

Draft Environment Agency initiated variation of your permit

The Best Available Techniques (BAT) Conclusions for the Intensive Rearing of Pigs and Poultry document was published on 21 February 2017. This document details the technical standards large pig and poultry farms must follow to protect the environment. All pig and poultry farms holding an environmental permit must be compliant with these new standards by 21 February 2021. The BAT conclusions can be downloaded from:
<https://eippcb.jrc.ec.europa.eu/reference/intensive-rearing-poultry-or-pigs-0>

We have carried out a review and have updated your environmental permit to ensure it includes the correct permit conditions. The draft notice shows the changes we're making. We're satisfied that operations can continue in accordance with the variation without harm to the environment or human health.

There are a number of new requirements that you will need to comply with by 21 February 2021, these are summarised below.

The new BAT conclusions also set out the operating techniques you are required to adopt to minimise pollution. We anticipate that most permitted farms will already follow these techniques. We will publish updated guidance on how to meet these techniques.

New measures

1. BAT Associated Emission Levels (AELs)

A BAT-AEL provides us with a performance benchmark to determine whether an activity is BAT. There are new BAT-AELs for ammonia emissions from animal houses and BAT-associated levels for total nitrogen and phosphorus excreted. The draft permit includes a table with the BAT-AEL's appropriate for the specific animal types at your installation.

For all new animal housing which is defined as housing permitted after 21 February 2017 the requirements must be complied with immediately. For existing housing which is defined as housing already permitted before 21 February 2017 the requirements must be complied with by 21 February 2021.

2. Nutritional Strategy

The current requirement to adopt a nutritional strategy to minimise the levels of nitrogen and phosphorus excreted has changed. You must keep records and report on the nitrogen and phosphorus excreted in livestock manure and slurry. You will need to report your results to us annually. We will compare these figures to the BAT-associated levels specified in your permit. For pig and broiler farms, the trade associations have published tools to help you do these calculations.

3. Reporting on emissions to air

You are already required to report emissions to air through the Pollution Inventory and this will continue. It is now also a BAT conclusion requirement to report emissions of dust and ammonia and you will need to report on this annually. We will compare these figures to the BAT-AELs specified in your permit variation. We have assumed that you will use emission factors to report these emissions. You have an option to carry out monitoring to report on this also.

You don't need to report these new figures to us until they come into effect in 2021. You will need to continue to report annually to the Pollution Inventory.

Please note that the 'Form Process Monitoring 1' referred to in Table S4.2 in the draft variation notice will not be included with the notice. We will send this to you separately, nearer to the reporting time, with guidance on how to complete it.

4. Environmental Management System

You are already required to have an Environmental Management System (EMS). This comprises a range of plans including an accident management plan, maintenance plan, staff training, site closure and where necessary, odour and noise management plans. You may need to update these plans and bring them together into an EMS. By 21 February 2021, you will need to update your EMS to include an environmental policy statement, outlining the management's commitment to the EMS and the continuous improvement of the environmental performance of the farm.

You can download further information on the review and associated documents, including a generic Decision Document for the variation notice from:

<https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/psc/permit-reviews-for-the-irpp-sector>

If you aren't able to access these phone our Customer Contact Centre for help on 03708 506 506.

If you have any questions about your draft permit please contact your local Environment Officer. Alternatively phone our Customer Contact Centre on 03708 506 506 and they will put you in touch with a local regulatory officer.