



# Contingency planning for avian influenza

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# Environment Agency's role

- ➔ Provide advice on waste management options
- ➔ Determine applications & registrations
- ➔ Advise on pollution prevention issues
- ➔ Monitor, assess & advise on impacts
- ➔ Work with APHA & partners
- ➔ Manage our own activities  
e.g. visits



# Our regulatory approach

- ➔ We will look to help you achieve compliance whenever possible
- ➔ We may relax some requirements and issue a 'regulatory position statement'
  - ➔ these only apply to activities and sites the EA regulate
- ➔ Some legislation has absolute requirements that we must all adhere to
- ➔ We may restrict or reduce routine site visits, except in an emergency

# Treatment and disposal of litter

- ➔ Infectious litter is a hazardous waste
  - ➔ movement requires consignment
- ➔ APHA prescribe the treatment, can include:
  - ➔ stacking & storage
  - ➔ movement to a treatment plant
- ➔ Any treatment or disposal requires a permit
- ➔ Once treated can be disposed of as usual
- ➔ Could involve a large amount of waste
  - ➔ Have you a contingency plan?

# Stacking, storage & treatment of infectious material

- ➔ Can be temporarily stored under an exemption
- ➔ Regulatory position allows for treatment without a permit if requirements are met:
  - ➔ outbreak of an exotic notifiable disease
  - ➔ subject to Animal Health Order
  - ➔ requirements for environmental protection followed
  - ➔ relevant objectives of the Waste Framework Directive are met

# Regulatory position, stacking - environmental protection requirements



## Regulatory position statement 036

### The stacking, storage or treatment of litter, straw, manure and slurry arising from an exotic animal disease

If you comply with the requirements below, we will allow the treatment of infectious litter, straw, manure and slurry without the need for an environmental permit.

#### Background

Defra impose strict requirements on the effective cleansing of premises from infected premises. These requirements are necessary to prevent the spread of exotic animal disease and to prevent further infection. The requirements are set out in the Animal and Plant Health Regulations 2005 and regulated by the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) waste management controls. This statement sets out our position during an outbreak of an exotic animal disease.

Infectious litter, straw, manure and slurry are hazardous waste (infectious) 18 02 02\*, "wastes whose collection and disposal could prevent infection".

In normal circumstances the treatment (which includes stacking, storage or treatment) of waste can be carried out under the terms of an environmental permit. The slurry, pending collection and disposal can be carried out under an exemption from the requirement to hold a permit. This exemption has key limits which must be met. Full details of the exemption can be found in the Environmental Protection Act 1990.

Under the Hazardous Waste Regulations (HWR) the person who produces or disposes of hazardous waste is required to keep a record and provide us with details of the waste.

- Register each of the premises where hazardous waste is produced or disposed of
- Ensure that consignment notes are used when hazardous waste is transported
- Send it to a facility authorised to manage that type of hazardous waste

In the best interest of health and the environment, Defra has issued guidance to compliance with related legislation during an outbreak of an exotic animal disease.

Once the litter, manure and slurry have been treated in accordance with the requirements of the HWR and APHA are satisfied that it is no longer infectious, it is no longer hazardous and can be applied to land for agricultural benefit in the normal way.

#### Our approach

During an outbreak of an exotic animal disease we will not require an environmental permit for the stacking and storage or treatment of infectious litter, straw, manure and slurry under an exemption where:

- The waste is subject to the relevant Animal Health Order made by APHA.
- The details of the operation are recorded and carried out in accordance with the environmental protection set out in Appendix 1.

Guidance on the storage of manure and slurry for farms is contained in 'Protecting our Water, Soil and Air; A Code of Good Agricultural Practice for farmers, growers and land managers' (Section 4.3) which can be found on the Gov.UK website at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/protecting-our-water-soil-and-air>. This should be followed wherever practicable, whether the site of storage is regulated under an environmental permit or not. The most relevant requirements are set out below.

### Yard storage

Where manure is stored in the yard all new manure storage areas should:

- have an impermeable base
- provide a collection and containment system for liquid run-off (effluent – defined as slurry in SSAFO) which meets the requirements of the Water Resources (Control of Pollution) (Silage, Slurry and Agricultural Fuel Oil) (England) Regulations 2010 (amended 2013).

