

SCHEDULE 1

STANDARDS OF GOOD AGRICULTURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITION

Maintenance of soil organic matter levels

8.—(1) A farmer shall not permit the burning of cereal straw, cereal stubble, or residues of oil-seed rape, field beans harvested dry or peas harvested dry on agricultural land unless the burning is for the purposes of disease control or the elimination of plant pests where a notice has been served under Article 32 of the Plant Health Order (Northern Ireland) 2006⁽¹⁾.

(2) The Department shall vary or suspend any of the requirements in sub paragraph (1) when in its opinion an area is affected by extreme weather conditions which make it impracticable to comply with them.

(3) A farmer shall not plough, cultivate or intensify (including the extraction of peat, sand or gravel) semi-natural habitats unless he has complied with the Environmental Impact Assessment (Agriculture) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007⁽²⁾.

(4) Where the Department has varied or suspended any requirements under sub paragraph (2), it shall publish directions to the farmers in the area concerned stating, with reasons, the details and duration of the variation or suspension, and the farmers shall comply with the requirements as varied in the directions.

(1) S.R.2006 No.82
(2) S.R. 2007 No. 421