. If you keep pigs together, keep those pigs separate which show persistent aggression or are victims of that aggression

You must not:

Accommodation and buildings

1. keep pigs in high temperature / high humidity environment known as the 'sweat-box system'

2. expose your pigs to constant or sudden noise, or levels above 85 decibels in any building where you keep pigs

Tethering

3. tether pigs at any time

- you will not break the rule relating to the tethering of pigs if it is done for veterinary purposes. In these cases any tether must be regularly inspected and adjusted to make sure that it does not cause pain or injury to the pig. And allows the pig to lie down, rest, stand up and groom itself

(1.0) Minimum size rules for stalls and pens

Pens	Guidance
Size of individual stall or pen	<p>Inside area: must be at least equal to the square of the length of the pig</p> <p>Sides: no side must be less than 75 per cent of the length of the pig</p> <p>The length of the pig is measured from the tip of its snout to the base of its tail when standing with its back straight</p>
Exceptions to minimum size requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a female pig for the period between seven days before the predicted day of her farrowing and the day on which her piglets are weaned (including any piglets fostered by her) • keeping a pig in a stall or pen for veterinary purposes • keeping a pig in a stall or pen for the purposes of servicing, artificial insemination or collecting semen • keeping a pig in a stall or pen while it is fed • keeping a pig in a stall or pen for the purposes of marking, washing or weighing it • keeping a pig in a stall or pen while its accommodation is being cleaned • keeping a pig in a stall or pen while it is waiting to be loaded for transportation <p>However, the period during which you keep the pig must not be longer than needed for that purpose</p> <p>The requirements for a minimum size of stall or pen also do not apply if it is referring to a stall or pen that the pig can enter or leave when it wants</p> <p>In this case the stall must be entered from another stall or pen where the pig is normally kept and which does comply by the minimum standards</p>

(1.1) Measurements of concrete slatted floors when keeping pigs in groups:

Type	Definition	Maximum width of openings (directive requirement)	Tolerance*	Acceptable maximum gap width	Minimum width of slats
Piglet	Pig from birth to weaning	11mm	No tolerance	11mm	50mm
Weaner	Pig from weaning to the age of 10 weeks	14mm	10-14mm +/-2mm	16mm	50mm
Rearer	Pig from the age of 10 weeks to slaughter or service	18mm	14-18mm +/- 3mm	21mm	80mm
Gilt	Female pig between service and first farrowing	20mm	14-20mm +/- 3mm	23mm	80mm
Sow	Female pig after the first farrowing	20mm	14-20mm +/- 3mm	23mm	80mm

Boar	Male pig after puberty, intended for breeding	20mm	14-20mm +/- 3mm	23mm	80mm
------	---	------	-----------------	------	------

*European Commission guidance (2012) indicates that, due to agreed European manufacturing tolerances in precast concrete, for weaner pigs to adults a +2mm or +3mm gap tolerance should be allowed depending on type of pig. Note, that there is no tolerance for gaps for piglets or for slat width which must achieve the minimum.

For all boars*:

You must:

1. place and build boar pens to allow the boars to turn around and hear, see and smell other pigs
2. provide clean resting areas in the boar pens and make sure that the lying area is dry and comfortable
3. make sure that each boar has its minimum allowance of unobstructed floor space:
 - each adult boar must have at least six square metres of unobstructed floor space
 - if used for natural service the floor area must be at least 10 square metres and free of obstacles

For all sows* and gilts*:

You must:

Prevention of parasites

1. treat pregnant sows and gilts against internal and external parasites, if necessary

Farrowing

2. thoroughly clean pregnant sows and gilts before they are placed in farrowing crate
3. give sows and gilts enough suitable nesting material in the week before the expected farrowing time (unless it is not technically practical because of the slurry system you use)
4. provide an unobstructed area behind the sow or gilt during farrowing
5. provide some method of protecting the piglets, such as farrowing rails, if you keep sows loose in farrowing pens

Group housing

6. keep sows and gilts in groups (except during the period between seven days before the predicted day of farrowing and the day on which the weaning of piglets is complete)
7. make sure that each female pig after service, when kept in groups, has its minimum allowance (see table 1.2) of unobstructed floor space, continuous solid floor and pens of correct dimensions
8. feed sows and gilts using a system that makes sure each pig can get enough food even when other pigs are competing for food
9. give all dry pregnant sows and gilts enough bulky or high-fibre food, as well as high-energy food, to satisfy their hunger and need to chew

You will not break the rule relating to keeping sows and gilts in groups if they are kept on holdings of fewer than 10 sows, provided that the individual accommodation keeps to the general rules for pig accommodation.

