



FPS BRIEFING NOTE

STORAGE OF AGRICULTURAL FUEL OIL ON FARMS IN NORTHERN IRELAND

The Control of Pollution (Silage, Slurry and Agricultural Fuel Oil) (Scotland) Regulations 2003

The Silage, Slurry and Agricultural Fuel Oil Regulations apply if you store fuel oil that is used for agricultural purposes and your storage facilities were constructed and substantially altered after 1 December 2003. Even for older facilities you should consider applying the standards as they will help to prevent oil pollution.

Summary of the Regulations

(applies to new installations and to installations significantly altered since 1 December 2003)

Where more than 1,250 litres of fuel oil are stored for agricultural purposes:

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

Fuel oil stored on farms but not for agricultural use is not covered by the Regulations, but other regulations may apply.

The Environment & Heritage Service (EHS) is responsible for enforcing these Regulations. Should your oil storage facilities not meet the Regulations, EHS will provide advice and guidance to assist you with compliance. However, if you fail to act, EHS may serve a Notice requiring that the facilities be brought up to standard. Failure to comply with a Notice is a criminal offence and may result in prosecution.

The role of the oil distributor

Oil distributors also have a duty of care to ensure that they do not contribute towards any pollution. Therefore, if an oil tank is identified as contravening the Regulations at the time a delivery is to be made, the distributor may refuse to deliver.

Do you need further advice?

If you need further advice on oil storage, contact the Environment & Heritage Service on
02890 254754 or EP@doeni.gov.uk