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**Guidelines to Periti on the Documents to be submitted with requests for Consultations  
(from the Directorate for Water Resources Regulation) on Development Requests, prior to  
submission of application to MEPA.**

## 1. Introduction

The Water Directorate within MRA is consulted by MEPA on various development requests, especially those lying in ODZs and others which are considered to be of a potential hazard to pollution of groundwater resources. Furthermore through these consultations, the Directorate promotes water efficiency by requesting information on rainwater harvesting, water recycling, the possibility of using alternative sources and overall improvement in the use of water during the operation of the development.

Consultations requirements on development requests of an agricultural nature are defined in the "Development Control Policy and Design Guidance- Agriculture, Farm Diversification and Stables, published by MEPA in 2007.

Development applications on an agricultural nature may include any one, or a combination, of the following type of agricultural structures:-

- agricultural store/tool room;
- agro-tourism (visiting attraction and/or accommodation);
- bee keeping;
- farmer's residence/farmhouse;
- greenhouse;
- livestock structure;
- mushroom farm;
- olive oil processing and production;
- reservoir and pump room;
- slaughterhouse.
- stables and/or horse riding establishment.
- wine processing and production;

Non-Agricultural developments for which a consultation is required include, but are not limited to:-

- carwash;
- cesspit (not included with an agricultural structure);
- fuel storage installation;
- small industrial concerns;
- public areas (e.g. roads and parks);

## 2. Documents Required

### 2.1. Standard Documents

All consultation requests to the MRA should be accompanied by the following documentation,;-

- 1) A covering letter either from the Perit requesting the recommendation of the MRA and containing detailed information on the proposal or sanctioning of the development being applied for, such as address, location, purpose of structure and any other relevant information;
- 2) An official MEPA site plan;
- 3) Two Copies of the development plans (block plan, existing plan, proposed plan, sections etc.)

### 2.2. Other Documents

In order to ensure that the development shall in no way pose a risk to groundwater resources, further documentation may be required depending on the type of development being proposed. The following is a list of information required according to the type of development.

#### *2.2.1. Agricultural Developments*

Development Type	Information Requirement
Agricultural store/tool room	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Standard documents.</li></ul>
Agro-tourism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Standard documents;</li><li>- Any relevant documentation depending on the type of agro-tourism operation.</li></ul>
Bee keeping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Standard documents.</li></ul>
Farmer's and/or farmhouse residence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Standard documents;</li><li>- Proof that consultation has been carried out with the Water Services Corporation regarding connection to be public sewer.</li><li>- In cases where proven inability to connect to the public sewer will require the construction of a cesspit:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- detailed design plans of the proposed cesspit.</li></ul></li><li>- certified statement signed by the developer's Perit outlining the construction methods which will be utilized to render the cesspit leakproof and that this facility will be constructed under his/her direct supervision;</li></ul>

Greenhouse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Standard documents;</li> <li>- Water management plan outlining proposals for the collection of rainwater runoff generated on the greenhouse surface and its eventual re-use on site.</li> </ul>
Livestock structures:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Standard documents; The design plans should be stamped and endorsed by the Department of Agriculture (and/or the Veterinary Regulation Department); specifically outlining that the sizing of the waste management facilities (cesspit and manure clamp) conform to the relative CoGap guidelines.</li> <li>- Where <b>new</b> waste storage and management facilities are being proposed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- detailed design plans of the proposed waste storage and management facilities.</li> <li>- certified statement signed by the developer's Perit outlining the construction methods which will be utilized to render waste management facilities (cesspit, manure clamp and area used with a deep litter system) leakproof and that such facilities will be constructed under his/her direct supervision;</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Where <b>existing</b> waste storage and management facilities are being utilised: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- certificate of leakproofness issued by the developer's Perit;</li> <li>- certified statement signed by the developer's Perit outlining any interventions which are going to be made in order to render the waste management facilities (cesspit, manure clamp and area used with a deep litter system) leakproof and that such works will be undertaken under his direct supervision;</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Certification by the National Competent Authority<sup>1</sup> that consultation has been carried out for the transfer of liquid and solid wastes to processing centres.</li> <li>- Design plans of the rain-water management schemes on site specifically outlining the proposed facilities for the separate management of uncontaminated and potentially contaminated rainwater runoff, including the following items: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- location and sizing of these facilities,</li> <li>- a plan of ancillary connections for delivering rainwater runoff to these facilities (if required), and</li> <li>- certification by the developer's Perit that the sizing of these facilities is according to the relevant planning guidance and legislation.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> Water Services Corporation for the disposal of liquid wastes to the Sewage system  
Watserv for the disposal of solid wastes.

