

QUESTIONNAIRE

for the report of the Member States on the transposition and implementation of Council Directive 86/278/EEC on the protection of the environment, and in particular of the soil, when sewage sludge is used in agriculture ^(*1), as amended by Council Directive 91/692/EEC ^(*2) and Regulation (EU) 2019/1010 of the European Parliament and of the Council ^(*3)

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| Please provide the following contact information and complete the grey text boxes: | |
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I. INCORPORATION INTO NATIONAL LAW

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| 1. (a) Has the Commission been provided with details of the current laws and regulations in force to incorporate the Directive as amended into national law? (Yes/No) | Yes |
| 1. (b) If the answer to (a) above is 'No', please state the reasons why: | |
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| 2. (a) If national measures have been adopted pursuant to Article 5 to ensure that sewage sludge may not be used in soils with concentrations of one or more heavy metals that exceed the agreed limit values, has the Commission been notified of these measures? (Yes/No) | Yes |
| 2. (b) If the answer to (a) above is 'No', please state the reasons why: | |
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| <p>2. (c) If national measures have been adopted that are stricter than those provided for in the Directive, has the Commission been notified of these measures pursuant to Article 12? (Yes/No)</p> | <p>Yes</p> <p>The following data are concerned:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • stricter limit values of concentrations of all heavy metals in soils than those provided by the Directive 86/278/EEC • stricter limit values of concentrations of all heavy metals in sludge – on the lower limit of the range set out by the Directive 86/278/EEC, and for Cd and Hg these values are lower than the lower limit of the range set out by the Directive 86/278/EEC, • stricter limit values of amounts of all heavy metals (3-6 times lower), that can be incorporated yearly into agricultural soil, calculated as 10 year average |
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2. (d) If the answer to (c) above is ‘No’, please state the reasons why:

II. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DIRECTIVE

1. Please quote any specific conditions which have been deemed necessary for the protection of human health and the environment in accordance with the first indent of Article 3 (2), when using sludge residues from septic tanks and other similar installations for the treatment of waste water for agricultural purposes.

Specific conditions were not defined. Application of such sludge into agricultural soil is forbidden.

2. (a) With regard to Article 5, please complete the following table, stating whether any of the information given is an estimate:

| Metal | Article 5 (1) | | Article 5 (2) (a) | | Article 5 (2) (b) | | Comments and/or reasons for the derogation |
|----------|------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|--|
| | Concentration in soils | | Concentration in sludges | | Application in agriculture | | |
| | Directive Annex I A | National limit values | Directive Annex I B | National limit values | Directive Annex I C | National limit values | |
| | mg/kg dry matter | mg/kg dry matter | mg/kg dry matter | mg/kg dry matter | kg/ha/year | kg/ha/year | |
| Cadmium | 1 to 3 | 1.0 | 20 to 40 | 10 | 0.15 | 0.03 | |
| Copper | 50 to 140 | 50 | 1000 to 1750 | 1000 | 12 | 3.0 | |
| Nickel | 30 to 75 | 50 | 300 to 400 | 300 | 3 | 0.9 | |
| Lead | 50 to 300 | 70 | 750 to 1200 | 750 | 15 | 2.25 | |
| Zinc | 150 to 300 | 150 | 2500 to 4000 | 2500 | 30 | 7.5 | |
| Mercury | 1 to 1.5 | 0.5 | 16 to 25 | 10 | 0.1 | 0.03 | |
| Chromium | — | 60 | — | 1000 | — | 3.0 | |

2. (b) If the option proposed under Article 5 (2) (a) has been chosen, please indicate the maximum quantity of sludge that may be applied to the soil per surface unit per annum (in tones of dry matter per hectare per annum).

The dose of treatment sludge applied into the agricultural soil must not be higher than 15 tonnes of dry matter per hectare during five consecutive years, and soil user is responsible for that as sludge consumer.

2. (c) If any less stringent limit values for heavy-metal concentrations in soils have been permitted in accordance with Annex I A, footnote 1, please complete the following table, stating whether any of the information given is an estimate.

