

How to prepare for an Environment Agency inspection



We aim to help farmers reduce the impact and risk of farming activities by bringing them into compliance with environmental regulations. This leaflet gives more information on the inspection process and what you can expect when our officers visit your farm.

Before the inspection we will usually:

- contact you via phone, email, or post to arrange a time
- send a confirmation letter which will include inspection details
- ask you to provide documents in advance to save time

Helpful documents you can send us before the inspection:

- nutrient management plans (with soil samples results)
- risk maps
- drainage plans
- NVZ Records (if applicable)
- slurry store calculations

What will be inspected

The compliance checks we make will vary depending on farm type and activity – some of the areas we look at most commonly include:

- **Fuel storage**
Tanks, hoses, bunding, spill kits
- **Silage clamps**
Drainage, base, effluent collection
- **Slurry storage**
Condition and capacity
- **Manure storage**
Environmental impact
- **Fields**
Erosion, runoff, poaching near watercourses
- **Yard drainage**
Clean/dirty water separation
- **Chemical storage**
Safe and secure storage
- **Pesticide handling**
Sprayer areas, disposal, training

After the inspection

- You will receive a report, usually within two weeks
- It will outline actions and deadlines required to bring you into compliance
- We will tell you if we are planning to take further enforcement action to address non-compliances
- Contact us if you have any questions about your inspection or report

Useful links

Inspection video

www.youtube.com/watch?v=fITrOFMMv3Y



Harvesting Success

www.farmingadvice.service.gov.uk/technical-article/harvesting-success-pollution-prevention-rules-farmers



Rules for farmers and land managers

www.gov.uk/guidance/rules-for-farmers-and-land-managers



Inspection blog

<https://environmentagency.blog.gov.uk/2025/05/13/how-to-prepare-for-an-inspection-from-the-environment-agency-ea-a-farmers-guide>



Remote sensing inspections

www.farmingadvice.service.gov.uk/technical-article/meet-eas-agricultural-remote-sensing-team



For general enquires or to talk to your local Environment Agency officer please contact the Environment Agency National Customer Contact Centre:

03708 506 506

Enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk