CROSS COMPLIANCE

2010
NB! As regards the legislation mentioned and referred to in the publication and the requirements, March 2010 status has been taken as the basis.

The cross compliance requirements given in the publication may be changed and supplemented.

In case of amendments to the EU and Estonian legislation, references concerning legislation may also be changed.

Valid legislation is available in Riigi Teataja www.riigiteataja.ee.

Authors are not responsible for the decisions caused by changes in legislation and made on the basis of the publication.

Good agricultural and environmental condition requirements have been written in blue ink, statutory management requirements in green ink, information by requirements in traditional print and explanations of requirements and additional information in italics.

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**Cross compliance**

Application of the system of cross compliance is one of the most important results of the EU Common Agricultural Policy reform of 2003, influencing the amount of agricultural producer support. Cross compliance principles have been provided in Articles 4–6 and Annexes II and III of Council Regulation (EC) No 73/2009 and in § 23–26 of the *European Union Common Agricultural Policy Implementation Act*.

With cross compliance, full payment of agricultural subsidies is ensured only to those agricultural producers who meet the requirements proceeding from different legal acts and maintain agricultural land in good agricultural and environmental condition.

Cross compliance includes *good agricultural and environmental condition (GAEC)* and *statutory management requirements (SMR)*. The EU Member States must also ensure maintenance of permanent pasture.

Cross compliance must be respected by applicants applying for the following subsidies:

- **Direct payments:**
  - Single Area Payment Scheme (SAPS),
  - specific market support measure in the dairy sector.

- **Estonian Rural Development Plan (RDP) 2007–2013 support payments:**
  - support for less-favoured areas;
  - agri-environmental support:
    - support for environmentally friendly management,
    - support for organic farming,
    - support for keeping animals of local endangered breeds,
    - support for growing plants of local varieties and
    - support for the maintenance of semi-natural habitats;
  - Natura 2000 support for agricultural land;
  - Natura 2000 support for private forest land;
  - support for animal grazing.

Requirements apply to the agricultural activity of agricultural producer or to the agricultural land of agricultural holding, regardless of whether support is applied for with respect to this land or not.
In case of **good agricultural and environmental condition (GAEC)**, certain subjects (soil erosion, soil organic matter, soil structure, minimum land management and water protection and management) have been provided in the EU legal acts, in the context of which the state itself establishes concrete controllable requirements, considering its own specificities, situation and needs. Not all GAEC requirements directly proceed from valid legal acts – they are only applied to applicants for support. Meeting requirements should not be an additional activity, if good practices are followed.

In Estonia, for applicants for direct payments GAEC requirements have been in force since 2004 and for some applicants for Estonian Rural Development Plan 2007–2013 support payments since 2007. The requirements have been supplemented. Considering the time schedule, the requirements will also be supplemented in the future. In 2010, three new requirements were added: restriction of chopping on a grassland located on a natural object placed under protection, prohibition to damage or destroy individual protected natural objects or immovable monuments located on agricultural land and the requirement to hold a permit for the special use of water if more than 5 m³ of groundwater or more than 30 m³ of surface water are used for the irrigation of agricultural land within a period of twenty-four hours.

GAEC 2010 requirements have been granted approval by Regulation No 11 of the Minister of Agriculture, 17 February 2010, **Good agricultural and environmental condition, detailed procedure for the fulfilment of the commitment to maintain permanent pasture, bases and procedure for the transfer of the commitment to maintain permanent pasture and detailed procedure for the application of the measures necessary for the maintenance of permanent pasture**.

**Statutory management requirements (SMR)** are based on the EU directives and regulations of the following fields:

- the environment (was applied in 2009);
- public, animal and plant health (will be applied in 2011), incl. identification and registration of animals (was applied in 2009);
- animal welfare (will be applied in 2013).

Requirements of the directive will be implemented by each Member State with their national legislation, e. g. in Estonia, environmental requirements have been provided in the Nature Conservation Act, in the Water Act and in their sub-acts. In the course of customary surveillance, those requirements have
been controlled earlier, henceforth it is also done under the cross compliance system. Statutory management requirements proceed from valid legislation.

In 2010, control of good agricultural and environmental condition and of environmental and animal registration and identification requirements within statutory management requirements will be continued.

From 2011, public, animal and plant health requirements and from 2013, animal welfare requirements will be added.
Structure of cross compliance and its implementation in Estonia.

Since 2009, in addition to cross compliance requirements, applicants for agri-environmental support shall also respect minimum requirements for fertiliser and plant protection product use all over economic entity.

Minimum requirements for fertiliser and plant protection product use
In fact, minimum requirements for fertiliser and plant protection product use are complementary cross compliance requirements, which according to Article 51 of Council Regulation (EC) No 1698/2005 shall be met by all applicants for agri-environmental support all over economic entity. Thus, the requirements apply to the support for:

- environmentally friendly management;
- organic farming;
- maintenance of semi-natural habitats;
- growing plants of local varieties;
- keeping animals of local endangered breeds.

If an applicant for agri-environmental support also applies for other supports of Axis 2 of Estonian Rural Development Plan, those supports will also be reduced in case of non-compliance with minimum requirements for fertiliser and plant protection product use. Minimum requirements for fertiliser and plant protection product use have been established by Annex 1 of Regulation No 19 of the Minister of Agriculture, 8 March 2010, Requirements for support for the maintenance of semi-natural habitats, detailed procedure of applying for support and of application processing in 2007–2013, and are available on the homepage of the Ministry of Agriculture http://www.agri.ee/public/VTK_2010.doc and on the ARIB homepage http://www.pria.ee/docs/resources/3385.doc?. 
Maintenance of permanent pasture

The commitment to maintain permanent pasture proceeds from Council Regulation (EC) No 73/2009 and has been established by Regulation No 11 of the Minister of Agriculture, 17 February 2010, *Good agricultural and environmental condition, detailed procedure for the fulfilment of the commitment to maintain permanent pasture, bases and procedure for the transfer of the commitment to maintain permanent pasture and detailed procedure for the application of the measures necessary for the maintenance of permanent pasture*.