Less stringent values of limit concentrations for heavy metals in soils have not been permitted.

| Metal | Number of sites | Surface area covered (ha) | Soil type (including hydrological characteristics) | pH | New limit value (mg/kg dry matter) | Comments and/or reasons for the derogation (use a separate sheet if necessary) |
|-----------------|------------------------|----------------------------------|---|-----------|---|---|
| Cadmium | | | | | | |
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| Copper | | | | | | |
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| Nickel | | | | | | |
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| Zinc | | | | | | |
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| Mercury | | | | | | |
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| Chromium | | | | | | |
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2. (d) If any less stringent limit values for heavy-metal concentrations in soils have been permitted in accordance with Annex I A, footnote 2, please complete the following table (the first three columns are not obligatory):

Less stringent values of limit concentrations for heavy metals in sludge have not been permitted.

| Metal | Number of sites | Maximum quantity of sludge authorized (tonnes dry matter) | Soil type (including hydrological characteristics) | pH | New limit value (mg/kg dry matter) | Comments and/or reasons for the derogation (use a separate sheet if necessary) |
|---------------|-----------------|---|--|----|------------------------------------|--|
| Copper | | | | | | |
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| Nickel | | | | | | |
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| Zinc | | | | | | |
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2. (e) If any less stringent limit values for heavy-metal concentrations in soils have been permitted in accordance with Annex I C, footnote 1, please complete the following table, stating whether any of the information given is an estimate.

Less stringent values of amounts for heavy metals that can be annually incorporated into agricultural soils than those required by the Directive 86/278/EEC have not been permitted.

| Metal | Number of sites | Surface area covered (ha) | Soil type (including hydrological characteristics) | pH | New limit value (mg/kg dry matter) | Comments and/or reasons for the derogation (use a separate sheet if necessary) |
|----------------|-----------------|---------------------------|--|----|------------------------------------|--|
| Cadmium | | | | | | |
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| Copper | | | | | | |
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| Nickel | | | | | | |
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| Lead | | | | | | |
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| Zinc | | | | | | |
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| Mercury | | | | | | |
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| Chromium | | | | | | |
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3. (a) With regard to Article 6, please briefly describe the technologies employed for treating sludge.

In Slovakia aerobic sludge stabilization is prevailing and is used by 74 % of wastewater treatment plants (WWTP). This stabilization method is mostly practiced in WWTPs up to 10 000 p.e.. As a result, the production of aerobically stabilized sludge is only around 24 % of the total sludge production. Approximately 26 % of the total WWTPs use anaerobic stabilization and part of it (3 % of the total WWTPs in Slovakia) use slotted (Imhoff) tanks. The mass fraction of anaerobically stabilized sludge generates around 76 % of total sludge production in Slovakia.

3. (b) Have rules been drawn up to ensure that analyses are carried out at more frequent intervals than those provided for in Annex II A (1)? (Yes/No)

No
Rules for performance of analyses in more frequent intervals have not been developed.

3. (c) If the answer to (b) above is 'Yes', please give further details.

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| 3. (d) Have conditions been laid down for authorizing the injection or working into the soil of untreated sludge (Article 6 (a))? (Yes/No) | No Application of untreated sludge is not permitted, thus, the conditions have not been defined. |
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3. (e) If the answer to (d) above is 'Yes', please give further details.

4. With regard to Article 7, please indicate, where appropriate, the length of the period during which it is forbidden to use sludge on grassland before it is grazed, and on forage crops before harvest.

Application of sludge to the following types of soils is forbidden:

- a) permanent grasslands or forage crops on arable land, if the grass is expected to be grazed or forage crops to be harvested earlier than 5 weeks from the application,
- b) agricultural soil where fruits and vegetables are cultivated, except fruit trees,
- c) agricultural soil intended for cultivation of fruits and vegetables harvested parts of which are in the direct contact with soil and they are consumed crude, ten months before the harvest and during the harvest itself.

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| 5. (a) Have any reduced limit values or, where appropriate, any other measures, been authorized at national level where the pH of the soil is below 6, as provided for in Article 8? (Yes/No) | Yes, if the pH value is between 5 and 6 the sludge can be applied only to agricultural or forest soil where the concentration of risk substances is lower than the value set out for the pH value 6 or more. |
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5. (b) If the answer to (a) above is 'Yes' please complete the following table:

| Metal | Cadmium | Copper | Nickel | Lead | Zinc | Mercury | Chromium |
|--|---------|--------|--------|------|------|---------|----------|
| Reduced limit value (mg/kg/dry matter) | 0.5 | 20 | 15 | 70 | 60 | 0.1 | 30 |
| Other Measures | | | | | | | |

6. (a) If appropriate, indicate which types of analysis are carried out, pursuant to Article 9, on soil parameters in accordance with Annex II B (1), other than those mentioned in Annex II B (3) (pH and heavy metals).

