

Stockholding Areas Draft Guidance Material

The purpose of this document is to provide further guidance about what is and what is not a stockholding area in relation to National Environmental Standards for Freshwater. These regulations apply only to farms greater than 20 hectares.

These regulations apply to the use of land for holding cattle in a stockholding area other than a feedlot, and to associated discharges of contaminants into or onto land, including in circumstances that may result in a contaminant entering water.

These are **Permitted Activities** provided they comply with the following conditions:

- 90 per cent or more of the cattle held are no more than four months old, or weigh no more than 120 kilograms
- or**
- fewer than 90 per cent of the cattle are no more than four months old or weigh no more than 120 kilograms, but
 - the base area of the stockholding area must be sealed to a minimum permeability standard of 10⁻⁹ m/s, and
 - effluent expelled in the stockholding area must be collected, stored, and disposed of in accordance with a rule in a regional or district plan, or a resource consent, and
 - the stockholding area must be at least 50 metres away from any waterbody, any water abstraction bore, any drain, and the coastal marine area.

Environmental Implications of Stockholding Areas

Stockholding areas can pose a high environmental risk to freshwater if managed poorly. Poor management can result in a high volume and concentration of animal dung and urine (effluent) leading to water quality degradation. Inadequate design, construction and placement of stockholding areas can also lead to a decline in water quality and increased erosion risk.

The regulations intend to capture the more high-risk stockholding areas that may require consent to manage those potential risks and permit stockholding areas where the risk is lower due to the activity itself and/or the way it is constructed or managed.

Definition of Stockholding Area

A stockholding area is defined as an area for holding cattle at a density that means pasture or other vegetative cover cannot be maintained. Examples include: Feedpads, winter pad, stand-off pads and loafing pads. Feedlots and sacrifice paddocks have already been defined and therefore are not covered in this document. Wintering and Composting barns, stock yards and calf-rearing facilities are exempt from these regulations.

STOCKHOLDING AREA	
INCLUDES	DOES NOT INCLUDE
Feedpads	Wintering barns
Winter pads	Sacrifice paddocks
Uncovered stand-off pads/loafing pads	Covered stand-off/loafing pads
	Barn (including composting barn)
Keeping cattle in silage pits	Stockyard & covered yard
	Miking shed
	Calf raising (calf rearing areas)
	Keeping cattle in laneways
	Keeping cattle in forestry plots

Included Stockholding Areas

Feed pad

An uncovered area of artificially sealed or permeable land that is used for supplementary feeding of cattle on a regular or occasional basis. This is a permanent facility established to protect soils and pasture

Note: Artificially sealed land is where the base area sealed to a minimum permeability standard of 10-9 m/s

Permeable land refers to a stockholding area that is specially designed to hold animals for the purposes of feeding where the base of the area is not sealed and may include soil. This may include feedlots that are under the 80-day threshold but is not intended to capture temporary stockholding areas that may be used to feed cattle in adverse events.



Winter pad

An uncovered area where cattle are held on a deep carbon bedding layer or artificial surface for the purpose of resting and supplementary feeding during winter months. This is to minimise damage to pasture and soils particularly when soils are saturated.

Note: An artificial surface includes, but is not limited to concrete lime, woodchip, sawdust, bark or soft rock; anything that is not the natural surface of that stockholding area.



Stand-off pad/loafing pad

An uncovered area where cattle are held on an artificial surface for the sole use of resting. This is to minimise damage to pasture and soils particularly when soils are saturated.

Note: Water should be provided but supplementary feeding should occur off the pad.

An artificial surface includes, but is not limited to concrete lime, woodchip, sawdust, bark or soft rock; anything that is not the natural surface of that stockholding area.

Duration of resting can be for either short or long periods.



Cows in a Silage pit



Excluded stockholding areas

Wintering barns

A covered area where cattle are held on deep carbon bedding layer or artificial surface for the use of resting and supplementary feeding during winter months. This is to minimise damage to pasture and soils particularly when soils are saturated.

Note: This is equivalent to a covered winter pad.