Contaminated run-off can be reduced by providing a roof or cover.

### Field storage

You should not site field heaps:

- over field drains
- within 10m of a watercourse (or a greater distance if there is a risk of effluent run-off into a watercourse)
- within 50m of any identified swallow hole, or any spring, well or borehole that supplies water for human consumption, or is to be used in farm dairies; but see specific comments above regarding additional receptors
- with best efforts, avoiding areas subject to surface water flooding or inundation as a result of groundwater flooding
- where they would cause odour problems for nearby residents.

# Disposal of infectious material by incineration

- ➡ Regulatory position allows for the incineration or co-incineration in plant we regulate without the need for a variation to the permit if:
  - ➡ outbreak of an exotic notifiable disease
  - ➡ waste is sent to an IED compliant plant
  - ➡ decision is justified, has a site specific risk assessment, and the facility has appropriate systems and capability
  - ➡ relevant objectives of the Waste Framework Directive met
- ➡ Facilities may not be able to meet the absolute requirement to prevent mixing of waste



# Regulatory position, incineration – facility requirements



## Regulatory position statement 034

### The disposal of infected straw, manure and litter by incineration or co-incineration during an outbreak of an exotic animal disease

If you comply with the requirements below, we will allow the disposal of infectious straw, manure and litter in incineration plants under the Industrial Emissions Directive (IED) provisions, without the need for an environmental permit.

#### Background

During an outbreak of an exotic animal disease, straw, manure and litter will need effective disposal to prevent the risk of further infection to the environment. In line with Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) guidance, contaminated straw, manure and/or litter will require either treatment by incineration or co-incineration.

This note sets out our regulatory position for incineration or co-incineration and requirements under the Hazardous Waste Regulations, during an outbreak of an exotic animal disease. It may be relevant to other types of infected animal bedding and we can consider a separate position statement covers on-farm treatment.

Infectious straw, manure and litter are hazardous wastes. The relevant waste codes are (infectious) 18 02 02\*, "wastes whose collection and disposal is necessary to prevent infection".

An IED incineration permit specifies a list of wastes that can be incinerated. For waste types to this list normally requires a variation that takes time to be granted. The time of an outbreak would effectively rule out the use of most incinerators.

Under the Hazardous Waste Regulations (HWR) the person who produces or disposes of hazardous waste is required to:

- Register each of the premises where hazardous waste is produced or stored;
- Ensure that consignment notes are used when hazardous waste is transported;
- Send it to a facility authorised to manage that type of hazardous waste.

In the best interest of health and the environment, Defra has agreed to relax the requirements for the disposal of infectious straw, manure and litter to compliance with related legislation during an outbreak of an exotic animal disease.

#### Our approach

During an outbreak of an exotic animal disease we will not pursue an application for a variation to a permit for the disposal of infected straw, manure and litter where:

- The waste is sent to an IED compliant plant.
- The decision is justified and backed by a site specific risk assessment, delivers the requirements of the IED, and deals with storage, handling and effective combustion, to ensure that the facility:

#### Our approach

During an outbreak of an exotic animal disease we will not pursue an application for a variation to a permit for the disposal of infected straw, manure and litter where:

- The waste is sent to an IED compliant plant.
- The decision is justified and backed by a site specific risk assessment which is carried out to our satisfaction, delivers the requirements of the IED, and deals with storage, handling and effective combustion, to ensure that the facility:
  - has appropriate systems (management and technical) to ensure the effective containment, storage, handling and feeding of the waste to prevent the release of infectious matter and to prevent it from mixing with other, non-hazardous materials;
  - is technically capable of effective combustion of the waste, for example it has a grate that is appropriate for the form of waste being presented for burning and a guarantee of support fuel if required.
- The relevant objectives of the Waste Framework Directive are met:
  - '... ensuring that waste management is carried out without endangering human health, without harming the environment and in particular:
    - (i) without risk to water, air, soil, plants or animals;
    - (ii) without causing a nuisance through noise or odours; and
    - (iii) without adversely affecting the countryside or places of special interest.'

