

Cross Compliance inspections

Inspections that check on a number of different regulations

[1 Overview of Cross Compliance](#)

Find out what Cross Compliance is and what we look for

[2 Detailed information on Cross Compliance](#)

Detailed information about Cross Compliance inspections

[3 Inspection outcomes](#)

What will happen after your inspection

[4 Environmental Impact Assessment \(EIA\)](#)

Information and guidance on The Agriculture, Land Drainage and Irrigation Projects (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017

[5 Download guidance](#)

Download a combined PDF version of the guidance in this section

1 Overview of Cross Compliance



<https://www.youtube.com/embed/k6jUGY3eJso>

A Cross Compliance inspection checks that you are complying with a number of rules and regulations that cut across different areas of your business.

We carry out Inspections on both [Direct Payments](#) and certain [Scottish Rural Development Programme](#) payments.

The results of inspections can affect how much funding you receive.

We check that you are meeting two sets of requirements, which are set out in legislation:

- Statutory Management Requirements (SMRs)
- Good Agricultural and Environmental Conditions (GAECs)

These requirements are about how you manage your business. They cover the environment, public, plant and animal health and animal welfare.

What we look for

When our inspector visits your farm, they will check that you are following the relevant regulations.

They will:

- visually check your land – this could involve checking boundaries and features or looking for any erosion
- physically check animals – this could involve making sure animals are properly tagged and well cared for
- examine your records – this could involve making sure your animal, pesticide or Nitrate Vulnerable Zone (NVZ) records are complete and up to date

In some cases, other bodies carry out Cross Compliance inspections. For example, the Animal and Plant Health Agency inspect the animal welfare parts of Cross Compliance.

2 Detailed information on Cross Compliance

- Introduction Cross Compliance
- What's new for Cross Compliance?
- Good Agricultural and Environmental Conditions
- Statutory Management Requirements
- Penalties for breaches of Cross Compliance
- Cross Compliance key dates
- Verifiable standards
- Cross Compliance Inspection Control Report Forms
- Cross Compliance 2005-2014



The complete Detailed information on Cross Compliance text is available in a [separate PDF document](#).

3 Inspection outcomes

Date published: 6 November, 2024

For recent changes to this guidance, please see the bottom of the page.

Our inspections underpin legislation which is designed to ensure high standards in agriculture.

If you don't meet some or all of the cross compliance requirements we call this a breach. And if you fail any part of your cross compliance Inspection, you may face a reduction in payments.

When there is a breach the level of any reduction in payments will be assessed against five points (see below).

Breach assessment

- **Intent** – was it a negligent or intentional breach?
- **Extent** – is the breach confined to your farm or does it have wider implications?
- **Severity** – what is the significance of the breach?
- **Permanence** – does it have a lasting effect?
- **Reoccurrence** – have we found this same breach previously?

Negligent breaches

Usually, negligent breaches result in a three per cent reduction in your payments.

However, depending on how serious the breach is, the penalty can be reduced to one per cent or increased to five per cent. If the breach is considered to be minor, we may issue a warning letter instead.

In most cases, we calculate penalties for repeat negligent breaches by multiplying the penalty by three.

Intentional breaches

Penalties for intentional breaches are much higher and generally result in a 20 per cent reduction in payments.

However, again, depending on our assessment of the breach, the reduction can be reduced to 15 per cent or increased to anywhere between 20 and 100 per cent.

In most cases, we calculate penalties for repeat intentional breaches by multiplying the penalty by two.

Cross Compliance statistics

Use the link below to see the Cross Compliance inspections statistics from previous years.

[Cross Compliance inspection statistics](#)

Penalty tables

The tables below can help you see what sort of penalty would be applied depending on how the breach has been assessed.

There are two tables, one for negligent and one for intentional breach. Each of these shows you different combinations of extent, severity and permanence.

[Current negligent and intentional penalty tables, and tables from previous years](#)

Download guidance

Click 'Download this page' to create a printable version of this guidance you can save or print out.

Previous versions

[Previous versions of this page](#)

4 Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

Date published: 6 November, 2024

- EIA Overview
- EIA guidance
- Public register
- EIA FAQ



The complete Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) text is available in a [separate PDF document](#).

5 Download guidance



[Cross Compliance full guidance 2024 \(PDF, Size: 28.5 kB\)](#)

doc_external_url: <https://www.ruralpayments.org/media/resources/Cross-Compliance-full-guidance-2024.pdf>