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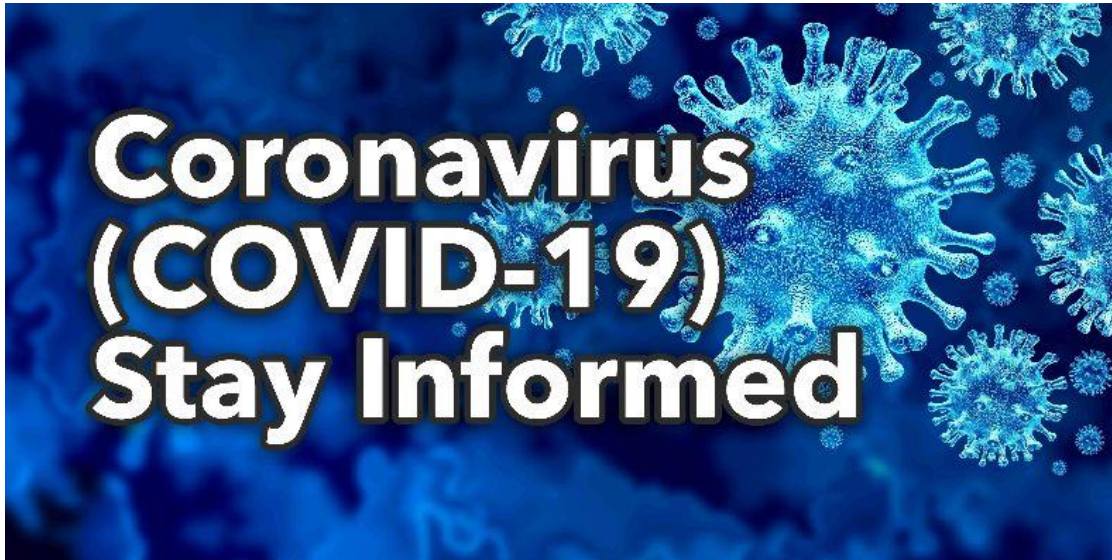
**March 2020**

## **In this month's update...**

[COVID-19 update](#), [New on NetRegs](#) [New Legislation](#), [Updates](#) and [Awards](#)

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## **(COVID-19) Stay Informed**



### **Covid-19 guidance and sources of support**

In the wake of the COVID-19 outbreak, the NetRegs team wishes you and yours all the best of health. Please stay safe and follow government's advice in this difficult time.

There are a number of sources of guidance for the current situation – among them, please see two below.

#### **Coronavirus (COVID-19): what you need to do**

See the UK government instructions and guidance related to the Covid-19 outbreak, here:

<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

#### **NetRegs Blog on the Covid-19 situation.**

Please see our blog entry with useful links:

<https://www.netregs.org.uk/blog/stay-informed-coronavirus-covid-19/>

## **Changes following the Covid-19 outbreak**

### **All routine farm inspections paused until 30 April 2020**

All routine farm inspections in the areas of the Environment, EU Area Based Scheme, Agrifood and Veterinary work, will be paused until 30 April. Essential inspections such as Public Health Risk

Sampling, Brucellosis and bTb Surveillance, will continue where possible.

See more details here: <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/news/minister-halts-all-routine-farm-inspections>

## **ECHA extends some chemical companies' deadlines**

In the wake of the COVID-19 developments, the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) will be flexible regarding some processes, including the payment of invoices, some registration procedures which had deadlines by May 2020, and deadlines for comments on some ECHA decisions.

See more information on <https://echa.europa.eu/-/echa-to-support-eu-wide-action-against-covid-19>

## **EU green deal measures delayed**

As a result of the COVID-19 crisis, the EU executive have postponed publishing their Biodiversity Strategy to 2030 and their 'Farm-to-Fork Strategy for Sustainable Food Production - until at least 29 April. Those two components of the European Commission's flagship green deal had been due to be published by the end of March.

Read more about Farm to Fork strategy here: [https://ec.europa.eu/food/farm2fork\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/food/farm2fork_en)

## **New on NetRegs**

### **Guidance for householders**

NetRegs has produced guidance for householders on how to deal with a number of issues at home, from disposal of hazardous materials to dealing with disputes between neighbours.

Check it out at <https://www.netregs.org.uk/households/>

## **New Legislation**



## **Classification, labelling and packaging of substances and mixtures - Regulation (EU) 2020/11 mixtures as regards information relating to emergency health response**

This regulations amends Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008 on classification, labelling and packaging of substances and mixtures, giving additional clarification on where unique formula identifiers\* ('UFIs') are to be placed on products.

The regulations came into force on the 30th of January 2020.

See the text of the regulations here: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/eur/2020/11/introduction>

## **Updates**

### **Derogation from the Crop Diversification requirements for Farmers**

Crop Diversification requirements, also known as the Two-Crop Rule and Three-Crop Rule, impose that between 1 May and 30 June farmers who have between 10-30 hectares of arable land have in the ground at least two different crops, and those with more than 30 hectares of arable land have a minimum of three

crops in the ground. Due to the prolonged cold and wet weather, and following lobbying from a number of farming associations across the UK, Northern Ireland farmers are granted a derogation from these rules.

See more details in <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/news/poots-announces-derogation-crop-diversification-requirements-2020-scheme-year>

## Environmental Liability Guidance

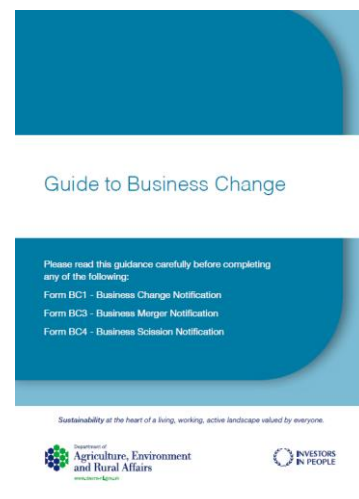
New guidance from the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs has been published, to help those seeking to better understand the requirements and practical application of the Environmental Liability (Prevention and Remediation) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2009. The guidance is aimed at those carrying out activities that may cause imminent threats of environmental damage or actual environmental damage, at the Authority responsible for enforcing the Regulations and at those who are interested more widely in their application.

You can read the Guidance here <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/environmental-liability-guidance>

## Guide to Business Change

The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs has published guidance explaining the relevant forms to use when notifying the Department of a farm business change.

You can read the guidance here <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/2020-guide-business-change-booklet>



**Awards - Inviting for your submissions**

## Susdrain 2020 SuDS Awards



These awards recognise exceptional planning, design, construction, maintenance and monitoring of SuDS. The awards invite submissions from SuDS projects from across the UK, showcasing high quality SuDS schemes - from small community projects to those on a much larger scale – under three categories, “Retrofit SuDS”, “New-build small scale SuDS” and “New-build larger scale, collective SuDS”.

An additional award, the Susdrain 2020 SuDS Champion Award, is also open for organisations and people to nominate an individual who has demonstrably gone ‘the extra mile’ to deliver and encourage the uptake of SuDS.

It is easy and free to submit your entry to the awards. Find out more and download your awards submission pack from [2020 SUDS Awards](#). Deadline for submissions is the 30<sup>th</sup> of April.

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## Missed last month's update?

Visit the [updates archive on NetRegs](#) to view any of the previous updates.



Environmental Update.

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