(1.2) Minimum allowance for unobstructed floor space

Requirement	Guidance
Pen size for sows and gilts kept in groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the sides of the pens must be greater than 2.8 metres in length when there are six in the group • the sides of the pens must be at least 2.4 metres in length when there are fewer than six in the group
Flooring for sows and gilts	Amount of unobstructed floor space must be at least:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1.64 square metres for each gilt • 2.25 square metres for each sow <p>If the animals are kept in groups of fewer than six the unobstructed floor area must be increased by 10%</p> <p>If the animals are kept in groups of 40 or more the unobstructed floor area can be reduced by 10%</p>
Part of the floor area must be continuous solid floor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • at least 0.95 square metres for each gilt • at least 1.3 square metres for each sow <p>Up to 15 per cent of the solid floor area may be reserved for drainage openings</p>

For all piglets*:

You must:

1. provide piglets with a source of heat and a dry comfortable lying area away from the sow where all of them can rest at the same time
2. make sure that a part of the total floor where you keep the piglets is large enough to allow the animals to rest together at the same time and is solid, covered with a mat or littered with straw or any other suitable material
3. give the piglets enough space to be able to suckled without difficulty if you use a farrowing crate

You must not:

1. wean piglets from the sow at an age of less than 28 days (unless there is a risk of adverse welfare or health of the dam or piglets)

You will not break the rule relating to the weaning of piglets if they are weaned up to seven days earlier, provided that you move them into specialised housing which you empty and thoroughly clean and disinfect before you introduce a new group and which is separate from the housing where you keep sows.

For weaners and rearing pigs

You must:

1. make sure that each weaner or rearing pig, when kept in groups, has its minimum allowance of unobstructed floor space (see table 1.3)
2. place pigs in groups as soon as possible after weaning and keep these groups stable with as little mixing as possible
3. provide opportunities for the animals to escape and hide from unfamiliar pigs if mixing is necessary. This must also be done at a young age as possible, preferably before, or up to one week after, weaning

You must not:

1. use tranquilising medication to help with mixing, unless there are exceptional circumstances and is on the advice of a vet

(1.3) Amount of unobstructed floor space for weaners / rearers

Average weight of pigs in the group (kilograms)	Minimum unobstructed floor space (square metres)
10 or less	0.15
Greater than 10 but less than or equal to 20	0.20
Greater than 20 but less than or equal to 30	0.30
Greater than 30 but less than or equal to 50	0.40
Greater than 50 but less than or equal to 85	0.55
Greater than 85 but less than or equal to 110	0.65
Greater than 110	1.00



Explanation of terms

'Pig' means an animal of the porcine species of any age, kept for breeding or fattening.

'Boar' means a male pig after puberty, intended for breeding.

'Sow' means a female pig after the first farrowing.

'Gilt' means a female pig intended for breeding, after puberty and before farrowing.

'Piglet' means a pig from birth to weaning.

'Weaner' means a pig from weaning to the age of 10 weeks.

'Rearing pig' means a pig from the age of 10.

[Download guidance](#)

Click 'Download this page' to create a printable version of this guidance you can save or print out.

13 Welfare of farmed animals (SMR 13)

Date published: 11 January, 2018

For recent changes to this guidance, please see the bottom of the page.

Introduction

The aim of these rules is to protect the welfare of farmed animals by setting minimum standards for their care and husbandry. They apply to any species kept for farming purposes.

You must:

Staffing

1. make sure that your animals are looked after by enough staff who have the correct skills and knowledge

Inspection

2. make sure your animals are inspected thoroughly at least once a day if your husbandry system depends on frequent human attention and in other systems as often as necessary to avoid suffering

3. make sure that there is enough lighting so that you can carry out a thorough inspection of the animals at any time

4. make sure that you care for ill or injured animals immediately, and if they do not respond to this care then seek veterinary advice

5. isolate sick or injured animals in suitable accommodation with dry comfortable bedding, if necessary

Record keeping

6. maintain a record of any medicinal treatment given to your animals, and keep these records for at least three years from the date of the treatment and make these records available to any authorised person at inspection (or when otherwise asked for)

7. maintain a record of the number of deaths found when the animals are inspected, and keep these records for at least three years from the date of the relevant inspection and make these records available to any authorised person at inspection (or when otherwise asked for)

Freedom of movement

8. give your animals enough space to avoid necessary stress, if they are continuously or regularly tethered or confined, and also allow them to show their normal behaviour in line with established experience and scientific knowledge

Buildings and accommodation

9. use materials for animal accommodation that can be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected

10. build and maintain accommodation so that there are no sharp edges or protrusions which could injure your animals

11. keep air circulation, dust levels, temperature, relative air humidity and gas concentrations within limits that will not harm your animals

12. provide artificial lighting if there is not sufficient natural light in a building

Animals not kept in buildings

13. give your animals that are not kept in buildings access to a well-drained lying area at all times and, if necessary, protection from adverse weather conditions, predators and other risks to their health

