

Cross compliance checklist

GAEC 6 - Maintenance of soil organic matter

The aim of GAEC 6 rules is to maintain soil organic matter levels.

Answer each question below with a yes, no or n/a to help check if you have adhered to the rules. If the rules are applicable to you, and you are compliant, your answers to the questions should be yes.

• If applicable, have you complied with the requirements of the Muirburn code? For example:

- Is Muirburn only carried out between 1 October and 15 April inclusive and extended to 30 April only on the authority of the landowner?
- Has the fire been attended at all times?
- Are there provisions for controlling the fire?
- Have you ensured there is no damage to woodlands?



Picture above: Burnt patches of heather following Muirburn

• If you have burned arable stubbles, has this been carried out for the purposes of plant disease or pest control?

Note: Arable stubbles must not be burnt except for disease control or to eliminate plant pests; burning of straw or any other items on a field of stubble is also not permitted.



Picture above: Moorland rough grazing

• If you have ploughed rough grazing or other semi-natural areas was this part of an approved Environment Impact Assessment (EIA)?

Note: Ploughing up rough grazings and other semi-natural areas without approval under the EIA Scotland Regulations 2006 is not permitted.