

Cross Compliance Summary of Key Points

Key dates

From 1 January 2007	<p>The three new SMRs (16–18) come into force and form part of cross compliance.</p> <p>You must start to implement your Soil Protection Review (SPR).</p>
15 January 2007	<p>Start of the set-aside period. You must have an acceptable green cover in place (unless an exemption applies) and must not graze set-aside land.</p>
1 February 2007	<p>Default date for the start of the ten-month period during which you must have land at your disposal (unless you specify a different date on the Single Payment Scheme (SPS) application form).</p>
1 March to 15 July 2007	<p>Best practice is to avoid operations on set-aside land in this period, as you could harm nesting birds and other wildlife. If action is essential, take steps to minimise the disturbance to wildlife (set-aside management requirement and GAEC 12).</p>
1 March to 31 July 2007 (inclusive)	<p>You must not cut or trim any hedgerow on your farm (GAEC 15). For further information, including exceptions to this rule, please refer to GAEC 15.</p>
1 March 2007	<p>Land under long-term GAEC 12 should normally have a green cover established by this date.</p>
15 April 2007	<p>Earliest date on which you can use non-selective herbicides on set-aside land (set-aside management requirement).</p>

30 April 2007	Final date on which the ten-month period for having land at your disposal can begin if you are claiming payment under the Single Payment Scheme (SPS) in 2007.
15 May 2007	Closing date for SPS applications (without incurring late claim penalties).
Spring 2007	Updated regulations regarding sewage sludge (SMR 3) are expected to come into force.
9 June 2007	Last date for submitting SPS applications (reductions will have started accumulating after 15 May).
15 July 2007	You can sow crops on set-aside land for harvest in 2008.
15 July to 15 (or 31) August 2007	Compulsory cut of green cover on set-aside land (15 August) or destruction (31 August) – unless an exemption applies.
After 31 July 2007	Hedgerows can be cut from this date. Also, if GAEC 12 applies, vegetation can be cut.
31 August 2007	End of set-aside period.
1 September 2007	If you are a new entrant into SPS or cross compliance, you must have completed your SPR template.
1 October 2007	The first date at which the ten-month period for having land at your disposal can begin for a parcel of land that will support a claim under the SPS in 2008.

Summary of measures

Please note that this is only a guide to assist easy reference, and not a definitive or comprehensive list of measures. Please consult the Handbook and Supplements for detailed information before commencing any activity to which these measures might apply. An index referring to each cross compliance measure and its location within the 2006 Handbook and two Supplements can be found in Section B of the *Cross Compliance Handbook for England Supplement for 2007*.

GAEC 1 General requirements for soil management and protection

You must implement measures from your Soil Protection Review (SPR) from 1 January 2007. You must update your SPR at least once in 2007. If your measures did not remedy the problem you will need to set out and implement additional measures. You should update your SPR if you change your land holding, management system or cropping practice.

GAEC 2 Post-harvest management of land

You must ensure that the land is left in a state where run-off is unlikely, typically by leaving it with a rough surface to encourage the infiltration of rain.

GAEC 3 Waterlogged soil

You must not normally carry out any mechanical field operations on an area of waterlogged soil.

GAEC 4 Burning of crop residues

You must not burn most crop residues (except linseed residues), and where you are permitted to burn, you must abide by restrictions.

GAEC 5 Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): Forestry

You must not begin a project on forested or uncultivated land and semi-natural areas without permission, and must comply with any notices served.

GAEC 6 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)

You must not carry out any operation, destroy, disturb or damage any of the plants, animals, geological or other landscape features without prior consent from Natural England. You must comply with restoration orders.

GAEC 7 Scheduled monuments

You must not carry out any operations resulting in the demolition of, destruction of or damage to a scheduled monument without prior consent from English Heritage.

GAEC 8 Public rights of way

You must not disturb the surface of a public right of way that crosses your land or block the free passage along a right of way. You must maintain your stiles and other such structures.

GAEC 9 Overgrazing and unsuitable supplementary feeding

You must not overgraze or carry out unsuitable supplementary feeding on natural and semi-natural vegetation. You must take note of guidance and comply with prescriptions.

GAEC 10 Heather and grass burning

You must meet the restrictions (dates and timing) on the burning of heather, rough grass, bracken, gorse and vaccinium.

GAEC 11 Control of weeds

You must prevent the spread of common ragwort, spear and creeping (field) thistle, broad-leaved and curled dock, rhododendron, Japanese knotweed, giant hogweed and Himalayan balsam.

GAEC 12 Eligible land which is not in agricultural production

Establish and maintain a green cover, which must be cut or grazed at least once every five years. Observe requirements on manure storage and use. Prevent the use of non-farm vehicles and the spread of weeds. Do not cut vegetation between 1 March and 31 July.

GAEC 13 Stone walls

You must not remove a stone wall from your land, nor remove stone from a stone wall unless exceptions apply.