Automatic or mechanical equipment

14. check automated and/or mechanical equipment that is essential for the health and well-being of your animals at least once a day and put right any faults immediately (or take appropriate steps to protect the health and well-being of your animals until you can get the fault put right)

15. provide an appropriate back-up to the main system if your animals health and well-being depends upon artificial ventilation and an alarm to warn you if the ventilation system fails. Inspect and test these at least once every seven days

Feed, water and other substances

16. feed your animals a wholesome diet in sufficient quantities and making sure that they have access to feed at intervals appropriate to their needs (and, in any case, at least once a day)

17. give all animals access to a suitable water supply and enough fresh drinking water or other fluid

18. minimise any contamination of food and water and the harmful effects of competition between animals for food and water through the design and location of feeding and watering equipment

You must not:

Freedom of movement

1. restrict your animals freedom of movement if this causes them unnecessary suffering or injury

Buildings and accommodation

2. use materials and/or equipment for accommodation purposes that is harmful to your animals

3. keep animals in permanent darkness or without an appropriate rest period from artificial lighting

Feed, water and other substances

4. give your animals food or liquid in any way, or containing any substance, that could cause unnecessary harm

5. administer any substance to your animals which is harmful to their health or welfare

Mutilations

6. carry out any mutilation or intervention on your animals, unless the action is classed as a prohibited procedure exemption (see Annex 1). (Many exemptions have conditions attached, including the need to be reasonably justified and be a measure of 'last resort'.)

In general -

- any prohibited procedure exemption must be carried out in hygienic conditions, in a manner to minimise pain and suffering, and according to good practice
- any castration or tail docking must be carried out by a person over the age of 18 years, or 17 years if under formal instruction

Breeding procedures



7. carry out breeding procedures (either natural or artificial) that cause, or are likely to cause, harm to your animals

8. keep animals for farming purposes unless it can be reasonably expected that the normal breed characteristics (genetic and physical) mean that they can be kept without harm to their health and welfare

Further Information

* Mutilations are procedures which involve interference with the sensitive tissues or bone structure of the animal.

Further information on the conditions attached to prohibited procedure exemptions can be found in the Animal Welfare codes of Recommendation / Practice

Annex 1

Please be aware that there may be additional conditions attached to the prohibited procedure exemptions. You must comply with these if you are carrying out any of the procedures listed in the tables below.

The conditions can be found in the [Animal Welfare codes of Recommendation / Practice](#) .

SMR 13 - Bovine animals

Procedure	Purpose
Freeze branding	Identification
Tattooing	Identification
Ear tagging	Identification; Screening or routine or random testing for disease; or genetic analysis
Micro chipping	Identification
Vasectomy	Controlling reproduction or general animal management
Castration	Controlling reproduction or general animal management
Implantation of a subcutaneous contraceptive into a non-farmed bovine	Controlling reproduction or general animal management, as part of a conservation programme
Embryo and ovum transfer	Controlling reproduction or general animal management
Nose ringing	Handler safety or herd welfare
Dehorning	Handler safety or herd welfare
Disbudding	Handler safety or herd welfare
Supernumerary teat removal	Animal health

SMR 13 - Sheep

Procedure	Purpose
Tattooing	Identification
Ear tagging	Identification or sampling or routine or random testing for disease
Ear notching	Identification
Micro chipping	Identification
Vasectomy	Controlling reproduction or general animal management
Castration Condition - Surgical castration may only be carried out by a veterinary surgeon	Controlling reproduction or general animal management

Laparoscopic insemination	Controlling reproduction or general animal management
Embryo and ovum transfer	Controlling reproduction or general animal management
Implantation of a subcutaneous contraceptive into a non-farmed sheep	Controlling reproduction or general animal management, as part of a conservation programme
Dehorning	Handler safety or flock welfare
Disbudding	Handler safety or flock welfare
Docking of farmed sheep kept on agricultural land Conditions - 1) docking of sheep over three months of age can only be carried out by a veterinary surgeon 2) Surgical docking may only be carried out by a veterinary surgeon	Animal health

SMR 13 - Goats

Procedure	Purpose
Tattooing	Identification
Ear tagging	Identification or screening or routine or random testing for disease
Ear notching	Identification
Micro chipping	Identification
Vasectomy	Controlling reproduction or general animal management
Castration	Controlling reproduction or general animal management
Laparoscopic insemination	Controlling reproduction or general animal management
Implantation of a subcutaneous contraceptive into a non-farmed goat	Controlling reproduction or general animal management, as part of a conservation programme
Embryo and ovum transfer	Controlling reproduction or general animal management
Dehorning	Handler safety or herd welfare
Disbudding	Handler safety or herd welfare

