Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

GAEC 7

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GAEC 7 – Crop Rotation in Arable Land

Aim is to preserve soil potential and it is applicable to arable land only.

Two implementing aspects:

- Crop Rotation
- Crop Diversification

GAEC 7 requirements from 2025

- Crop Rotation and Crop Diversification

or

- **Crop Diversification** only

Alternative measure: Secondary Crops (Catch Crops)

Exempted Holdings in 2026

- Applicants with <10 ha of arable area
- If >75% of an applicant's holding is permanent grassland or used for production of grasses
- If >75% of an applicant’s arable land is used for land lying fallow, temporary grassland, legume (protein) crops or combination of these
- ~~Organic farms (certified organic land or land in conversion)~~*

❖ CAP Simplification measure re Organic holdings; implemented as where entire holding in organic and/or in-conversion status then deemed to comply

Crop Diversification 2026

A. Applicants with **10 – 30 hectares arable area** where total agriculture area is >30 ha (2 crop rule)

- At least 2 arable crops must be grown
- Main crop **<=75%** of the arable area

B. Applicants with **>30 hectares arable area** (3 crop rule)

- At least 3 arable crops must be grown
- Main crop **<=75%** of the arable area
- Two main crops **<=95%** of the arable land

Crop Rotation

- Two different crops within an arable parcel over 4 year period; 2023 – 2026 inclusive

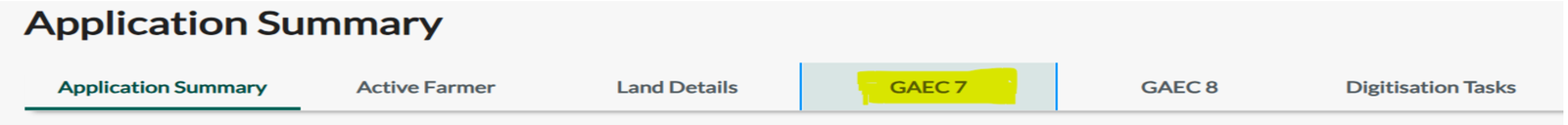
- **However if apply for Crop Rotation under GAEC 7 in 2026 remember Crop Diversification still applies!**

- If not applying for Crop Diversification in 2026, Catch Crops is the alternative

Catch Crops

- **At least 50% of arable land at farm level sown in secondary crops (catch crops)** within same crop year
- 100% of parcels must be sown in catch crops over the 4 year cycle (2023-2026 inclusive)
- Catch crops must be **sown by 15th September**
- Catch crops must remain **in ground until 1st December**
- Refer to ACRES Specifications for catch crop species
- **ACRES/EIP catch crop area will not count** for GAEC 7 Catch Crops

GAEC 7 on BISS 2026



Applicants will be presented with Crop Diversification as default option

After entering parcel details with crops claimed, if considered CD:

a. **Compliant**: GAEC 7 Status given as Compliant & Green Tick
b. **Non compliant:** GAEC 7 Status given as Non Compliant & Red Tick

Note status can change based on BISS checks, AMS or OTSC inspection findings etc

If wish to apply for Crop Rotation and Crop Diversification required to contact BISS directly

If wish to apply for Catch Crops as alternative measure additional GAEC 7 screen available

If non-compliant with GAEC 7 sanction is a Conditionality penalty.

GAEC 7 Example

Crop Diversification Compliant Y

Note that the BISS detail for GAEC 7 will indicate compliance as per the farmers self-declaration of crops sown and crop area established.

Overview

	Total Eligible Hectare (ha)	% of Total Agricultural Area
Total Agricultural Area	31.74	100
Total Grassland Area	0	0
Total Tillage Area	31.74	100

Parcel Use	Total Eligible Hectare (ha)	% of Total Arable land
Oats - Spring	3.96	12.48
Fodder Beet	5.64	17.78
Barley - Spring	22.14	69.74

Note the "Total Tillage area" (upper table). In this example, a declared areas area of 30.74 ha is >30ha. Therefore, this holding must establish at least three crops.

Note the "Parcel use" (lower table). In this example, the holding must establish at least three crops. The holding has established three crops and meets the GAEC 7 requirement for this aspect of the control.

Note the "% of Total Arable land" (lower table). In this example, the main crop must not exceed 75% of total arable area, and the combined area of the two main crops must not exceed 95%. The main crop, spring barley at 69.74%, is <75% of total arable area; the combined area of the two main crops, spring barley and fodder beet at 87.52%, is <95%. Therefore, this holding compliant with this aspect of the control.

Thank You