GAEC 14 Protection of hedgerows and watercourses

You must not cultivate or apply fertilisers, dredgings, slurry, manures or pesticides within two metres of the centre of a hedgerow or watercourse or one metre from the top of a watercourse bank. You must maintain a green cover on these margins and must not use them for storage.

GAEC 15 Hedgerows

You must not remove a hedgerow on any part of your holding without permission. You must not cut or trim hedgerows between 1 March and 31 July.

GAEC 16 Felling of trees

Where necessary, you must have a felling licence before you can carry out felling. You must also comply with restocking and enforcement notices.

GAEC 17 Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs)

You must not cut down, damage or destroy, uproot, top or lop a tree protected by a TPO without written consent.

SMR 1 Wild birds

You must not kill, injure, or take any wild birds or their eggs; possess live or dead wild birds; damage, destroy or take nests while in use; nor disturb certain birds while they are nesting. You must also comply with the rules relating to Special Protection Areas.

SMR 2 Groundwater

You must not cause or permit the entry into groundwater of poisonous, noxious or polluting matter, or dispose of or tip onto land substances that lead to an indirect discharge of that substance into groundwater.

SMR 3 Sewage sludge

You must only use tested sludge on land that is tested or assessed. Do not exceed the specified limits and concentrations, and work the sludge into the soil. You must keep and supply records and observe restrictions on all farming activities after spreading sludge.

SMR 4 Nitrate Vulnerable Zones (NVZs)

For land within an NVZ you must comply with the NVZ Action Programme measures. These include an annual farm limit on the total nitrogen from organic manure applied, periods when manures and fertilisers cannot be applied, limiting applications of manures and fertilisers to crop requirement, ensuring adequate slurry storage capacity, not applying manures and/or fertilisers when ground conditions are unsuitable (e.g. waterlogged, flooded, frozen, snow-covered, steeply sloping or within ten metres of watercourses) and keeping records.

SMR 5 Habitats

You must not pick, collect, cut, uproot or destroy European protected species or keep them, transport them, sell or exchange them, or offer them for sale or exchange – alive or dead. You must not use indiscriminate means to kill or take certain wild animals, nor release or allow alien species to escape into the wild. You must comply with the rules in designated Special Areas of Conservation.

SMR 6 Animal identification and registration – pigs

This applies if you keep pigs and includes requirements for identification, registration, movement and record keeping.

SMRs 7 and 8 Cattle identification

This applies if you keep bovine animals (dairy or meat) and includes requirements for identification, registration, movement, passports and record keeping.

SMR 8a Animal identification and registration – sheep and goats

This applies if you keep sheep and goats and covers requirements for identification, registration, movement and record keeping.

SMR 9 Restrictions on the use of plant protection products

This applies if you use plant protection products on your land. You must not use any plant protection product unless it has been approved for that use. You must ensure it is used in accordance with its specified requirements and you use it in line with the principles of good plant protection practice.

SMR 10 Restrictions on the use of substances having hormonal or thyrostatic action and beta-agonists

If you keep farmed animals, most uses of such substances are prohibited. A very limited range of uses is permitted under veterinary control.

SMR 11 Food and feed law

This applies if you produce and sell crops, animals or animal products for food or feed. You must not place food or feed on the market if it is unsafe, and you must put in place systems and procedures related to the traceability of inputs to and outputs from your farm.

SMR 12 Prevention and control of Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (TSEs)

You must notify the Divisional Veterinary Manager (DVM) immediately of any animal suspected of being infected by a TSE. You must not feed to ruminants any feed containing animal protein or other banned food.

SMR 13 Control of Foot and Mouth Disease

You must notify the DVM immediately if you know or suspect that an animal or carcass in your possession is infected with Foot and Mouth Disease.

SMR 14 Control of certain animal diseases

SMR 15 Control of Bluetongue

You must notify the DVM immediately if you know or suspect that an animal or carcass is infected with rinderpest, peste des petits ruminants, swine vesicular disease, epizootic haemorrhagic disease of deer, sheep and goat pox (capripox), vesicular stomatitis, lumpy skin disease, African swine fever, Rift Valley fever or Bluetongue.

SMR 16 Welfare of calves

You must inspect calves twice a day inside and once a day outside. Ensure that feed, water, accommodation and the environment are appropriate for them. Other requirements are included in SMR 18 (below), but be aware of the specific requirements for calves.

SMR 17 Welfare of pigs

Ensure that feed, water, accommodation and the environment are appropriate for pigs. Other requirements are included in SMR 18 (below), but be aware of the specific requirements for different types of pigs.

SMR 18 Welfare of farmed animals

You must inspect farmed animals regularly, ensure that they have freedom of movement, an appropriate environment, and suitable accommodation, equipment, feed, water and other necessities. Avoid unnecessary mutilations and interventions and artificial breeding that may cause suffering or injury. Keep a record of medicines administered and deaths.

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