

Ammonia in Northern Ireland

DAERA must meet two key legal requirements for ammonia emissions:

1. The National Emissions Ceiling Directive (NECD) – sets the target for UK ammonia emissions reductions of 16% by 2030 (from 2005 baseline).
2. The Habitats Directive - legislative provisions for the protection of European sites (SACs and SPAs). These regulations require competent authorities, public bodies, and decision-makers to agree to a plan or project only after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of European site features.



Ammonia in Northern Ireland

- Northern Ireland has 6% of the UK land area and 3% of the population and is responsible for 12% of UK ammonia emissions.
- 97% of Special Areas of Conservation in NI are exceeding the Critical Level of ammonia for damage to sensitive habitats.
- 12.2% of the NI land area exceeded the 3 μg Critical Load for ammonia, compared to 1.9% for England and 1.7% for the UK as a whole (Air Pollution Trends Report 2024).



Proposed LESSE Tiers and Timing

- Currently All Farm Businesses over 200 Livestock Units.

Proposed

- Tier 1 : February 2028
- All Farm Businesses over 100 Livestock Units
- Tier 2 : February 2029
- All Farm Businesses over 75 Livestock Units
- All Pig Farms over 10,000 KgN/yr.
- Tier 3 : February 2030
- All Farm Businesses over 50 Livestock Units



Protected Urea

Proposed

- Follow GB regulations.
- Unprotected Urea permitted up to 31st March
- Granular Urea from 1st April must be treated with an inhibitor
- Use of Liquid Urea is permitted.

Record keeping

- Quantity & date of purchase
- Field application record

