



Department
for Environment
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Date: November 3 2020

Dear Consultee

Consultation on reducing ammonia emissions from solid urea fertilisers

1. I am writing to invite views on our three policy options that secure the greatest amount of ammonia emissions reduction with regards to the use or sale of solid urea fertilisers.
2. Ammonia is an air pollutant that is detrimental to our natural environment and is a precursor to particulate matter, which is detrimental to human health. Our statutory obligations to restore our degraded habitats and to reduce our ammonia emissions by 8% by 2020 and by 16% by 2030, mean that we must act urgently to tackle our ammonia emissions. As ammonia emissions are predominantly from agriculture (87%) and around 8% are from the use of solid urea fertilisers, our approach is to regulate the use or sale of solid urea fertilisers via the following options:
 - a. Option 1: to ban the use or sale of solid urea fertilisers, which emit more ammonia than other fertilisers. This gives us the most amount of ammonia emission reductions.
 - b. Option 2: to require the use of urease inhibitors, which help to reduce ammonia emissions from solid urea fertilisers. This gives us less ammonia emission reductions than Option 1.
 - c. Option 3: to allow the spreading of solid urea fertilisers only between 15 January and 31 March when soils are predominantly cold, which reduces ammonia loss. This option gives us the least amount of ammonia emissions reductions.
3. The following documents may be found on Defra's website (<https://consult.defra.gov.uk/air-quality-and-industrial-emissions/reducing-ammonia-emissions-from-urea-fertilisers>):
 - **Consultation document:** "Consultation on reducing ammonia emissions from solid urea fertilisers".
 - **Impact Assessment:** "Proposed regulation to reduce ammonia emissions from solid urea fertilisers in England".
4. We welcome your views and comments on the proposals. If you wish to obtain a copy of this consultation. Please contact consultation.coordinator@defra.gov.uk.

Responses

5. To submit your consultation response please complete the consultation questionnaire provided through Citizen Space (Citizen Space is an on-line consultation tool):
<https://consult.defra.gov.uk/air-quality-and-industrial-emissions/reducing-ammonia-emissions-from-urea-fertilisers> .
6. This consultation is open for 12 weeks from 3 November 2020 and the deadline for responses is **26 January 2021** .

Consultation criteria

7. This consultation is in line with the Consultations Principles. This can be found at <http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/consultation-principles-guidance>

Confidentiality and data protection

This consultation document and consultation process have been planned to adhere to the Consultation Principles issued by the Cabinet Office.

Representative groups are asked to give a summary of the people and organisations they represent and where relevant who else they have consulted in reaching their conclusions when they respond.

Information provided in response to this consultation, including personal data, may be published or disclosed in accordance with the access to information regimes these are primarily the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIRs), the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) and the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA). We have obligations, mainly under the EIRs, FOIA and DPA, to disclose information to particular recipients or to the public in certain circumstances.

If you want the information that you provide to be treated as confidential, please be aware that, as a public authority, the Department is bound by the Freedom of Information Act and may therefore be obliged to disclose all or some of the information you provide. In view of this it would be helpful if you could explain to us why you regard the information you have provided as confidential. If we receive a request for disclosure of the information we will take full account of your explanation, but we cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances. An automatic confidentiality disclaimer generated by your IT system will not, of itself, be regarded as binding on the Department.

This consultation is being conducted in line with the Cabinet Office “Consultation Principles” and be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/consultation-principles-guidance>.

If you have any comments or complaints about the consultation process, please address them to:

Consultation Coordinator
2nd Floor,
Foss House,
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Or email: consultation.coordinator@defra.gov.uk

Thank you for your help in this matter. If you have any queries, please contact us as above.

Yours Faithfully

Air Quality and Industrial Emissions – Agricultural Emissions Team
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Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs