

## **Soil Testing Laboratories**

### **Changes to DAFF procedures re acceptance of soil testing results**

The arrangements under which the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food formerly approved laboratories for soil analysis for the purposes of certain schemes has changed.

The Department requires that soil analysis undertaken for the purposes listed below are carried out by laboratories that have obtained ISO/IEC 17025:2005 accreditation for the test in question. Accreditation to compatible standards by other Member States, such as UKAS in UK, is also acceptable.

The results of soil analysis to which this requirement applies are those submitted for the purposes of:

- The Rural Environment Protection Scheme (REPS)
- Soil tests arising in connection with the Nitrates Regulations, S.I. No. 101 of 2009
- Soil tests in relation to organic matter requirements of Cross-Compliance.

The tests in question are:

<b>Soil pH</b>	<b>Soil Buffer pH</b>	<b>Morgan's Extractable P</b>	<b>Morgan's Extractable K</b>	<b>Organic Matter Content</b>
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It is the responsibility of the person submitting the soil analysis results to ensure that the laboratory chosen meets the accreditation requirements. Clarification may be obtained from the laboratory itself and accreditation status can be verified if required via the websites of the accrediting authorities:

Irish National Accreditation Board      [www.inab.ie](http://www.inab.ie)

United Kingdom Accreditation Service      [www.ukas.com](http://www.ukas.com)

The historical arrangements under which the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food checked and published a list of approved laboratories for the purposes of soil testing are no longer in force and the requirements set out above supercede any previously published lists.

However, analyses that may have been carried out on or prior to 30 April 2010 by any laboratory approved by the Department under previous approval arrangements, may be accepted provided that test certificates are so dated.

For other queries in relation to laboratories, please contact Dept of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Environment Section, Johnstown Castle, Co. Wexford.

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