

# How to comply with the livestock manure and effluent determination



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Business information

## Who this factsheet is for

This information about the [livestock manure and effluent determination](http://www.gazette.vic.gov.au/gazette/Gazettes2021/GG2021S298.pdf) (<http://www.gazette.vic.gov.au/gazette/Gazettes2021/GG2021S298.pdf>) is for primary producers whose businesses generate livestock manure or effluent (manures). It's also for anyone who receives manures for use on their property as a soil amendment or for irrigation.

## What is included in the livestock manures and effluent determination

The determination defines livestock manures and effluent as:

- faecal matter that livestock generates
- any mixture of livestock faecal matter and biodegradable animal bedding such as:
  - straw, or
  - sawdust
- effluent:
  - livestock faecal matter in liquid form, and
  - wastewater from collection or treatment systems that are ancillary to livestock management.

Examples of primary production faecal matter or animal bedding include:

- manures or effluent from dairy sheds and piggeries
- manure from dairy feedpads and cattle feedlots
- spent chicken litter.

## Do I need EPA approval to supply receive or use manures?

You don't need Environment Protection Authority Victoria (EPA) approval to supply, receive or use manures if you meet the specifications and conditions in the determination.

The conditions of the determination are that:

- you must inspect each consignment to ensure it only contains manures
- the manures must be received for the purpose of depositing to land as a soil amendment or for irrigation.

You can't use a waste determination as a substitute for, or an exemption from, an [EPA permission](https://www.epa.vic.gov.au/for-business/new-laws-and-your-business/permissions) (<https://www.epa.vic.gov.au/for-business/new-laws-and-your-business/permissions>). If the activity is a permitted activity, then you must apply for that permission. For example, waste recycling or processing.

## The amount of manure you can receive per month under the determination

Manures more than 20m<sup>3</sup> per month may be received and deposited to land as per the determination's specification.

For smaller volumes, farmers are deemed authorised to receive and deposit up to 20m<sup>3</sup> per month of manure without any further regulatory requirements.

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## What you must do when receiving and using manures

When you receive manures on your property, you must inspect each consignment to ensure it meets the determination's specifications.

You must use manures on your land as a soil amendment or for irrigation. Further processing of waste requires an EPA permission.

## How to manage risks to human health and the environment from manures

The [general environmental duty](https://www.epa.vic.gov.au/for-business/new-laws-and-your-business/general-environmental-duty) (GED) (<https://www.epa.vic.gov.au/for-business/new-laws-and-your-business/general-environmental-duty>) applies to all individuals and businesses that supply or use manures. The GED requires you take reasonable steps to manage potential risks to human health and the environment. This means you must follow use and safety instructions for that waste, industry best practice, including WorkSafe requirements, and any Australian Standards that apply.

Read more [information for your industry](https://www.epa.vic.gov.au/for-business/find-your-industry) (<https://www.epa.vic.gov.au/for-business/find-your-industry>).

## About record keeping

It's good practice to keep records because they demonstrate you're meeting your duties under the *Environment Protection Act 2017*. Receivers may want to understand the history of the waste being deposited and any records about the waste's history may be valuable. EPA officers have powers to enter and inspect a place or premises in a range of circumstances – such as to determine or monitor compliance with the Act and Environment Protection Regulations 2021 (the Regulations) – and can make enquiries or ask to see documents.

## Ways to reuse waste that doesn't meet the determination's requirements

If manures are contaminated or don't meet the determination's specifications in any way, you'll need to find another pathway for reuse. This can include sending it to a permissioned site for storage or composting. Find more information about lawful place <https://www.epa.vic.gov.au/for-business/new-laws-and-your-business/manage-waste/lawful-place>

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