<p><b>Mushroom farm</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Standard documents;</li> <li>- Design plans stamped and endorsed by the Department of Agriculture;</li> <li>- Design plans indicating the Waste Management and Storage Facilities being proposed for the management of processing wastes produced on site. These should include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- detailed design plans of the proposed waste management facilities.</li> <li>- certified statement signed by the developer's Perit outlining the construction methods which will be utilized to render waste management facilities (cesspit and manure clamp) leakproof and that such facilities will be constructed under his direct supervision;</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Certification by the National Competent Authority <sup>1</sup> that consultation has been carried out for the transfer of liquid and solid wastes to waste processing/disposal centres.</li> <li>- Design plans of the proposed rain-water management facilities on site.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Olive Oil / Wine processing and production</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Standard documents;</li> <li>- Design plans indicating the Waste Management and Storage Facilities being proposed for the management of processing wastes produced on site. These should include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- detailed design plans of the proposed waste management facilities.</li> <li>- certified statement signed by the developer's Perit outlining the construction methods which will be utilized to render waste management facilities leakproof and that such facilities will be constructed under his/her direct supervision;</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Certification by the National Competent Authority <sup>1</sup> that consultation has been carried out for the transfer of liquid and solid wastes to waste processing/disposal centres.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Reservoir and pump room</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Standard documents;</li> <li>- Information on the water source that will supply the reservoir;</li> <li>- A site-plan showing the surface catchment area from which rainwater runoff will be diverted to the reservoir (if applicable);</li> <li>- Design plan showing ancillary connections required to divert surface runoff to the reservoir (if applicable).</li> <li>- <b><i>For pump room</i></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Standard documents</li> <li>- Water source on which the pump will be operating</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><i>NB: application for a new pump room will only be permitted in so far as its purpose is to serve an existing reservoir.</i></p>

<p><b>Slaughterhouse</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Standard documents;</li> <li>- Design plans stamped and endorsed by the Department of Agriculture and/or the Veterinary Regulation Department;</li> <li>- Design plans indicating the Waste Management and Storage Facilities being proposed for the management of processing wastes produced on site. These should include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- detailed design plans of the proposed waste management facilities;</li> <li>- certified statement signed by the developer's Perit outlining the construction methods which will be utilized to render waste management facilities leakproof and that such facilities will be constructed under his/her direct supervision;</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Certification by the National Competent Authority <sup>1</sup> that consultation has been carried out for the transfer of liquid and solid wastes to waste processing/disposal centres.</li> <li>- Design plans of the proposed rain-water management facilities on-site.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Stables and/or Horse riding establishments</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Standard documents; The design plans should be stamped and endorsed by the Department of Agriculture (and/or the Veterinary Regulation Department); specifically outlining that the sizing of the waste management facilities (cesspit and manure clamp) conform to the relative CoGap guidelines.</li> <li>- Where <b>new</b> waste management and storage facilities are being proposed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- detailed design plans of the proposed waste management and storage facilities.</li> <li>- certified statement signed by the developer's Perit outlining the construction methods which will be utilized to render waste management facilities (cesspit and manure clamp) leakproof and that such facilities will be constructed under his direct supervision;</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Where <b>existing</b> waste management and storage facilities are being utilised: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- certificate of leakproofness issued by the developer's Perit;</li> <li>- certified statement signed by the developer's Perit outlining any interventions which are going to be made in order to render the waste management facilities (cesspit and manure clamp) leakproof and that such works will be undertaken under his/her direct supervision;</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Certification by the National Competent Authority <sup>1</sup> that consultation has been carried out for the transfer of liquid and solid wastes to processing centres.</li> <li>- Design plans of the rain-water management schemes on site specifically outlining the proposed facilities for the separate</li> </ul>