The fulfilment of the commitment to maintain permanent pasture is observed on state level.
The objective of the commitment to maintain permanent pasture is to avoid large scale transformation of pasture into arable land. Throughout Estonia, the area of permanent pasture subject to applying must not decrease in the future.

The fulfilment of the commitment to maintain permanent pasture is observed by the ARIB, who finds out in the course of area aid applications processing at the end of each year the proportion of land under permanent pasture presented in applications to the whole agricultural land.

- In case it becomes evident that Estonia has retained (or increased) the proportion of land under permanent pasture presented in area aid applications in 2005 to the whole agricultural land, the commitment of Estonia to maintain permanent pasture has been fulfilled.

- In case it becomes evident that in a concrete year the proportion of land under permanent pasture presented in all Estonian area aid applications to the whole agricultural land has decreased more than 5%, compared to 2005, the ARIB will inform applicants of that by the end of the year. The applicants who still wish to decrease their permanent pasture, shall submit an application for the reduction of permanent pasture or for the change of its purpose.

- In case it becomes evident that in a concrete year the proportion of land under permanent pasture presented in all Estonian area aid applications to the whole agricultural land has decreased more than 10%, compared to 2005, agricultural producer has to re-establish permanent pasture in the scale established by the ARIB. Permanent pasture owned by agricultural producer no more than 24 months ago will serve as the basis of re-establishment.
Detailed requirements for producers are available in the above mentioned Regulation.

PHOTO: hay bales
Controls relating to cross compliance – general principles

Under the system of cross compliance, at least 1% of applicants for direct payments and 1% of applicants for the RDP 2007–2013 supports are spot-checked. Checks are carried out by the ARIB (good agricultural and environmental condition), the Environmental Inspectorate (the Environmental Inspectorate; SMR environmental requirements, minimum requirements for fertiliser and plant protection product use, GAEC requirement 14), the Veterinary and Food Board (the Veterinary and Food Board; SMR identification and registration of animals, from 2011, public and animal health, from 2013, animal welfare) and the Agricultural Board (the Agricultural Board; from 2011, plant health, minimum requirements for fertiliser and plant protection product use since 2009).

Supervisory agencies shall continue their usual controls also separately from the system of cross compliance. In case non-compliance with cross compliance rules has been determined in the course of other controls (outside the control sample of the cross compliance system), those non-compliances are also considered in support grant and payment.

Supervisory agencies shall evaluate all non-compliances with help of evaluation matrixes according to single methods. In evaluation, three criteria are considered:

- severity,
- extent,
- permanence.

The severity of a non-compliance shall depend, in particular, on the importance of the consequences of the non-compliance, taking account of the aims of the requirement or standard concerned.

The extent of a non-compliance shall be determined taking account, in particular, of whether the non-compliance has a far-reaching impact or whether it is limited to the agricultural holding itself.

Whether a non-compliance is of permanence shall depend, in particular, on the length of time for which the effect lasts or the potential for terminating those effects by reasonable means.

Repetition of non-compliance is also considered.
On the basis of those criteria a matrix is made. According to matrix, non-compliances are evaluated by criteria on a 4-point scale, on which 1 is the lowest and 4 is the highest estimate:

- estimate 1 – non-compliance is very small,
- estimate 2 – non-compliance is of small importance,
- estimate 3 – non-compliance is of considerable importance,
- estimate 4 – non-compliance is of high importance.

For a summarized estimate, the points of severity, extent and permanence are aggregated. On the basis of the summarized estimate, sanction for non-compliance with each concrete requirement or aid reduction percentage is found. Reduction corresponding to the summarized estimate is as follows:

- **summarized estimate 3–5 = 1%,**
- **summarized estimate 6–10 = 3%,**
- **summarized estimate 11–12 = 5%.**

Such an evaluation system is used to ensure equal treatment as it is clear that a single non-compliance of small extent is not comparable to groundwater pollution caused by permanent severe non-compliance.

Inside the sector (GAEC, the environment, public, animal and plant health, animal welfare), the points related to non-compliance with the requirement, of which the summarized estimate is the highest are considered. In case non-compliances have been determined in different sectors, percentage reductions will be aggregated, **in case of the first non-compliance, maximum reduction is 5% (except in case of intentional non-compliance).**

In case of further **repetitions** of non-compliance, maximum reduction is **15%**. In case of repetition, non-compliances of 2007–2008 requirements, which were in force before the application of cross compliance, are also considered in support calculation.

In case of **intentional** non-compliance, the amount of support is reduced by **up to 100%**.

Considering the situation and aggravating or mitigating circumstances, inspector has the right to evaluate non-compliance differently from the evaluation matrix and/or to impose ex-post check.
Minor and easily eliminable non-compliances may be left unconsidered or applicant may be given a term for the elimination of the non-compliance and upon expiry of the term an ex-post check may be carried out. If the non-compliance has been eliminated by the time of ex-post check, the requirement is not regarded as violated and the amount of support is not reduced. If it is not possible to meet the requirements for reasons independent of applicant (e.g. mowing is complicated because of rainy summer), the ARIB shall certainly be informed.
Good agricultural and environmental condition (GAEC) 2010

Hereinafter are GAEC requirements by issues, short explanations and references to additional information.

Protection of soil against erosion

- **GAEC REQUIREMENT 1**: At least 30% of agricultural land on which applicant has the right of use located in Haanja, Otepää, Valgjärve, Vastseliina and Misso rural municipalities, shall be under winter plant cover. Agricultural crops and stubble on agricultural land from 1 November until 31 March are considered as winter plant cover.

- **GAEC REQUIREMENT 2**: On areas with over 10% slope, adequate agrotechnical methods shall be used for the cultivation of agricultural land to prevent erosion. Adequate agrotechnical methods are the following: cultivation of land across the slope, establishment of permanent pasture, cultivation of grasses, usage of organic fertilisers under § 26\(^1\) of the Water Act, minimised soil preparation, establishment of protection strips on hillsides or on the shores of water bodies or other soil erosion preventing activities.

For the determination of areas with over 10% slope, the ARIB uses the map of areas with over 10% slope made by the Estonian Land Board. Information on areas with over 10% slope on your land can be obtained from the ARIB interactive web map of reference parcels https://kls.eesti.ee/pria_avalik_kaart and form the local environmental board.

*PHOTO: erosion*

Maintenance of soil organic matter

- **GAEC REQUIREMENT 3**: It is not allowed to burn foggage, hay and straw on agricultural land.

*If not the applicant but someone else has burnt foggage, hay or straw, the ARIB shall certainly be informed and an application with police filed.*
- **GAEC REQUIREMENT 4**: At the latest by 15 June of the year of applying, applicant shall prepare or renew a successive cropping or crop rotation plan for agricultural land, which must be available for spot-checking within 5 years after preparation. The plan must include at least the successive cropping data or the crop rotation model plan data.

**Specialty of GAEC REQUIREMENT 4**: The successive cropping or crop rotation plan is not obligatory if agricultural land is used for permanent pasture, fruit crops and berries or medicinal plants or herbs or if the field is smaller than 0.3 ha.

*The plan is made for the whole agricultural land of the holding. The plan may be electronic or in some other form. It is important to enter all the data included in the model plan.*

*Model plans are available on the ARIB homepage http://www.pria.ee/et/toetused/valdkond/teadmiseks/nouetele_vastavus.*

**Maintenance of soil structure**

- **GAEC REQUIREMENT 5**: In land cultivation operations on agricultural land soil resistance to cultivation is considered. It is allowed to cultivate a field during the period when the machinery used will not leave traces deeper than cultivation depth. Ruts deeper than 30 cm are not allowed on agricultural land.

*If not the applicant but someone else has left ruts on applicant’s land (e.g. within forestry or electrical work), the ARIB must certainly be informed.*

**Minimum agricultural land management**

- **GAEC REQUIREMENT 6**: Applicant will enter the data concerning the operations carried out on agricultural land into a field record kept under § 26 (7) of the Water Act.

According to the Water Act, an agricultural producer shall keep a field record in which *inter alia* information concerning the area under cultivation, soil
characteristics, yields, the types and volumes of fertilisers and plant protection products used, and the times of their application is entered.

Detailed requirements for keeping a field record are available in Regulation No 36 of the Minister of Agriculture, 9 April 2003, *Format of a field record and the procedure of keeping a field record*.

- **GAEC REQUIREMENT 7**: Grassland established before the year of applying shall be mowed or grazed at least once before 31 July. By 31 July, the mown grass shall be gathered up or chopped. Maintenance of a grassland used as a pasture is ensured by grazing at appropriate stocking density, but in case of an insufficient result grassland shall be mown once more. It must be possible to establish the performance of the above mentioned operations visually on the whole area indicated in application.

*It is spot-checked, if the grassland has been mowed or grazed and if the mown grass has been removed from the field, chopped, pressed into bales or stacked.*

*In case of a grassland used as a pasture it is important to achieve its maintenance with grazing. If maintenance by grazing fails, the grassland shall be mown once more.*

**PHOTO: hay bales**

**Specialty 1 of GAEC REQUIREMENT 7**: Requirements are not applied in case of growing hayseed and grasses as an energy crop and if a grassland is used for biennial cover crop in the year of ploughing in.

**Specialty 2 of GAEC REQUIREMENT 7**: For being granted support for environmentally friendly management under the RDP 2007–2013, on a 5-meter strip of grassland, covered with diverse flora including the mixture of perennial grasses and other flowering grasses, entered into the agricultural support and agricultural parcels register and located on the edge of eligible land of a holding bordering an adequate public road and with regard to which support for environmentally friendly management is also applied for, requirement 7 must be met by 20 August.
If, with regard to the above mentioned strip of grassland, support for environmentally friendly management is applied for, similar mowing date, 20 August, is also applied to other supports applied for, regarding the land concerned.

**Specialty 3 of GAEC REQUIREMENT 7:** In case of applying for the support for the maintenance of semi-natural habitats under the RDP 2007–2013, 1 October or the date provided in protection rules, management plan or in species protection and management action plan is the date of mowing, grass removal or grazing on the land with regard to which support is applied for. On a grassland used as a pasture, the following stocking density is applied in animal grazing:

1) after mowing on a wooded meadow – up to 0,5 LU/ha;
2) on a flooded meadow, an alvar, a paludified meadow and a juniper thicket – 0,2–1,0 LU/ha;
3) on a grassland on mineral soil – 0,2–1,2 LU/ha;
4) on a coastal meadow – 0,4–1,3 LU/ha;
5) on a wooded pasture – 0,3–1,0 LU/ha;
6) on a heather – 0,2–0,8 LU/ha.

Livestock units are determined as follows:

1) a bovine animal over 24 months of age, incl. a suckler cow 1 LU;
2) a bovine animal of 6–24 months of age 0,6 LU;
3) a bovine animal of up to 6 months of age 0,2 LU;
4) a horse over 6 months of age or a mare with a foal 0,7 LU;
5) a goat or sheep over 12 months of age, a goat or an ewe with kids of up to 6 months of age 0,15 LU;
6) a goat or a sheep of 6–12 months of age 0,05 LU.

**Specialty 4 of GAEC REQUIREMENT 7:** If in time of meeting the provided requirement the mown grass is not removed by 31 July, chopping is allowed from 1 July.
If it is not planned to remove the mown grass, it may be chopped but not before 1 July. See also requirement 9.

- **GAEC REQUIREMENT 8:** On natural objects and grasslands placed under protection according to § 10 and 11 of the Nature Conservation Act, the requirement of mowing and/or grazing shall be met by 20 August.

Natural grassland (registered as a natural grassland in the ARIB) is an area covered by natural flora, such as a grassland on mineral soil, a coastal meadow, an alvar, a flooded meadow, a paludified meadow and a wooded pasture, which has had permanent sward for a long time (more than 10 years at least).

- **GAEC REQUIREMENT 9:** On a grassland located on a natural object placed under protection by § 10 and 11 of the Nature Conservation Act, chopping is allowed from 20 July, if the mown grass is not removed.

The requirement was added in 2010.

On a grassland located on a natural object placed under protection, chopping is allowed from 20 July, if the mown grass is not removed. On those areas, the later chopping date has been established for nature protection reasons.

