



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

# EIA Agriculture Regulations (Wales)

Thinking about ploughing,  
re-seeding or new drainage?

Does it need EIA screening?

# What is the purpose of EIA?

To allow agricultural changes that do not seriously affect the environment, whilst providing protection for land with significant environmental, historic or cultural importance.

## Does it apply to my land?

If you intend to carry out an agricultural improvement project on any **semi-natural land**, you will need to receive a screening decision from the Welsh Government (WG) **before** you proceed.

- Semi-natural land is any area containing less than 25% of improved agricultural species (e.g. Perennial Ryegrass and/or White Clover). This can include a range of land, from lowland meadows to moor.
- Examples of projects could be cultivation (e.g. ploughing, harrowing, rotovating), re-seeding, direct drilling, new drainage and clearing scrub.
- Existing highly improved agricultural land (e.g. silage fields) will not need screening, if it contains more than 25% of Ryegrass and/or White Cover.

Breaching the Regulations is illegal and may lead to prosecution, a requirement to reinstate the land to its previous condition and/or a Cross Compliance penalty on your Basic Payment Scheme (BPS) or Rural Development Scheme payments.

# What do I need to do?

You will need to submit a Screening Application Form to your local WG Divisional Office and await a response before proceeding. Application forms are available from your Divisional Office or WG website.

Responses can take up to 35 days so please plan ahead. There is no charge for the process of applying for screening and decisions are valid for 3 years.



## Where can I find out more?

Get in touch, we are here to help.

If you want further information, you should initially contact the Rural Payments Wales (RPW) Customer Contact Centre, on:

Tel: **0300 062 5004**

E-mail: **EIA.unit@gov.wales**

Opening hours: **Monday–Friday,  
08:30–17:00**

More information is also available on the Welsh Government web site:

**[www.gov.wales/eiaagriculture](http://www.gov.wales/eiaagriculture)**