Covered standoff/loafing pads

A covered area where cattle are held on an artificial surface for the sole use of resting. This is to minimise damage to pasture and soils particularly when soils are saturated.



Barn (including composting barn)

A covered area where cattle are held on deep carbon bedding layer or artificial surface for the purpose of resting and supplementary feeding. This is to minimise damage to pasture and soils particularly when soils are saturated.



From: 'Characterising Dairy Manures and Slurries' Houbrooke *et al* 2011, p13:

Manure	Kg/t (parts/1000)								
	DM %	Total N	Mineral N	Total P	K	Total S	Org C %	C/N ratio	% Min-N
Bark/sawdust	30	4.49	0.07	1.46	8.65	0.81	-	-	2
Post peelings	38	4.57	1.15	1.49	12.37	-	7.6	17	26
Wood chip	30	3.50	0.02	0.84	1.04	-	9.7	28	1
Bark- covered	49	3.22	0.08	0.87	1.91	0.42	21.2	70	25
Sawdust -open	39	2.87	0.06	0.73	2.40	0.33	16.7	58	2
Mean	38	3.71	0.47	1.08	5.33	0.51	14.8	47	13

Compare this to the composition of pig and poultry litter, the spreading of which is Permitted Activity in the One Plan:

From 'Nutrient Concentrations of Bedding Material' Bolan *et al*, World's Poultry Science Journal, Vol. 66, Dec 2010:

Table 1 Nutrient contents of manures and composts (g/kg dry weight basis).

Nutrients	Poultry manure compost		Pig manure compost	Mushroom compost	Biosolid compost
	Layer	Broiler			
Nitrogen	32.8	25.7	15.2	17.5	21.8
Phosphorus	10.8	6.7	6.5	7.5	10.1
Potassium	15.2	10.1	8.2	9.2	5.9
Calcium	18.5	16.2	4.2	21.5	19.7
Magnesium	6.2	3.5	3.7	5.2	4.2
Sulphur	8.5	5.2	3.4	3.5	7.0

Stockyard and covered yard

A covered or uncovered enclosed area where stock are temporarily held for the purpose of handling, transportation and yard weaning. This could include but is not limited to temporary or permanent pens or sheds.

Note: All practicable steps should be taken to minimise and/or mitigate the potential impact of effluent runoff.



Milking sheds

A facility used for the collection of milk and handling of cattle. This can include but is not limited to the holding yards, milking platform, milk room, vat stand, vet race and tanker apron.



Calf raising (calf rearing areas)

A covered or uncovered area that provides shelter for the purpose of rearing calves. This can include a purpose built or modified shed or shelter where calves have access to soft bedding.

Note: Drinking water and feed should be provided with enough space and ventilation to minimise the risk of disease



Keeping cattle in laneways

The temporary holding of cattle in a laneway with a base made from materials including but not limited to compacted gravels or grass. They can be used for

- (a) Movement between the milking shed and back to the paddock
- (b) Shifting of cattle between paddocks

No supplementary feeding for more than 48 hours or on a continuous basis.



Keeping cattle in forestry blocks

The holding of cattle in an enclosed forestry area for shelter or pasture protection, where supplementary feed is provided, or pasture is grazed.



Compliance Requirements

Is the stockholding area a feed pad, winter or standoff/loafing pad?

Or

Are cattle held at a density that means pasture or other vegetative ground cover cannot be maintained e.g., feed pads, winter pads, stand-off pads and loafing pads? AND is the area not used for pastoral purposes, e.g. stockyard, milking shed, wintering barn or sacrifice paddock? Include all definitions above?

Yes

No

Does the stockholding area have:

- A base sealed to a minimum permeability standard of 10-9 m/s; and
- A system of collecting and managing effluent in accordance with a rule in a regional or district plan, or resource consent and
- Is located at least 50m away from any water body, any water abstraction bore, any drain, and the coastal marine area

These regulations do not apply

No to any

Yes to all

Discretionary activity

Permitted activity

Requires resource consent