



MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND NDU

ENVIRONMENTAL GUIDELINE No. 29

**LIVESTOCK REARING INCLUDING CATTLE,
GOAT AND SHEEP**

1.0 Purpose of Guideline

This environmental guideline for the rearing of up to 20 cattle heads, 50 goat heads and 50 sheep heads has been prepared by the Ministry of Environment & NDU to ensure that all environmental issues are duly taken into consideration by stakeholders.

2.0 Nature of Development

The livestock sector has undergone a very rapid development from a part time backyard activity to a more intensive method of rearing. With the rising prices of imported milk and meat on the international market, the demand for cheaper local products has increased. In this context and with the coming into force of the Business Facilitation (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2006, undertakings of a less polluting nature have been waived from the lengthy administrative procedures in the permitting process. This guideline has been formulated to allow the rearing of up to 20 cattle heads, 50 goat heads and 50 sheep heads without the requirement of a Preliminary Environmental Report (PER) Approval, while at the same time ensuring that all environmental issues are given due consideration.

3.0 Potential Impacts

The major environmental problems associated with a livestock farm are odour, generation of solid waste and generation of wastewater, especially during operation. The different environmental aspects, impacts and nuisances related to various phases of such activities are listed below:

Activity	Aspects	Impacts/ Nuisances
Construction phase		
Orientation of animal sheds	- Ventilation - Sheds compatible with the surrounding environment	- Odour - Aesthetics and visual impacts

Site preparation / Construction of buildings	- Generation of excavated soil, debris and construction wastes - Use of heavy machinery - Obstruction	- Dumping into bare lands, water bodies and drains - Noise, mud, dust and traffic - Visual impacts
Operation phase		
Rearing activity	- Solid wastes generation, organic wastes, dead animals - Poor farming practices - Poor housekeeping (including cleaning and maintenance)	- Odour and dust -Risks of contamination of water courses and groundwater - Flies / pests/ rodents - Risks of diseases (Health impacts and biosecurity risks) - Solid wastes (droppings) and Wastewater
Washing of animal sheds	Wastewater generation (Domestic wastewater and wastewater from washing of floors)	Risks of contamination of water courses and groundwater

4.0 Siting of Activity

In accordance with the Planning Policy Guidance 2004 of the Ministry of Housing and Lands, the selected site shall:-

- Satisfy a minimum distance of 200 m from the settlement boundaries and sensitive land uses;
- Be limited to agricultural land – If the land extent exceeds 10,000 m² or has been acquired after 30 September 2005, a written application shall be made at the Ministry of Agro-Industry and Fisheries for a land conversion permit;
- Not occur within an Irrigation Zone;
- Not occur within a priority Mineral Resource Area or within 200m of its buffer;
- Be at least 200 m from any slaughter house;
- Be at least 200m from any borehole.

-The buildings shall be at least 30 m from a river or canal and no grazing activity shall be allowed at a distance of less than 16 m from rivers and canals.

-The site may be within the buffer zone of bad neighborhood activities such as:

- Stone crushing plant, Asphalt mix plant, Concrete batching plant
- Quarry site, while respecting a setback of at least 200 m from the boundary of the Mineral Resources Area.
- Landfill

5.0 Environmental Conditions

The major environmental impacts are related to odour, wastewater disposal and solid waste and the following conditions shall be observed:

- (i) Necessary precautions shall be taken during site preparation and construction works so as not to cause any nuisance by way of noise, obstruction, mud or dust or any other nuisance to the public and surrounding environment.
- (ii) The rearing activity shall not cause any nuisance by way of odour, flies, rodents and other pests.
- (iii) The animal sheds and farm premises shall be kept clean at all times. The proponent shall maintain good house keeping practices as per recommendations of the Ministry of Agro-Industry and Fisheries. For good housekeeping, the following measures could be taken:-
 - Routine baiting and trapping for rodents as well as use of approved insecticides and other appropriate measures to control flies
 - Eliminating water sources such as leaky taps and open drains
 - Ensuring no cracks and crevices on floors and walls of cattle sheds.
- (iv) All organic solid wastes generated including litter shall be collected regularly in an appropriate structure for composting before reuse as per the recommendations of the Ministry of Agro Industry and Fisheries.
- (v) All other solid wastes shall be regularly collected in bins or waste handling receptacles and disposed of to the satisfaction of the Local Authority.
- (vi) The floors of the animal sheds shall be scrapped dry prior to washing of the sheds.
- (vii) All wastewater shall be properly disposed of to the satisfaction of the Wastewater Management Authority.
- (viii) Necessary measures shall be taken for the evacuation of surface runoff so as not to cause flooding/water logging of the site and adjoining areas.
- (ix) No slaughtering or processing activities shall be undertaken on site.
- (x) All dead animals shall be deep buried or incinerated as per the recommendations of the sanitary authorities.
- (xi) The animal sheds shall be restricted to ground floor only.
- (xii) All concentrated feeds shall be kept in covered containers.
- (xiii) Feed spillage and accumulation of waste shall also be prevented.

6.0 Enforcement

Under Section 13 of the Environment Protection Act 2002, the enforcing agencies for the different environmental media or pollutants are as follows:

S. No	Environmental media/pollutant	Enforcing Agency
1.	Odour	Ministry of Health and Quality of Life
2.	Inland waters	Ministry of Public Utilities, Water Resources Unit.
3.	Effluents	Wastewater Management Authority
4.	Solid wastes	Ministry of Local Government

The local authority as well as the above mentioned enforcing agencies will enforce relevant legislation pertaining to rearing of livestock and monitoring compliance with the conditions falling under their purview.

7.0 Offences

Any person who fails to comply with any requirements referred to in this guideline shall commit an offence and shall:

- (i) on a first conviction, be liable to a fine not exceeding 50,000 rupees and to imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years.
- (ii) on a second or subsequent conviction, be liable to a fine not exceeding 100,000 rupees and to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 8 years.

8.0 Other Considerations

The following measures are recommended by the Ministry of Environment and NDU in order to minimise environmental nuisances:

- (i) All necessary permits from the relevant authorities, including a Building and Land Use Permit from the Local Authority concerned shall be obtained and all conditions attached therein shall be scrupulously observed.
- (ii) Provision of adequate lighting and ventilation in the building by natural means as far as possible. Energy efficient building designs should be preferred. The design of the animals sheds shall be to the satisfaction of the Agricultural Research and Extension Unit.
- (iii) All necessary precaution shall be taken so that the proposed development does not impact negatively on the groundwater and surface water quality. Provision shall be made for appropriate means of discharging storm water through mud/silts traps and hydrocarbon separators prior to open discharge to the receiving environment.

- (iv) Vaccination of the animals shall be as per recommendation of the Veterinary Services of Ministry of Agro-Industry and Fisheries.
- (v) Any unusual death or outbreak of disease shall be reported immediately to the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life, Ministry of Agro-Industry and Fisheries and the Ministry of Environment and National Development Unit.
- (vi) Maintenance of buildings in a good state and painting at least once every two years.
- (vii) Keeping litter dry as far as possible.
- (viii) Preventing wastes from getting access to any watercourse including drains.
- (ix) Properly landscaping of the site to enhance its aesthetic value and shall be appropriately enclosed or fenced to the satisfaction of the local authorities.
- (x) Provision of access to site by vehicles.

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