- **GAEC REQUIREMENT 10:** Agricultural land is under agricultural crops sown or planted by 15 June, using the agrotechnical measures in compliance with local standards and avoiding weed invasion, or kept under black fallow from 15 June. In fruit and berry gardens, areas under the tops of trees and spaces between rows are maintained and mown at least once a year before 31 July or grazed.

In particular, the agrotechnical measures in compliance with local standards mean standard sowing suitable to the crop, which creates the conditions necessary to avoid weed infestation in the field. Weed infestation is controlled visually. Weed infestation rate per controlled field is determined, if necessary,
considering the number of weeds on an area unit expressed as percentage of the number of field crops. Black fallow shall be maintained with mechanical methods, i.e. chemical weed control is not accepted. As an exception, weed height up to 20 cm is allowed on black fallow (due to rainy summer).

- **GAEC REQUIREMENT 11:** On agricultural land, the wild oats prevention measures provided in Chapter 6 of the Rural Development and Agricultural Market Regulation Act are taken. In case of the presence of wild oats on agricultural land, the applicant shall immediately but by 31 July at the latest submit to the Agricultural Board a standard format (provided in Annex 1 of Regulation No 196 of the Minister of Agriculture, 27 December 2004, notice of the presence of wild oats.

In case of the presence of wild oats on agricultural land used by applicant, a corresponding notice shall be delivered to the Agricultural Board. In addition, several other requirements shall be considered (given in Chapter 6 of the Rural Development and Agricultural Market Regulation Act, incl. preparation of the wild oats prevention plan). The standard format and additional information are available on the Agricultural Board homepage http://www.pma.agri.ee/index.php?id=104&sub=331&sub2=336 or in a county centre of the Agricultural Board.

PHOTO: wild oats

- **GAEC REQUIREMENT 12:** On agricultural land, it is prohibited to damage or destroy individual protected natural objects provided in § 4 (1) of the Nature Conservation Act and immovable monuments provided in § 3 (2) of the Heritage Conservation Act. The requirement was added in 2010.

Individual natural objects and immovable monuments have been mapped and are available in the Estonian Land Board Geoportal http://xgis.maaamet.ee/xGIS/XGis. The map layers of those objects are added to the ARIB interactive web map of reference parcels, where it is possible to check the objects located on land parcels, if necessary. Landscape elements located on agricultural land and related to GAEC shall be deemed to be part of the total area of an agricultural parcel.
If a landscape element has been damaged or destructed under circumstances independent of applicant, the ARIB must be notified immediately.

- **GAEC REQUIREMENT 13:** Agricultural land with regard to which no support is applied for, is maintained with agricultural methods avoiding wide spread of undesirable vegetation and enabling the use of the land concerned for agricultural activities without any additional costs during the next vegetation period, and requirements 6, 11 ja 12 are also met on the given land.

The requirement concerns agricultural land, with regard to which support is not applied for but which shall be included in application.

Vast spread of undesirable plants (e.g. burdock, thistle, mugwort, umbelliferous plants, woody plants) may further the withdrawal of land from agricultural use.

In case the land with regard to which support is applied for is grassland, it shall be mowed, grazed or chopped but not every year. It is important to avoid vast spread of undesirable plants.

**Protection of water bodies against pollution and run-off and regulation of water use**

- **GAEC REQUIREMENT 14:** An applicant using more than 5 m$^3$ of groundwater or more than 30 m$^3$ of surface water in a period of twenty four hours, shall hold a permit for the special use of water provided in § 8 of the Water Act.

The requirement was added in 2010.

The requirement to hold a permit for the special use of water was established by Regulation No 18 of the Minister of Agriculture, 26 March 2002, *Procedure for the issue, amendment and revocation of permits for the special use of water or temporary permits for the special use of water, the list of documents required for application for permits and the format of permits.*

Permits for the special use of water are issued by the Environmental Board (see in more detail http://www.keskkonnaamet.ee/index.php?id=10716) and compliance with the requirement is controlled by the Environmental Inspectorate.
Statutory management requirements (SMR) 2010

Hereinafter are the statutory management requirements for the environment and the identification and registration of animals, of which the control under cross compliance has been exercised since 2009. The requirements to be controlled from 2011 and 2013, have not been dealt with in this publication.

The requirements are based on the EU directives (bird directive, SMR 1 and nature directive, SMR 5; groundwater directive, SMR 2; sewage sludge directive, SMR 3; nitrate directive, SMR 4; animal identification and registration directive and regulations, SMR 6–8) and have been provided in valid legislation.

For additional information, there is reference to corresponding legislation by each statutory management requirement. Valid legislation is available in Riigi Teataja, www.riigiteataja.ee.

Protection of wild birds and restrictions in protected areas, special conservation areas and permanent habitats (bird directive SMR 1 and nature directive SMR 5)

The following six requirements have been implemented under bird and nature directives and provided in the Nature Conservation Act and its sub-acts.

In case of those requirements it is important to know, whether the land held by you is located in a protected area, a special conservation area or a permanent habitat or which are the other nature protection restrictions. It is also important to know in which management zone the land is located as requirements differ by different zones. Information is available with the help of the Estonian Land Board Geoportal http://xgis.maaamet.ee/xGIS/XGis or from the Environmental Board. The protection rules of a concrete protected area (established by a Government regulation) and of a concrete permanent habitat (established by a regulation of the Minister of the Environment).shall be considered. If protection rules are missing, the requirements of the Nature Conservation Act serve as the basis.
Protected area is an area maintained in a state unaltered by human activity or used subject to special requirements, where the natural environment is preserved, protected, restored, researched or introduced. The following are protected areas:

- national parks;
- nature reserves;
- landscape conservation areas.

Limited conservation area is an area designated for the conservation of habitats, for the preservation of which the impact of planned activities is estimated and activities liable to damage the favourable conservation status of the habitats are prohibited.

Species protection site is an area located outside of a protected area or in the limited management zone of a protected area, delimited and used pursuant to special requirements, and which is:

- the breeding area or other site of periodic aggregation of a protected animal species;
- the natural habitat of a protected plant or fungus;
- the spawning area of salmon or river lamprey;
- the hibernation site of brown bear;
- the natural habitat of crayfish;
- a badger sett with more than ten entrances.

