

# Maintenance of soil organic matter (GAEC 6)

**Date published: 7 February, 2019**

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The aim of these rules is to maintain soil organic matter levels.

**You must:**

1. comply with the requirements of the Muirburn Code as they relate to the maintenance of soil organic matter.

The following would be considered to be a breach of the requirements:

- leaving a fire unattended
- being unable to control a fire or having not made provision for its proper control
- causing damage to any woodland

**You must not:**

1. burn arable stubble except for disease control or to eliminate plant pests
2. plough rough grazing or other semi-natural area\* unless approved as part of an environmental impact assessment (EIA\*)

## Further information

The EIA regulations restrict 'intensive' agricultural operations on uncultivated or semi-natural land, or large-scale restructuring projects on agricultural land, where the result would have a 'significant' impact on the environment.

**\*Explanation of terms**

*'Rough grazing or other semi-natural areas'* is land containing semi-natural vegetation including heathland, heather moorland, bog, unimproved grassland and rough grassland which is used or suitable for grazing.

*'EIA'* relates to The Agriculture, Land Drainage and Irrigation Project (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017.

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