We will not relax the emission limits imposed on an incinerator during the burning of infectious straw, manure or litter. We will however, relax the IED requirement for the sampling of the hazardous waste as the waste is infectious.

# Disposal of washwater – requirements and options






- ➔ Take care to ensure no run-off
  - ➔ even during preliminary cleansing & disinfection (C&D)
- ➔ Requirements of final C&D specified by APHA
  - ➔ large volumes of washwater may be generated
  - ➔ contain the washwater – do you know your site drainage?
  - ➔ must be disposed of in a safe way
- ➔ Options for disposal:
  - 1) foul sewer – with approval from supplier
  - 2) existing disposal system – duty of care requirements
  - 3) dispose to land – may require a permit

# Disposal of washwater – storage and planning



- ➔ Refer to guidance and complete the form on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk) before you start
- ➔ Consider now if your existing storage system has enough capacity
  - ➔ location and construction of temporary storage requires our agreement
- ➔ Review if your routine C&D plan can be applied
- ➔ Include washwater from biosecurity point cleaning, vehicle & equipment washing

# Disposal of washwater



Customer service: 03708 506 506  
Incident hotline: 0800 80 70 60  
**Floodline:** 0345 988 1188

Pollution prevention advice to farmers, contractors and officials July 2018

## Animal disease outbreak: washwater disposal method after cleaning and disinfecting

Fill in this form and send it to the Environment Agency. You should send it by email where possible.  
[psc-waterquality@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:psc-waterquality@environment-agency.gov.uk)

Environment Agency  
Quadrant 2  
99 Parkway Avenue  
Parkway Business Park  
Sheffield  
S9 4WF

We will assess your disposal method and tell you if you need an environmental permit to dispose of washwater.

If you need a permit, we may take 20 working days to assess your permit application. Tell us your proposed washwater disposal date so we can try to assess your permit application within your timescale.

Form submission date	
Proposed disposal date	

### 1. Premises to be disinfected

Premises name and address	
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1 of 4

## Check how much storage you need

You'll produce more washwater than from routine cleaning because of the following:

- biosecurity point cleaning
- vehicle and equipment washing during culling
- APHA may carry out preliminary cleaning and disinfection

To calculate how much washwater storage you need, consider:

- the water flow rate of the pressure washer you use
- the [average rainfall for your area](#) that falls into open stores, or onto hard surfaced areas that drain into stores

## Build temporary storage

You must agree the location and construction of temporary washwater storage systems with the Environment Agency before you build them.

If you build a temporary lagoon, you must meet the following [rules for storing silage, slurry and agricultural fuel oil](#) (known as SSAFO):

- it must be 10m from watercourses or ditches
- it must be 50m from wells, springs or boreholes used for drinking water or food production
- the base must be above the water table
- you must keep a gap of at least 750 millimetres between the surface of the lagoon's content and the top of the lagoon wall
- you must use a liner, unless there's at least 1m of clay subsoil below the base
- liners can be made from butyl rubber or plastic (PVC or high or low density polyethylene)
- you mustn't use a low grade liner in a [high risk groundwater area](#)

# Carcass disposal

- ➔ Environment Agency has an advisory role only
  - ➔ options for disposal
  - ➔ whether sites we regulate meet guidelines
- ➔ APHA oversee disposal operations
- ➔ Includes wild birds, birds from disease control and welfare
- ➔ On-farm burial and pyres
  - ➔ unlikely to happen
  - ➔ may require secretary of state approval
  - ➔ we would advise on good practice principles

# Other wastes

- ➔ Animal products – including eggs, meat, meat products, milk and feathers
  - ➔ subject to both Animal By-product Regulations (APHA) and waste controls (EA)
- ➔ Food Standards Agency advise on the safety of products
- ➔ Contaminated PPE, pharmaceuticals, and other waste material must also be disposed of appropriately



# Summary



- We will expect you to achieve compliance whenever possible
- Be prepared to consign any movement of hazardous waste
- Identify where litter will be stacked in accordance with the requirements
- If you plan to use a permitted site, agree this with the APHA and operator
- Review your C&D plan and if your existing storage system has enough capacity

Any questions?