



ACRES Circular 12 of 2024

4 April 2024

**Agri-Climate Rural Environment Scheme (ACRES)
Amendments to the Terms and Conditions of ACRES - Tranche 1**

Dear ACRES Advisor

Please be advised that the Terms and Conditions of Tranche 1 of ACRES have been amended with effect from the above date, as follows:

Section:

21. Administrative and Compliance Checks

Nature of amendment: Deletion of Section 21.5 and renumbering of subsequent sub-sections

Amended Text:

- 21.1 All applications for support and payment claims will be subjected to administrative checks and any other controls deemed necessary before approvals or payments are made under the Scheme. Applicants shall facilitate such administrative and on the spot checks as the Department deems necessary. Applications will be cross-checked with records held by the Department.
- 21.2 On-the-spot checks will be carried out at farm level to ensure compliance with the requirements of the Scheme.
- 21.3 The commitment for which payment is claimed will be cross-checked with relevant databases.
- 21.4 Any breach of Conditionality noted during an on-farm inspection will be cross-reported to the relevant Departments.
- 21.5 In accordance with Article 62 of Council Regulation 2021/2116, no payment shall be made in favour of beneficiaries for whom it is established by the Department that they artificially created the conditions required for obtaining such payments with a view to obtaining an advantage contrary to the objectives of the Scheme.



Section:

33. Information and Data Protection

Nature of amendment: Addition of sentence in 2nd paragraph in 'Section 33.3 Recipients' (new sentence as highlighted in extract below)

Amended text:

33.3 Recipients:

As noted in section 33.2 above, information provided as part of the ACRES application may be shared with other Divisions within the Department, for the purposes of processing other related scheme applications in a timely and efficient manner. This sharing shall be done in compliance with the CSP legislative framework and relevant data protection legislation.

In addition, when you submit an ACRES application, some of your personal data may be made available to other Government Departments/Agencies/Local Authorities/contracted parties/LIFE Projects, and where applicable ACRES CP teams but only where there is a valid legal basis to do so. S.I. No. 628/2023 - European Union (Cap Strategic Plan, Information Sharing) Regulations 2023, enables the sharing and exchange of personal data, with other public authorities, where it is necessary for the achievement of the CSP. Where appropriate, a Data Sharing Agreement will be put in place. The purpose of this sharing of data is to facilitate, among other things, the fulfilment of the obligations placed on Member States and objectives of the CAP Strategic Plan (CSP). This includes, but is not limited to management, control and audit purposes, monitoring and evaluation purposes, cross compliance controls, controls relating to the legislation underpinning cross compliance and all Rural Development measures, as required by Article 65 of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 809/2014 and for the performance of the CAP Strategic Plan as required by Article 128 of Regulation (EU) 2021/2115 of the European Parliament and of the Council. Also, personal information may be released under the terms of the relevant Data Protection legislation in force and the Freedom of Information Act 2014.

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ACRES Section

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