

NOTIFICATION

Further suspension of cross-compliance requirements relating to waterlogged soil

Paragraphs 1, 3 and 6 of the Schedule to the Common Agricultural Policy Single Payment and Support Schemes (Cross-compliance) (England) Regulations 2005 (S.I. 2005/3459) (“the Cross-compliance Regulations”), as amended by the Common Agricultural Policy Single Payment and Support Schemes (Cross-compliance) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2007 (S.I. 2007/2500)

Ending of general exemption from waterlogged soil requirements

1. Farmers should be aware that the general exemption from the waterlogged soil requirements introduced on 11th July and extended on 25th July and 29th August ends at midnight on 10th September.

Future exemptions

2. Farmers who consider they should benefit from a future exemption from the waterlogged soil requirements to harvest crops or for other specific purposes because areas in which they are farming are affected by exceptional weather conditions should contact the Rural Payments Agency at the address below with the following information:

- Single Business Identifier
- Name
- County
- Field number (s)
- Approximate area
- Crop to be harvested
- Soil type
- Reason for request

3. The Secretary of State will only grant an exemption for harvesting of crops or for other specific purposes if he considers it necessary because an area is affected by exceptional weather conditions. He will consider the economic impact of those conditions and the environmental effects of granting an exemption. Any such exemption will be of a limited duration and will be subject to the following conditions:

- farmers to record in their Soil Protection Reviews, as soon as practicable:
 - any damage arising from the suspension of the waterlogged soil requirements to any part of their holdings which is subject of such a Review; and
 - the action they intend to take to undo or, if appropriate, lessen that damage
- farmers to take such action as soon as is practicable and, in any event, before the next crop is sown;
- farmers harvesting on heavy clay soils where possible to:

- keep traffic to a minimum in the field, using headlands for unloading; and
 - use dual tyres, low-ground pressure tyres, cage wheels, half-tracks or special-purpose vehicles.
4. The Secretary of State does not anticipate that applications made after 30 September in respect of conditions resulting from the July floods are likely to lead to further exemptions.

Notes

The “waterlogged soil requirements” are the requirements relating to waterlogged soil set out in paragraph 3(1) of the Schedule to the Cross-compliance Regulations.

Farmers should not commence operations until they have received confirmation that their derogation has been granted.

If you have any queries as to activities on waterlogged soil, as to what amendments you should make to your Soil Protection Review or as to when you should take remedial action, please contact the Cross Compliance Helpline on 0845 345 1302.

RPA contact details: RPA Customer Service Centre on 0845 603 7777 or by email on csc@rpa.gsi.gov.uk.

Signed by the Minister of State on behalf of the Secretary of State, on 10 September 2007

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gill Triggs', is written over a horizontal line. To the right of the signature, there is a vertical red line.