SMR 13 - Pigs

Procedure	Purpose
Tattooing	Identification
Ear tagging	Identification or screening or routine or random testing for disease
Ear notching	Identification
Micro chipping	Identification
Vasectomy	Controlling reproduction or general animal management
Implantation of a subcutaneous contraceptive into a non-farmed pig	Controlling reproduction or general animal management, as part of a conservation programme
Embryo and ovum transfer	Controlling reproduction or general animal management
Tusk trimming	Handler safety or herd welfare
Docking of farmed pigs on agricultural land Conditions - 1) The procedure may only be performed— (a) where there is evidence that injuries to the tails of other pigs have occurred and where other measures to improve environmental conditions or	Handler safety or herd welfare

<p>management systems have been taken in order to prevent tailbiting; and</p> <p>(b) by the quick and complete severance of the part of the tail to be removed.</p> <p>2) Where pigs are older than 7 days of age the procedure must be performed under anaesthetic and additional prolonged analgesia and only by a veterinary surgeon.</p>	
<p>Uniform reduction of the corner teeth of farmed piglets kept on agricultural land aged 7 days or less by grinding or clipping to leave an intact smooth surface</p> <p>Condition - The procedure may only be performed where there is evidence of injuries to sows' teats or to other pigs' ears or tails and when other measures have been taken to prevent tailbiting and other vices have been exhausted.</p>	Herd welfare
<p>Nose ringing</p> <p>Condition - Nose rings must not be put in animals kept continuously in indoor husbandry systems.</p>	General animal management
<p>Castration</p> <p>Conditions -</p> <p>1) Castration may only be performed by means other than the tearing of tissues.</p> <p>2) Where pigs are older than 7 days of age the procedure must be performed under anaesthetic and additional prolonged analgesia and only by a veterinary surgeon.</p>	Controlling reproduction or general animal management

SMR 13 - Birds

Procedure	Purpose
Micro chipping	Identification
<p>Beak trimming of poultry</p> <p>Conditions -</p> <p>1) Beak trimming of poultry may only be performed to prevent feather pecking and cannibalism and, in relation to laying hens kept on holdings of 350 or more and meat chickens kept on holdings of 500 or more, when the animals are less than 10 days old.</p> <p>2) Beak trimming of laying hens kept on holdings of 350 or more may only be performed using the infra-red procedure.</p> <p>3) In an emergency, to control an outbreak of feather pecking or cannibalism in laying hens, conditions 1 and 2 do not apply.</p> <p>4) Beak trimming of meat chickens may only be carried out, after consultation with and on the advice of a veterinary surgeon, by qualified staff, and where other measures to prevent feather pecking and cannibalism are exhausted.</p>	Flock welfare
De-snooding	General animal management
Cutting of the toes of poultry other than laying hens and meat chickens	General animal management
Dubbing of domestic fowl other than laying hens and meat chickens	General animal management
Pinioning of birds other than poultry	General animal management
Laparoscopy	General animal management
Castration, ovidectomy and vasectomy of a bird other than poultry	Controlling reproduction or general animal management, as part of a conservation programme
Implantation of a subcutaneous contraceptive into a bird other than poultry	Controlling reproduction or general animal management, as part of a conservation programme

Wing tagging	Identification of – 1) poultry in connection with breeding or testing for the presence of disease; or 2) a bird other than poultry in connection with conservation or research
Web tagging	Identification of – 1) poultry in connection with breeding or testing for the presence of disease or 2) a bird other than poultry in connection with conservation or research

SMR 13 - Equine Horses

Procedure	Purpose
Freeze branding	Identification
Tattooing	Identification
Micro chipping	Identification
Vasectomy	Controlling reproduction or general animal management
Castration	Controlling reproduction or general animal management
Implantation of a subcutaneous contraceptive	Controlling reproduction or general animal management
Embryo and ovum transfer	Controlling reproduction or general animal management

SMR 13 - Deer

Procedure	Purpose
Tattooing	Identification
Ear tagging	Identification or screening or routine or random testing for disease
Ear notching	Identification
Micro chipping	Identification
Vasectomy	Controlling reproduction or general animal management
Castration	Controlling reproduction or general animal management
Implantation of a subcutaneous contraceptive into a non-farmed deer	Controlling reproduction or general animal management, as part of a conservation programme
Embryo and ovum transfer	Controlling reproduction or general animal management
Removal of antlers	Handler safety or herd welfare

SMR 13 - Any other type of animal

Procedure	Purpose
Micro chipping	Identification
Tattooing	Identification
Vasectomy	Controlling reproduction
Castration	Controlling reproduction
Spaying	Controlling reproduction
Embryo and ovum transfer	Controlling reproduction
Implantation of a subcutaneous contraceptive	Controlling reproduction or general animal management

Previous versions

[Previous versions of this page](#)

[Download guidance](#)

Click 'Download this page' to create a printable version of this guidance you can save or print out.