

EPR intensive farming

Pig and Poultry Assurance Scheme

Version 10, March 2018

This guidance describes the Pig and Poultry Assurance Scheme and how a farm can join

The Pig and Poultry Assurance Scheme cuts red tape and reduces charges for farmers. It's for pig and poultry producers who are achieving a high standard of compliance with their environmental permit, issued under the Environmental Permitting Regulations (EPR, previously known as the Pollution Prevention and Control Regulations, PPC).

Every farm that joins will annually save around £940 of Environment Agency charges and will have only one Environment Agency visit every 3 years. Certification Bodies (CB) will inspect member farms and collect data for us. Wherever possible, they will do so when carrying out an audit for another scheme, such as Red Tractor Assurance or the Lion Code of Practice, to further decrease the number of visits to farms.

This scheme is voluntary. If you choose not to join we'll continue to inspect and charge you as normal. You can decline to join but join in a subsequent year if your farm remains eligible.

How the scheme works

Once a farm has joined the scheme we'll give its nominated CB a copy of the permit and any variations or other information relevant to permit compliance. You'll have an annual inspection - in a 3 year period we'll visit you once and your nominated CB will visit you annually in the other 2 years. Farms that are not in the scheme will be inspected by us on a frequency determined by the environmental risk of the farm.

We remain responsible for regulation but the information the CB collects on our behalf will help us to assess whether a farm is complying with its permit. Immediately after the inspection the CB will provide us with the information they have collected; they will leave the same information with the farmer. The Environment Agency's national scheme coordinator will write to you with our assessment of the findings.

You can continue to contact your local Environment Officer (EO) at any time for advice, especially when you're considering making changes to your farm.

The benefits of joining the scheme

As a member of the scheme you'll have fewer annual visits to your farm leading to less disruption for you. By reducing the number of visits we need to make, we can reduce the permit subsistence charge by around £940 per year. If you're a member of another scheme, such as Red Tractor Assurance or the Lion Code of Practice, the CB will do both inspections together wherever possible. The CB will charge you for carrying out their visit. It's up to each CB how much they charge but it's likely to be much less than our charge reduction.

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