SMR 1 and 5 REQUIREMENT 1: In case the land held by an agricultural producer is located in a protected area, a special conservation area or a permanent habitat, the producer shall have the approval of the manager of the protected natural object to apply for a permission for the following activities:

1) small construction works, incl. the building of a boat landing;
2) building permit, design criteria;
3) establishment of a new water body, of which the area of water surface is bigger than 5 m², if it does not require an authorisation of the special use of water or a building permit or an approval of small construction works.

(§ 14 (1) of the Nature Conservation Act)

Before the issue of design criteria and the building permit, local government is obliged to apply for the approval of the administrator of the protected area. Thus, while obtaining design criteria or a building permit, its concert with the administrator of the protected area shall be observed.
SMR 1 and 5 REQUIREMENT 2: In case the land held by an agricultural producer is located in the special management zone of a protected area or a permanent habitat, the following is prohibited (except where the protection rules provide otherwise):

1) economic activities (fertilisation, use of plant protection products, renewal of grasslands in semi-natural habitats, forest planting, construction of a land improvement system);
2) use of natural resources (mineral resources, mineral reserves, natural rock, deposit, liquid and gas, which has not been registered as mineral reserves, individuals of protected species), earth-moving and taking more than 30 m³/day of water and ice from a body of surface water.

(§ 30 (2, 4) of the Nature Conservation Act; protected areas protection rules provided in Government regulations; permanent habitat protection rules provided in the regulations of the Minister of the Environment)

The requirements of the protection rules of a concrete protected area shall always be met, as according to the protection rules of a concrete area the above mentioned activities, e.g. economic activities may be allowed. If protection rules are missing, the requirements of the Nature Conservation Act serve as the basis.

PHOTO: corn crake

SMR 1 and 5 REQUIREMENT 3: In case the land held by an agricultural producer is located in the limited management zone of a protected area or a permanent habitat, the following is prohibited (except where the protection rules provide otherwise):

1) construction of new land improvement systems;
2) change of the water level and shoreline of a water body;
3) moulding of pure stands, establishment of energy forest;
4) usage of biocides, plant protection products and fertilisers.

(§ 31 (2) of the Nature Conservation Act; protected areas protection rules provided in Government regulations; permanent habitat protection rules provided in the regulations of the Minister of the Environment)
**Biocid** – active substance or preparation containing one or more active substances intended to destroy, deter, render harmless, prevent the action of, or otherwise exert a controlling effect on any harmful organism. In Estonia, biocides are registered and permits are issued according to the Biocide Act.

**Pure stand** – a stand of trees with one tree species.

**Land use type** – a part of a cadastral unit which has the same intended economic use and/or natural status and which is not delimited by boundary markers.

Similar to the previous requirement, the requirements of the protection rules of a concrete protected area shall be met.

- **SMR 1 and 5 REQUIREMENT 4:** In case the land held by an agricultural producer is located in a special conservation area, the producer shall have the approval of the manager of the special conservation area for the following:
  1) construction of a road;
  2) natural rock or earth moving;
  3) construction and reconstruction of a land improvement system;
  4) change of the water level and shoreline of a water body;
  5) usage of biocides and plant protection products;
  6) cultivation or fertilisation of a natural or semi-natural grassland or a polder;
  7) felling in an area similar to a wooded meadow.

  (§ 33 (1) of the Nature Conservation Act)

- **SMR 1 and 5 REQUIREMENT 5:** In case the land held by an agricultural producer is located in a protected area or in a permanent habitat, the producer shall consider the duration of the restriction on movement or mowing.

  (§ 30 (2) of the Nature Conservation Act; protected areas protection rules provided in Government regulations; permanent habitat protection rules provided in the regulations of the Minister of the Environment)

- **SMR 1 and 5 REQUIREMENT 6:** In case the land held by an agricultural producer is located in a protected area, in a special conservation area or in a permanent habitat, in applying for a permit for the change of the boundaries and/or of the intended use of the fields of the cadastral unit, the producer shall have the approval of the manager of the protected natural object.
Protection of groundwater against pollution caused by certain dangerous substances (groundwater directive SMR 2)

The following two requirements have been implemented according to groundwater directive (SMR 2) and provided in the Water Act and in its subacts.

- **SMR 2 REQUIREMENT 1:** Direct or indirect emission into the environment of the hazardous substances entered in lists 1 and 2 mentioned in § 26\(^5\) of the Water Act shall be avoided.

  (§ 26\(^5\) of the Water Act)

Lists 1 and 2 of hazardous substances have been approved by Regulation No 44 of the Minister of the Environment, 21 August 2001, *Lists 1 and 2 of the hazardous substances dangerous for the environment.*

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<tr>
<th>Direct discharge</th>
<th>means the introduction into groundwater or to the area with unprotected groundwater of dangerous substances without percolation. Any other discharge shall be deemed to be indirect discharge.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

The requirement does not prohibit possession or usage of dangerous substances but their discharge into the environment must be avoided.

List 1 includes hazardous substances from the following substance groups: organophosphorous compounds, cyanides, stable mineral oils, hydrocarbons originating from petroleum etc. List 2 includes for instance several metals, plant protection products, biocides etc.

Lists 1 and 2 of hazardous substances have been given in the above mentioned regulation, they are also available on the homepages of the Ministry of Agriculture and the ARIB (www.agri.ee/nouetele-vastavus; www.pria.ee/riiklikud_toetused/nouetele_vastavus).

- **SMR 2 REQUIREMENT 2:** Storage facilities for oil products shall meet the requirements of § 26 (3) and (4) (2) of the Water Act.

  (§ 26 (3) and (4) (2) of the Water Act)

Water protection requirements for storage facilities for oil products have been established by Regulation No 172 of the Government of the Republic, 16 May 2001 *Water protection requirements for storage facilities for oil products.*
**Storage facility** is:

1) a storage tank for oil products, of which the volume is over 3 m$^3$;
2) a storage tank for oil products of the volume over 3 m$^3$ with pipelines and equipment;
3) a storage tank for oil products of the volume over 3 m$^3$ with pipelines and equipment land with a loading bay or a fuel loading lot.