6. (b) State the minimum frequency of soil analysis (Annex II B (2)).

7. On the basis of the data contained in the records referred to in Article 10, complete the following tables, stating whether the information given is an estimate.

| | Dry matter (tones/year) | Surface covered (optional) |
|--|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| | 2022 | 2022 |
| Sludge produced by the waste water treatment plants | 55 049 | |
| Sludge used in agriculture | 0 | 0 |

| SLUDGE USED IN AGRICULTURE | |
|------------------------------------|------|
| Average content (mg/kg dry matter) | |
| Parameters | 2022 |
| Cadmium | |
| Copper | |
| Nickel | |
| Lead | |
| Zinc | |
| Mercury | |
| Chromium | |
| Arsenic | |
| ELEMENTS | |
| Nitrogen (total N) | |
| Phosphorus (total P) | |

| Geographic location or geometry identifying the places where the sludge is to be used | |
|---|--|
| Data type | Geographic coordinates of a location or geometry |
| <i>(Only one of the data types is to be used for any given geographical location or geometry.)</i> | <i>(Location is to be represented by a point. Geometry may be a polygon or a donut polygon (polygon with a hole).)</i> |
| Agricultural parcel ^(*) geometry | |
| Cadastral parcel geometry | |
| Other geometry identifying the agricultural land area where sewage sludge is to be used | |
| Geographical coordinates of a point on an agricultural land area where sewage sludge is to be used. | |

^(*) As defined in Article 67(4), point (a) of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013

on the financing, management and monitoring of the common agricultural policy and repealing Council Regulations (EEC) No 352/78, (EC) No 165/94, (EC) No 2799/98, (EC) No 814/2000, (EC) No 1290/2005 and (EC) No 485/2008 ([OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 549](#)).

8. State the number of cases in which exemptions under Article 11 have been granted.

With regard to the Article 11 – no waste water treatment plant was exempt from the scope of the Article 6 b) and Article 10 Paragraph 1 b), c) and d) and Paragraph 2.

9. National websites for dissemination of the consolidated records in accordance with Article 10(2)

Provide links to national websites where records referred to in Article 10(1) are made available and easily accessible to the public in a consolidated format.

<http://www.vuvh.sk/default.aspx?nid=195>

Explanation to the Paragraph 7. of the section II. of the Questionnaire:

In **2022**, the total sludge production in Slovakia represented 55 049 t of dry mass.

Sludge dry mass in amount of 43 835 t (79.63 %) was recovered.

Out of this amount, 33 509 t (60.87 %) were used in soil processes:

- 28 795 t (52.31 %) of sludge dry mass were used for compost production,
- 4 714 t (8.56 %) of sludge dry mass were used for other purposes in soil processes (reclamation of landfills, areas, production of growing media, etc.).
- No sludge was applied directly into agricultural soil.

In addition, 10 326 t (18.76 %) of sludge dry mass were biologically processed and used for energy recovery.

1 540 t (2.80 %) of sludge dry mass were landfilled and 9 674 t (17.57 %) of sludge dry mass were temporarily stored in WWTPs.

(¹) (OJ L 181, 4.7.1986, p. 6).

(²) Council Directive 91/692/EEC of 23 December 1991 standardizing and rationalizing reports on the implementation of certain Directives relating to the environment, (OJ L 377, 31.12.1991, p. 48).

(³) Regulation (EU) 2019/1010 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 June 2019 on the alignment of reporting obligations in the field of legislation related to the environment, and amending Regulations (EC) No 166/2006 and (EU) No 995/2010 of the European Parliament and of the Council, Directives 2002/49/EC, 2004/35/EC, 2007/2/EC, 2009/147/EC and 2010/63/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council, Council Regulations (EC) No 338/97 and (EC) No 2173/2005, and Council Directive 86/278/EEC (OJ L 170, 25.6.2019, p. 115).'