

Top tips for completing an Intensive Farming Odour Management Plan

An odour management plan (OMP) is required where a site is within 400m of a sensitive receptor such as a neighbour, and/or has a history of substantiated odour complaints.

Both the [pig](#) and [poultry](#) industry checklists are used to check that all the relevant points are covered within the OMP, which is a Word document. Each OMP must be site-specific and do-able. The following tips will help to ensure the OMP is acceptable.

The over-arching principle is that vague statements such as 'the buildings will be inspected regularly' should be avoided. It is **essential** to say **who, how, when, where and what** follow-up actions will be taken e.g. the farm manager will perform a weekly walk-around inspection of the buildings, the findings will be recorded in the inspection and maintenance records in the farm office.

- The OMP must be **site-specific and achievable**. Don't put in detail that may not be followed e.g. Frank Smith will check the carcass bins weekly.
- **Complaints procedure** – this needs to follow the requirements set out in [H4 Odour management guidance Appendix 1](#). It would be acceptable to include a reference to this section to show that the operator is aware of the way to investigate any complaint and record the outcome. An example of a complaints form should be included.
- **Dispersion of odours** – the type of ventilation needs to be described and how it's dispersion will help prevent any odour issues. This should consider the distance and direction of any sensitive receptors to the site. Describing the use of increased fan velocity fans covers some but not all the points as the fan location and design also need to be included. More detail is given in [How to Comply Appendix 4 s A4.3.3](#)
- **Dust** – a description of how dust is minimised, how remaining dust is controlled and how equipment and housing are cleaned needs to be included.
- **Dirty water management** – how stagnation is prevented is just one aspect. Descriptions are needed for drainage management systems including collection tanks, drains and their maintenance.
- **Cleaning** – all points in [How to Comply Appendix 4 s A4.3.5](#) need to be described. These include housing, carcasses, drainage and general site management and whose responsibility it is.
- **Manure handling/storage and treatment** – more detail is needed especially in poultry OMPs, if stored or treated on own land. The main points are in [How to Comply Appendix 4 s A4.3.6](#).
- **Manure spreading** - more detail is needed especially in poultry OMPs, if spread on own land. The main points are in [How to Comply Appendix 4 s A4.3.7](#).
- **Fugitive Emissions** – detail is required on how fugitive emissions such as leaks from doors, tanks, bins, pipes will be avoided or if unavoidable, how they will be minimised.
- **Abnormal Operations** – detail is required on the contingency action plans and additional measures to be taken in the event of elevated odour pollution to avoid any complaints e.g. hospital pens which may lead to elevated odour levels.
- **Review of the OMP** – a statement needs to be included to bring the OMP in line with H4 odour guidance which states that 'You review the effectiveness of your odour control measures at least once a year. This interval may be shorter if there have been complaints or relevant changes to your operations or infrastructure'

- **H1 Risk assessment** – each OMP needs to make reference to the risk assessment of odour pollution which was performed in accordance with [Section 3 of H4 guidance](#). A statement such as ‘a [H1 risk assessment](#) dated DD/MM/YY, submitted with application EPR/AB1234CD/A001 showed that the sources have been identified as contributing to a potential low / medium / high risk odour source.’ An example risk assessment can be found in H1 Annex B Intensive Farming.

Also please note that in the Pig checklist states under monitoring section ‘*odour impact of all on-farm activities monitored constantly.*’ We would not be requiring this frequency of monitoring unless there was a potentially higher odour risk.

Environment Agency Intensive Farming team August 2014