

Explanation of Terms used

Competent Authority

The body charged with deciding whether a project will have significant effect on the Environment. SEERAD will be the Competent Authority in Scotland

Screening

A decision as to whether a project is likely to have significant effect based on established criteria

Scoping

A meeting to consider the project in more detail and establish the information required for an environmental statement

Statutory Consultees

- **SNH:** for natural heritage matters
- **SEPA** for pollution
- **Historic Scotland** for cultural and archaeological features
- Any other body considered to have a direct interest in the project or who may have relevant information

Public Register

A register of proposals requiring an environmental statements and the final decision. The register is available on-line for public examination

Further information and advice is available from your local SEERAD Area or Sub-Area office

Also at:

Scottish Executive Web pages:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Agriculture/Environment/16808/7217>

Alternatively you may contact SEERAD headquarters at:

EIA-uncultivated
SEERAD
Area 1-D
Pentland House
Robbs Loan
Edinburgh
EH14 1TY

Tel 0131 244 6204

Or by E-mail to:

Eia-uncultivated@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

(AGRICULTURE)
(SCOTLAND)

REGULATIONS 2006

The Regulations come into effect on
1 January 2007

The aim is to protect important areas where they are likely to be of particular environmental or cultural importance

You must not start work on a project likely to have an impact without written consent from SEERAD

THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT (EIA) AGRICULTURE REGULATIONS

What types of land are covered?

Unimproved grassland[#], heath & moorland

Includes: coastal and floodplain marshes; meadows, marsh and grazing pastures; grassland with some tree cover, eg orchards, parkland, policies and wood pasture; lowland and coastal heathland (including dry and wet heath); moorland (including bog) and rough grazing; machair; other open or enclosed upland grassland

Scrubland

Applies where scrub is cleared or newly managed in order to convert the land to arable or stock farming

Wetlands

Includes open water; watercourses; saltmarsh; ditches; ponds; and lowland and blanket bogs; fens and other wetlands

- # To assist in determining whether the land is uncultivated using the above definition, the following guidance might be useful
- the land has not been cultivated for around 12-15 years
- The land has not been reseeded, drained or ploughed within this time period.

If you are in any doubt, please contact your local SEERAD office who can give technical advice on queries or issues

Alternatively telephone 0131 244 6204

Relevant 'projects'

You may require an Environmental assessment if you intend:

1. **Restructuring** your landholding by
 - amalgamation or splitting field boundaries; (eg fences, walls, hedges or ditches); or
 - Material **recontouring, filling in or excavating** agricultural land including making up **vehicle tracks**

Thresholds apply for restructuring projects

2. Conversion of unimproved land by:

- **Cultivations** –
- **Spreading material**, including soil fertiliser or lime in excess of existing routine application rates.
- **Drainage works**
- **Land reclamation** from estuary or other wetlands
- **Modifications to watercourses**
- **Flood defences**
- **In-filling** ditches, ponds or pits,
- **Operations affecting historic or natural features** such as archaeological sites, hedgerows and other boundary features (other than routine maintenance) including drystone walls.
- **Clearing vegetation** for the first time in preparation for cultivation
- **Introduction of livestock at or increasing stocking to intensive levels***.

Routine maintenance is generally not included

BRIEF OVERVIEW OF THE EIA PROCESS

Is what you are planning a **relevant project?** (see panel to the left)

If yes, or possibly

Seek screening opinion from SEERAD

Is it for intensive agricultural purposes (see panel 2 to the left)

Yes

No

You are likely to be given authority to proceed

You must apply formally to SEERAD for consent to start work.

This involves completing an application form setting out details of your proposals.

A scoping meeting may be held to establish the scope for an Environmental Statement