	<p>management of uncontaminated and potentially contaminated rainwater runoff, including the following items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- location and sizing of these facilities,</li> <li>- a plan of ancillary connections for delivering rainwater runoff to these facilities (if required), and</li> <li>- certification by the developer's Perit that the sizing of these facilities is according to the relevant planning guidance and legislation.</li> </ul>
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***2.2.2. Non-Agricultural Developments***

<p><b>Cesspit (Other than with an Agricultural Structure)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Standard documents;</li> <li>- Proof that consultation has been carried out with the Water Services Corporation regarding connection to be public sewer.</li> <li>- In cases where proven inability to connect to the public sewer will require the construction of a cess-pit: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- detailed design plans of the proposed cess-pit.</li> <li>- certified statement by the developer's Perit outlining the construction methods which will be utilized to render the cesspit leakproof and that this facility will be constructed under his/her direct supervision;</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Carwash</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Standard documents;</li> <li>- An estimate of the average water demand of the carwash activity and the water source/s from which this demand will be sourced.</li> <li>- A water conservation plan outlining: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the proposed facilities of the collection of rainwater runoff generated on the roofs and forecourt areas:</li> <li>- an operational plan outlining the possible treatment or re-use of vehicle wash waters.</li> <li>- Details about the water conservation techniques that will be used to minimise the consumption of water during operation;</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Details of the management plans regarding the handling, storage, and disposal of all waste generated within the precincts of the development area.</li> <li>- Proof that consultation has been carried out with the Water Services Corporation regarding connection to be public sewer.</li> </ul>

<p><b>Fuel Storage Installation</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Standard documents;</li> <li>- Design plans of the fuel storage installation outlining the following design details: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For <i>below ground</i> installations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Membrane rendered pit housing the storage system;</li> <li>- Double skinned tanks with interstitial leakage monitoring;</li> <li>- Plan of fuel distribution network and secondary pipe housing facilities (if applicable); and</li> <li>- Design of secondary monitoring within the housing pit.</li> </ul> </li> <li>For <i>above ground</i> installations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Bunding of the areas surrounding the tanks - bunding capacity should at least be equivalent to the tank storage volume; and</li> <li>- Impermeabilised surfaces for the areas housing the tanks</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>(Note: All installations have to satisfy engineering standards as specified by the Energy Directorate)</p> <li>- Design plans of the rain-water management schemes on site specifically outlining the proposed facilities for the separate management of uncontaminated and potentially contaminated rainwater runoff, including the following items: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- location and sizing of these facilities,</li> <li>- a plan of ancillary connections for delivering rainwater runoff to these facilities (if required), and</li> <li>- certification by the developer's Perit that the sizing of these facilities is according to the relevant planning guidance and legislation.</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Details of the management plans regarding the handling, storage, and disposal of all waste generated within the precincts of the development area should be supplied.</li> <li>- Accident Response Plan outlining the mitigation measures to be taken in case of an accidental tank rupture or spillage.</li> </li></ul>
<p><b>Small Industrial Concerns</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Standard documents;</li> <li>- Design plans of the rain-water management schemes on site specifically outlining the proposed facilities for the separate management of uncontaminated and potentially contaminated rainwater runoff, including the following items: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- location and sizing of these facilities,</li> <li>- a plan of ancillary connections for delivering rainwater runoff to these facilities (if required), and</li> <li>- certification by the developer's Perit that the sizing of these facilities is according to the relevant planning guidance and legislation.</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Details of the management plans regarding the handling, storage, and disposal of all waste generated within the precincts of the development area should be supplied.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Certification by the National Competent Authority<sup>1</sup> that consultation has been carried out for the transfer of liquid and solid wastes to waste processing/disposal centres.</li> </ul>
<b>Public areas e.g. roads and parks</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Standard documents;</li> <li>- Plans for the management and collection of rainwater runoff for its eventual use for secondary purposes.</li> </ul>

It is clarified that the above information is not exhaustive and during the processing of an application the need may arise for further information that is generally specific to the proposal being made.

For further clarifications, and for the list of documents that have to be submitted for other developments which are not included in the above list, the Perit can send an e-mail on [enquiry@mra.org.mt](mailto:enquiry@mra.org.mt)