



Task Force on Reactive Nitrogen

Report of the implementation of the National Ammonia Code

I. Introduction

1. Under the guidance of the Task Force on Reactive Nitrogen (TFRN), the development and implementation of National Ammonia Codes (NAC) are a key strategy for addressing agricultural ammonia emissions across UNECE member states. These NAC, to be published as independent document by the member states, provide structured guidance on best practices, technical measures, and regulatory frameworks aimed at reducing ammonia losses from sources such as livestock farming and fertiliser application.

2. As part of its ongoing efforts to support policy harmonisation and environmental improvement, the Secretariat, on behalf of TFRN, circulated a comprehensive questionnaire in June 2024 to member countries to assess the development and publication status of national ammonia codes.

3. To date, no update was asked to the members, to assess on the existence of further development on the implementation and changes in the NAC national status.

II. Progress in the publication of National Ammonia Code

1. Thirty countries responded to the inquiry about the state of development of the publication of their NAC, following the reception of a questionnaire by the Secretariat.

2. The results of the 2024 questionnaire show a mixed but active landscape across UNECE member countries in terms of how ammonia management is addressed. While some nations have made significant progress with clear and accessible documents, others are still in the process of drafting or deciding their approach.

3. Several countries integrate ammonia control into wider air quality or environmental strategies, which can help ensure coherence across policy areas.

4. According to the answers received to the questionnaire that was circulated among the member States (in Annex) in June 2024, the progress is as follows:

- a. Fifteen countries have published a NAC as a independent document.
- b. One country has several independent documents published that address measures to reduce ammonia emissions in several domains related to agriculture and livestock production activities.
- c. Six countries have published recommendation documents regarding the reduction of ammonia emissions, but these are included in the general code of good agricultural practices documents.
- d. One country has published several recommendations, regarding several domains of activity, all of them included in the a general code of good agricultural practices.

- e. One country has published several recommendations included in the a general code of good agricultural practices, of the different country regions.
- f. One NAC is being drafted and will cover one region of the country, but there are no plans for the publication of the NAC for the other part of the country.
- g. Three countries have reported to have plans to develop their NAC, but with no specific date for the publication of the document.
- h. Two countries does not have a NAC and no plans yet for the development of such document.

III. State of existence, publication and plans for a National Ammonia Code in each country.

1. **Austria** – does not have a NAC, but In the context of the new EU common agricultural policy (CAP), subsidies, inter alia, for low-emission manure spreading techniques, low-emission animal housing, livestock feeding, manure compartmentation and livestock manure covering or housing will be continued and enhanced, and the development and improvement of effective measures is constantly supported by research carried out by the Austrian Environmental Agency (UBA) and the Agricultural Research and Education Centre Raumberg-Gumpenstein.
2. **Belgium** - a NAC is being drafted for the Wallon region but there are no plans for the development and publication of such a similar document for the Flemish region.
3. **Bulgaria** - the NAC was published in March 2020 .
https://www.mzh.government.bg/media/filer_public/2020/03/13/pravila_vuzduh.pdf
4. **Canada** - with no plans to develop or publish a NAC.
5. **Czechia** – NAC was published in November 2008. An updated publication was expected during May 2021 in the electronic form on web pages on Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Environment. No further update was received after this date.
6. **Estonia** - NAC publication in September 2019.
7. **France** – published as part of a general air quality code of good practice.
<https://agriculture.gouv.fr/un-guide-des-bonnes-pratiques-pour-ameliorer-la-qualite-de-lair>;
<https://librairie.ademe.fr/produire-autrement/4044-guide-des-bonnes-pratiques-agricoles-pour-l-amelioration-de-la-qualite-de-l-air-9791029714917.html>
8. **Germany** – NAC published in 2003 with revision in 2021.
9. **Hungary** – NAC published in October 2020 with planned revision with no date.
<https://kormany.hu/dokumentumtar/orszagos-levegoterheles-csokkentesi-program-mezogazdasagi-alprogram-2019-2030>
10. **Ireland** – NAC published with no information about the date of such publication.
11. **Italy** – published as part of a general code of good practices in December 2021.
https://www.mite.gov.it/sites/default/files/archivio/normativa/PNCIA_20_12_21.pdf
12. **Latvia** – NAC published in 2020
https://www.zm.gov.lv/public/ck/files/LLPN_amonjaks_010620.pdf
13. **Lithuania** - published as part of a general code of good practices in 2019
https://zum.lrv.lt/uploads/zum/documents/files/LT_versija/Veiklos_sritys/Bendroji_zemes_u_kio_politika/GZUP%20Kodeksas%20taisyta%20po%20AplinkosM-%20birzelis.pdf
14. **Lichtenstein** – published as part of the national air quality plan.
https://www.llv.li/files/au/pdf-llv-au-massnahmenplan_luft_200709.pdf
15. **Luxembourg** – NAC published in March 2023.
https://environnement.public.lu/fr/publications/conserv_nature/2023/ammoniakemissionen.html

