



Maintenance of structures and equipment

Regular, scheduled maintenance of structures and equipment not only improves efficiency, reduces excessive wear and tear, saves money, and avoids unnecessary delays, but it is also a regulatory requirement which will prevent pollution.

Outlined below are the basic regulatory requirements for structures and equipment. It is highly recommended that you audit your farms maintenance requirements to reduce downtime and stay on the right side of the regulations. All maintenance and equipment should be undertaken by personnel who are suitably experienced or qualified to undertake such activities.

Equipment for the application of fertilisers and manures

Spreading equipment **must** be kept maintained in a good state of repair. Regular maintenance will allow for more accurate application of manures and slurries, resulting in the ability to comply with the requirements of the diffuse pollution general binding rules.

For more information on the rules relating to application of fertilisers and manures refer to the Know the Rules Factsheet 8.

Sheep dipping facilities

Equipment which is used infrequently and/or left in situ in remote locations on a farm can be prone to neglect and disrepair. Sheep dipping facilities are used for short periods of the year, but it is essential that such equipment is checked on a regular basis. Checking these facilities can allow for defects to be fixed and resolved well before the requirement to use them. All sheep dipping facilities must be maintained in good condition and there should be no leaks or cracks.

More information on sheep dipping facilities and the safe and proper use can be found in Know the Rules Factsheet 13.

Slurry and liquid digestate storage systems

Slurry and liquid digestate storage systems are a significant investment on the farm. These structures need to deal with liquids under pressure, diverse weather conditions and regular use.

All structures used to store these **must** be maintained to ensure they are kept free from any structural defects. All storage systems **must** be fit for purpose and meet a minimum level of structural integrity, the slurry storage tank, channels, pipes, valves, and reception pit **must** be operationally maintained to be free of any structural defects during their lifecycle.

More information on the maintenance requirements and other requirements relating to pollution control and prevention associated with slurry stores can be found in Know the Rules Factsheet 2.

Silage structures

It is important to carry out routine inspections and annual maintenance checks on your clamps and collection systems to ensure they remain impermeable and free from any structural defects. The best time to carry out these checks is when the clamp is empty before fist cut silage is taken.

The silo, its effluent tank, channel, and pipes **must** be operationally maintained to be free of any structural defects during its lifecycle. Further information on the maintenance requirements and operation requirements of silage structures can be found in Know the Rules Factsheet 4.

Surface water drains and associated structures

All facilities with which the surface water drainage system is equipped to avoid pollution, including oil interceptors, silt traps and SUD system attenuation, settlement, and treatment facilities, must be maintained in good order and repair.

Pesticide sprayers

Pesticide sprayers and other devices used to apply pesticides **must** be maintained in a good state of repair, such that there is no leakage of pesticide from any part of the equipment and the sprayer is calibrated to accurately deliver the required application rate. These items of equipment can often lay dormant on a farm or store for significant periods of time. Prior checking, well in advance of use is essential to ensure any repairs can be made in time for its essential use.

For more information on pesticide management can be found in Know the Rules Factsheet 12.