Concrete requirements for storage facilities depend on the volume of the facilities. In case of the presence of storage facilities for oil products, the detailed requirements given in the above mentioned regulation shall be studied.

**Use of sewage sludge (sewage sludge directive SMR 3)**

The following three requirements have been applied according to the sewage sludge directive (SMR 3) and provided in the Water Act and in a regulation of the Minister of the Environment.

*If you use or plan to use sewage sludge, Regulation No 78 of the Minister of the Environment, 30 December 2002, Requirements for the use of sewage sludge in agriculture, landscaping and recultivation, shall be studied.*

- **SMR 3 REQUIREMENT 1:** According to the requirements of § 26$^1$ (2) of the Water Act, sewage sludge shall be treated before being used in agriculture. Requirements for the use of sewage sludge in agriculture, landscaping and recultivation are established by a regulation of the Minister of the Environment.

(§ 26$^1$ (2) of the Water Act and Regulation No 78 of the Minister of the Environment, 30 December 2002)

Sludge has been treated, if the organic matter contained in it has been made safe for surface water and groundwater, soil, plants, animal and public health either:

1) by aerobic or anaerobic stabilisation, incl. composting;
2) by chemical or thermal treatment; or
3) by the mineralisation of the organic matter contained in sludge.

Sludge is untreated, if only its water content has been reduced or stabilising material has been added to it, but the sludge and the stabilising material have not been mixed regularly, the temperature of the mixture of
the stabilising material and the sludge has not increased over 60 °C and the mixture has stayed at that temperature for at least six days.

Sludge composting is the aerobic degradation of sludge with help of micro- and macroorganisms, for which bark, sawdust, straw, peat or some other stabilising material are added to sludge and mixed with it. In composting, the temperature of the compost material shall be over 60 °C for at least six days.

SMR 3 REQUIREMENT 2: On the land where sludge has been spread, it is prohibited to grow vegetables or berries, aromatic herbs and medicinal plants for food or feed within a year and to graze animals or grow forage within two months after spreading.

(§ 12 (2) of Regulation No 78 of the Minister of the Environment, 30 December 2002)

- SMR 3 REQUIREMENT 3: User of sewage sludge shall have the documents on the sludge treatment method and analysis conditions issued by the lender and records on the use of sewage sludge are maintained.

(§ 13 of Regulation No 78 of the Minister of the Environment, 30 December 2002)

User of sewage sludge shall have a document issued by the lender and including the sludge treatment method and analysis data.

User of sewage sludge is obliged to:

1) keep records on the use of sludge or enter the relevant data into the field book;
2) submit to the lender in writing his name, address of place of residence or business, personal identification code or commercial registry code and data on the use of sludge;
3) maintain the records on the use of sludge for ten years.

Within three days after the use of sludge at the latest, the user of sludge shall enter into the records or field book the following data: time of the use of sludge; place of the use of sludge; the quantity of sludge used per one hectare; data of sludge analysis; data of soil analysis in the place where sludge was used.
Prevention of nitrate pollution in a nitrate vulnerable zone (nitrate directive SMR 4)

The following seven requirements have been implemented according to nitrate directive (SMR 4) and provided in the Water Act and in its sub-acts.

The following requirements are controlled under cross compliance in a nitrate vulnerable zone only. According to the Water Act, most requirements are valid throughout Estonia. In case the Environmental Inspectorate exercises its customary control or cross compliance control outside a nitrate vulnerable zone and a non-compliance is found, the Environmental Inspectorate may start its proceedings and impose a penalty.

Since 2009, all applicants for agri-environmental support (support for environmentally friendly management, support for organic production, support for the maintenance of semi-natural habitats, support for growing plants of local varieties, support for keeping animals of local endangered breeds) shall also meet minimum requirements for fertiliser and plant protection product use in the whole economic unit. Several minimum requirements for fertiliser and plant protection product use (requirements for fertilisers) are the same as SMR requirements in a nitrate vulnerable zone, see in detail on the homepages of the Ministry of Agriculture and the ARIB (http://www.agri.ee/nouetelevastavus; http://www.pria.ee/et/toetused/valdkond/teadmiseks/nouetelevastavus).

Thus, in case of applicants for agri-environmental support, similar requirements are also controlled under minimum requirements for fertiliser and plant protection product use.

Nitrate vulnerable zone has been established by Regulation No 17 of the Government of the Republic, 21 January 2003, Protection rules for the Pandivere and Adavere-Põltsamaa nitrate vulnerable zone. Detailed information on the location, slope, sinkholes and springs can be obtained from Estonian Land Board Geoportal for nitrate vulnerable zones http://xgis.maaamet.ee/xGIS/XGis, and from the local Environmental Board.

- **SMR 4 REQUIREMENT 1:** Organic and mineral fertilisers shall not be spread from 1 December to 31 March and during any other time when the ground is covered with snow, frozen or periodically flooded or water saturated.

($§ 26^1 (4^2)$ of the Water Act)
Ground is deemed to be covered by snow if, for the duration of at least 24 hours, thickness of the snow covering the ground is at least 10 cm. Frozen ground means the ground which has been frozen to a depth of at least 5 cm for a period longer than 24 hours.

- **SMR 4 REQUIREMENT 2:** In areas under cultivation, fertilisers shall not be spread on the ground if the slope of the ground is more than 10%. If the ground has a slope of 5–10%, spreading of fertilisers on the surface is prohibited from 1 November to 15 April.

$(§ 26^1 (4^1) \text{ of the Water Act})$

For the purposes of the Water Act, the whole agricultural land (except natural grassland) shall be deemed to be cultivated area. Information on slopes in a nitrate vulnerable zone can be obtained from Estonian Land Board Geoportal for nitrate vulnerable zones http://xgis.maaamet.ee/xGIS/XGis. The areas of which the slope is over 10%, can also be found on the ARIB webmap of land parcels https://kls.eesti.ee/pria_avalik_kaart.

- In areas surrounding springs and sinkholes in a range of 10 m from the boundary of the water or from the edge of a sinkhole, it is prohibited to use fertilisers and plant protection products and to engage in other activities which endanger water quality.