16. **Malta** - published as part of a general code of good practices.
https://agrikultura.gov.mt/en/agricultural_directorate/Documents/nitratesActionProgrammeRegulations/ntr001.pdf
17. **Monaco** - In order to decrease emissions of NH₃, several policies and measures have been implementing and are planned in different sectors: road transport and public electricity and heat production.
18. **Portugal** – NAC published in 2022.
https://www.iniav.pt/images/Investigacao_Inovacao/recursos-naturais/CBPA-Reducao-Emissao-Amoniac.pdf
19. **Republic of Croatia** - In September 2019 the Republic of Croatia adopted Initial National Air Pollution Control Programme 2020-2029 (NAPCP), accessible through the following link
https://cdr.eionet.europa.eu/hr/eu/nec_revised/programmes/envxabgha/3_Adopted_NAPCP_CDR_2019.pdf Further plans to develop a NAC by 2023 were reported before the last inquiry to the parties in 2024, but not updated at this date.
20. **Republic of Cyprus** - published as part of a general code of good practices in 2014.
http://www.cylaw.org/KDP/data/2014_1_281.pdf
21. **Republic of Finland** – NAC published on October 2021.
<https://julkaisut.valtioneuvosto.fi/handle/10024/163564>
22. **Republic of Moldova** - After the approval of the Law on atmospheric air quality, there is the intention to develop the secondary legislation as the mechanism for putting into operation the law.
23. **Romania** – there were plans to develop a NAC in 2021. No further information was received after.
24. **Slovak Republic** – NAC published in May 2020.
<https://www.minzp.sk/files/vestniky/vestnik-2020-2.pdf>
25. **Slovenia** - NAC published in 2020.
<https://www.gov.si/assets/ministrstva/MOP/Dokumenti/Zrak/Dobra-kmetijska-praksa-AMONIAK-2020.pdf>
26. **Sweden** – NAC published in 2006 and republished with updates in 2020. JO23-16 Ta vara på kvävet - God jordbrukarsed för att begränsa ammoniakförluster (jordbruksverket.se)
27. **Spain** – between 2017 and 2023 several documents were published, with voluntary and mandatory measures to reduce ammonia emissions, under the NAC recommendations in different areas of livestock and agricultural production, including soil.
https://www.mapa.gob.es/es/ganaderia/temas/ganaderia-y-medio-ambiente/mejorestecnicasdisponiblesparareducirelimpactoambientaladelaganaderia_tcm30-436663.pdf
https://www.mapa.gob.es/es/ganaderia/temas/ganaderia-y-medio-ambiente/mejorestecnicasdisponiblesparareducirelimpactoambientaladelaganaderia_tcm30-436663.pdf
<https://www.boe.es/eli/es/rd/2020/02/11/306>
https://www.boe.es/diario_boe/txt.php?id=BOE-A-2021-12609
https://www.mapa.gob.es/es/ganaderia/participacion-publica/proyecto_rd_ordenacion_bovina.aspx
https://www.mapa.gob.es/es/ganaderia/participacion-publica/rd_ecogan_diciembre_2021.aspx
<https://www.mapa.gob.es/es/ganaderia/temas/ganaderia-y-medio-ambiente/calculo-emisiones/default.aspx>
https://www.boe.es/diario_boe/txt.php?id=BOE-A-2021-17911
https://www.mapa.gob.es/es/agricultura/participacion-publica/rd_nutricion_sostenible_suelos.aspx
28. **Switzerland** – between 2012 and 2023 several modules were published, with voluntary and mandatory measures to reduce ammonia emissions, under the general documents

with recommendations in different areas of agricultural production and management e.g. biogas production in agriculture, including soil.
<https://www.bafu.admin.ch/bafu/fr/home/themes/eaux/publications/publications-eaux/aide-a-l-execution-pour-la-protection-de-l-environnement-dans-l-agriculture.html>

29. **United Kingdom** - between 2012 and 2023 several modules were published, with voluntary and mandatory measures to reduce ammonia emissions, under the general documents with recommendations in different areas of agricultural production and management, for England; Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Code of Good Agricultural Practice for reducing ammonia emissions - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

PEPFAA- Code of Good Practice - Farming and Water Scotland

Code of Good Agricultural Practice for the Protection of Water, Soil and Air for Wales (2011 No.20) | GOV.WALES

The Code of Good Agricultural Practice for the Reduction of Ammonia Emissions | Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (daera-ni.gov.uk)

30. **United States of America** – reported to have plans to develop a NAC, but with no mention to the date for that action.

IV. Conclusions

1. Only 30 of the countries inquired, have responded to the questionnaire sent by the Secretariat.
2. Not all the countries Parties and Non Parties have developed their national Ammonia Codes, nor have they published the NAC.
3. Since the last update inquiry was performed in June 2024, and one year has passed since then, it would be informative to have another round of emails with the inclusion of a new questionnaire, to assess the current state of publication and implementation of the NAC in each country.

Annex

Questionnaire

| | | | | The state of the NATIONAL AMMONIA CODE in your country <i>(please add "x" in the respective column and a date as applicable)</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------|-------|--|---------------------|--|---------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|---|---|-------|---------|------------|
| Party to the Gothenburg Protocol | Name of the contact person | Institution | email | Published as an independent document | Date of publication | Published but included in a general code of good practices | Date of publication | The document is under revision | Expected date of publication | The document is being drafted | Expected date of the draft delivery | There are plans to develop such a document | Expected date to start the drafting process | The code does not exist, and there are no plans yet for its development | links | remarks | references |