$(§ 26^1 (5) \text{ of the Water Act})$

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**Karst** – features and processes concurrent with the dissolution of rock by surface and groundwater. Besides many specific features (hydrographic network and water regime, the spread of certain soil types, the spread of certain plant species and natural communities), arising of various reliefs also occurs together with karst.

**Sinkhole** – a regular, conical, dish or tub like depression, which has formed in the surface of water-soluble rock. Bigger than twenty meters wide funnel-shaped dish or tub like karstic forms, which absorb surface water are called kurisus in Estonia.

Detailed information about the location of sinkholes and springs can be obtained from Estonian Land Board Geoportal for nitrate vulnerable zones http://xgis.maaamet.ee/xGIS/XGis, as well as from a local Environmental Board.
Upon keeping farm animals, the facilities prescribed for the storage of solid manure only, or for both liquid and solid manure shall enable the storage of liquid and solid manure excreted by the animals during a period with a duration of at least 8 months. If the livestock housing where livestock is kept on deep litter does not enable the storage of manure of eight months, the cowshed shall have a manure storage facility for the remaining manure load. Constructions which come into contact with manure shall meet the requirements for manure storage facilities. In case an animal keeper sends manure for storage or treatment to another storage or treatment facility or to a storage or treatment facility of another person on a contractual basis, presence of a leak-tight storage facility, holding the monthly load at least, shall be ensured.

($§ 26\, 5, 3, 3^1$ of the Water Act)

Details of the requirement have been established by Regulation No 288 of the Government of the Republic, 28 August 2001, Water protection requirements for fertiliser and manure storage facilities and for silage storage facilities and the requirements for the use and storage of manure, silage juice and other fertilisers.

Agricultural producer shall keep the manure accumulating in livestock buildings in manure storage facilities and/or in manure stacks, a manure stack must be located at the required distance from water objects and the requirements for keeping manure in stacks must be met.

($§ 26^2\, 5), § 26^3\, 6), § 29\, 1−4$ of the Water Act; § 6\, 1−2$ of Regulation No 17 of the Government of the Republic and $§ 6\, 1−3$ of Regulation No 288 of the Government of the Republic, 28 August 2001)

PHOTO: storage facility


- In a nitrate vulnerable zone, up to 170 kg of N per year on an average may be applied with manure and mineral fertiliser on a
hectare of cultivated area. The quantities of mineral nitrogen exceeding 100 kg/ha, shall be spread in parts. In a nitrate vulnerable zone, it is not allowed to use an average of more than 140 kg of the total volume of N with mineral fertilisers a year per hectare of cultivated land.

(§26³ (3–6) of the Water Act)

- **Storage facilities for mineral fertilisers shall be constructed in a way preventing the fertiliser from leaking to the environment.**

(§26 of the Water Act, § 2 and 3 of Regulation No 288 of the Government of the Republic, 28 August 2001)

The constructions of a storage facility for solid mineral fertilisers exposed to fertilisers shall be leak-tight and built in a way avoiding fertiliser leaching into the environment under the influence of precipitation and wind. Outside a storage facility for solid mineral fertilisers, solid mineral fertiliser may only be stored covered in moisture proof bags or in bulk on moisture proof pallets in volume not exceeding the quantity for use during one vegetation period.

The holder of a storage facility for solid mineral fertilisers shall apply common measures to avoid the access of outsiders and animals. Closed and locked doors preventing the access of people to the storage facility are considered as common measures.

A storage facility for volatile liquid mineral fertilisers shall be hermetically closable and made of a stress-tolerant material resistant to liquid mineral fertiliser.

*Details of the requirement have been given in Regulation No 288 of the Government of the Republic, 28 August 2001, Water protection requirements for fertiliser and manure storage facilities and for silage storage facilities and the requirements for the use and storage of manure, silage juice and other fertilisers.*
Identification and registration of animals (animal identification and registration directive; regulations SMR 6–8)

The following eight requirements have been implemented under the pigs identification and registration directive and the bovine animals, sheep and goats identification and registration regulations and provided in regulations of the Minister of Agriculture.

Each year, compliance by animal keepers with those requirements is controlled by the Veterinary and Food Board, since 2009, those requirements have been included in cross compliance. Compared to 2009, the requirement to inform about pigs identification and movement has been added and since 2010, some requirements are subject to the ARIB administrative control (compliance with requirement 8 is subject to the ARIB administrative control only, in case of requirements 1 and 5, the ARIB administrative control and the Veterinary and Food Board spot-checks are carried out). This means that information on animals is directly obtainable from the ARIB register and considered in case of non-compliances. Therefore, it is particularly important to observe the required time limits.

- **SMR 6–8 REQUIREMENT 1**: The livestock buildings and facilities used for keeping bovine animals, sheep, goats and pigs and the enclosures for animal keeping shall be registered by an animal keeper in the ARIB. In case of a change of the area of activity or registration data or termination of animal keeping, an animal keeper shall submit the relevant data in writing to the ARIB within seven working days after the change.

  (§ 1 and § 3 (10) of Regulation No 88 of the Minister of Agriculture)

In case of an enclosure for animal keeping, all the areas for the permanent stay of animals must be registered even if animals are taken to a wooded meadow or a coastal pasture for a longer period of time. To find out whether a concrete area must be registered as a separate area, it is necessary to apply to the Veterinary and Food Board.

An enclosure for animal keeping must be registered before taking animals there.

In case of a change of the area of activity or registration data or termination of animal keeping, an animal keeper shall submit the relevant data in writing to the ARIB within seven working days after the change. The ARIB must also be
informed about a change of the production trend, e.g. transition from milk production to meat production.

The requirement is spot-checked by the Veterinary and Food Board and controlled administratively by the ARIB.

Additional information and the form of application for the registration of a building or an area are available on the ARIB homepage http://www.pria.ee/et/Registrid/Loomade_register/Ehitised.

- **SMR 6–8 REQUIREMENT 2:** A bovine animal must be duly identifiable by an ear tag applied to animal’s both ears within 20 days since the day of the animal’s birth or before the expiry of this term in case of transferring the animal from one herd to another or in case of taking the animal to the slaughterhouse.

  (§ 3 (4), § 6, § 7 (1) and § 9 of Regulation No 128 of the Minister of Agriculture)

A plastic ear tag of a bovine animal is yellow. At least the logo of the Estonian Animal Recording Centre, Estonian ISO-code symbol «EE» and the 10-digit registration number of the bovine animal shall be printed on both sides of the ear tag. Ear tags with identical registration numbers are attached to both ears of a bovine animal. The ear tag of a bovine animal marked before 1.10.2000 may have Estonian ISO-code symbol «EST». If a bovine animal has been imported to Estonia from a Member State of the EU, marking applied by the country of origin shall be retained. A bovine animal imported from a non-Community country shall be marked by animal keeper within 14 days after the day of importing.

The requirement is spot-checked by the ARIB. Non-compliance is ignored in case one ear tag is missing, but the animal keeper has ordered new ear tags and the animal is identifiable on the basis of records kept by animal keeper, animal passport and the ARIB animal registration data.

- **SMR 6–8 REQUIREMENT 3:** A sheep and a goat must be duly identifiable and shall be marked within six months since the day of the animal’s birth or before the expiry of this term in case of transferring the animal from one herd to another or in case of taking the animal to the slaughterhouse.
A plastic ear tag of a goat has two sides and is red. At least Estonian ISO-code symbol «EE» and the 10-digit registration number of the goat shall be printed on the ear tag. A plastic ear tag of a sheep has two sides and is yellow. At least Estonian ISO-code symbol «EE» and the 10-digit registration number of the sheep shall be printed on the ear tag. The goats and sheep born on 9 July 2005 or earlier shall be marked with one ear tag. The goats and sheep born after 9 July 2005 shall be marked with an ear tag and with another means of identification, such as an ear mark, a hoof tag, a tattoo or an electronic mark. A sheep or a goat imported from a non-Community country shall be marked by animal keeper within 14 days after the day of importing.

The requirement is spot-checked by the Veterinary and Food Board. Non-compliance is ignored in case one ear tag is missing, but the animal keeper has ordered new ear tags and the animal is identifiable on the basis of records kept by animal keeper and the ARIB animal registration data.

PHOTO: a sheep

- **SMR 6–8 REQUIREMENT 4**: A pig must be duly marked in case it has moved from the livestock building, facility or enclosure where it was born.

(§ 3 (3), § 5 and § 9 of Regulation No 128 of the Minister of Agriculture)

The requirement is spot-checked by the Veterinary and Food Board. The origin of pigs in the herd and correspondingly their marking is controlled. If a pig has moved from the livestock building, facility or enclosure where it was born and come to a new herd, it shall be marked with a tattoo or a plastic ear tag, which enables the identification of the registration number of the building where the pig was born. The ear tag is attached to the pig’s left ear.

- **SMR 6–8 REQUIREMENT 5**: In case an ear tag of a bovine animal, sheep or goat has got lost or become illegible, animal keeper shall fill up a required form and submit it to the ARIB within two days after the ear tag has got lost or become illegible and attach a new ear tag to the animal’s ear within seven days after its issue by the Animal Recording Centre.

(§ 10 (2, 4) of Regulation No 128 of the Minister of Agriculture)
The requirement is spot-checked by the Veterinary and Food Board and by the ARIB administratively.
Additional information and the required form is available on the ARIB homepage http://www.pria.ee/et/Registrid/Loomade_register/margistamine.

- **SMR 6–8 REQUIREMENT 6:** Animal keeper shall keep a filled up passport for each bovine animal of the herd. In case the passport gets lost, becomes illegible or mistakes have been detected, animal keeper shall apply to the ARIB for getting a new cattle passport within seven days after the relevant event.

  *(§ 7 (3, 5) of Regulation No 128 of the Minister of Agriculture)*

The requirement is spot-checked by the Veterinary and Food Board. On the basis of the data of the cattle passport and the register of farm animals it is controlled whether animal keeper has entered into the cattle passport his name, place of residence or location, address and date of including the animal in the herd and the registration number of the building where the animal is kept and whether he has confirmed those data with a signature.

Additional information is available on the ARIB homepage http://www.pria.ee/et/Registrid/Loomade_register/Veisepass.

- **SMR 6–8 REQUIREMENT 7:** Animal keeper keeps a duly register of bovine animals, sheep, goats and pigs and retains the records within three years after the day of animals’ movement from the herd, death, disappearance and slaughter.

  *(§ 12 of Regulation No 128 of the Minister of Agriculture)*

The register kept by animal keeper for the animals kept/owned by him shall include a record of the following for each animal:

For bovine animals, sheep and goats:

1) registration number;
2) date of birth, sex, breed/colour of coat. Separately stillbirth, if it was not possible to mark progeny. In case of sheep and goats, identification date, last counting result, date and genotype, if known, must be added;
3) date of death or slaughter, notice of slaughter animals’ feed chain;
4) date of arrival at agricultural holding, registration number of the undertaking of the place of departure, animal keeper’s name and address;
5) date of departure from agricultural holding and the registration number of the undertaking of the place of destination, animal keeper’s name and address.

For pigs:

1) date of including the pig in the herd and the date of its movement out of the herd;
2) number of pigs in the herd and the registration numbers of the buildings where the pigs were born, pigs’ place of origin or point of destination;
3) in case of pigs’ expropriation, the buyer’s name, address and identification or registration code.

The requirement is spot-checked by the Veterinary and Food Board.

Additional information is available on the ARIB homepage http://www.pria.ee/et/Registrid/Loomade_register.

- SMR 6–8 REQUIREMENT 8: Animal keeper shall submit to the ARIB a required form including data on marking, movement, death, loss, slaughter (for meat for his own use, for meat in a slaughterhouse, emergency slaughter, diagnostic slaughter), export from Estonia or import to Estonia from a Member State of the EU or from a non-Community country within 7 days from the above mentioned event.

(§ 7 (1) of Regulation No 128 of the Minister of Agriculture, § 14 (1) of Regulation No 184 of the Minister of Agriculture)

The requirement is controlled administratively by the ARIB. All applicants shall be controlled.

Additional information and the required form are available on the ARIB homepage http://www.pria.ee/et/Registrid/Loomade_register/margistamine.

PHOTO: animals
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Cross compliance webpage  
www.pikk.ee/nouetelevastavus