



Department of
**Agriculture,
Fisheries and Food**
An Roinn
**Talmhaíochta,
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FAS Training

**SMR 3 Waste Management (Use of Sewage
Sludge in Agriculture) Regulations**

SI 148 1998: SI 267 2001



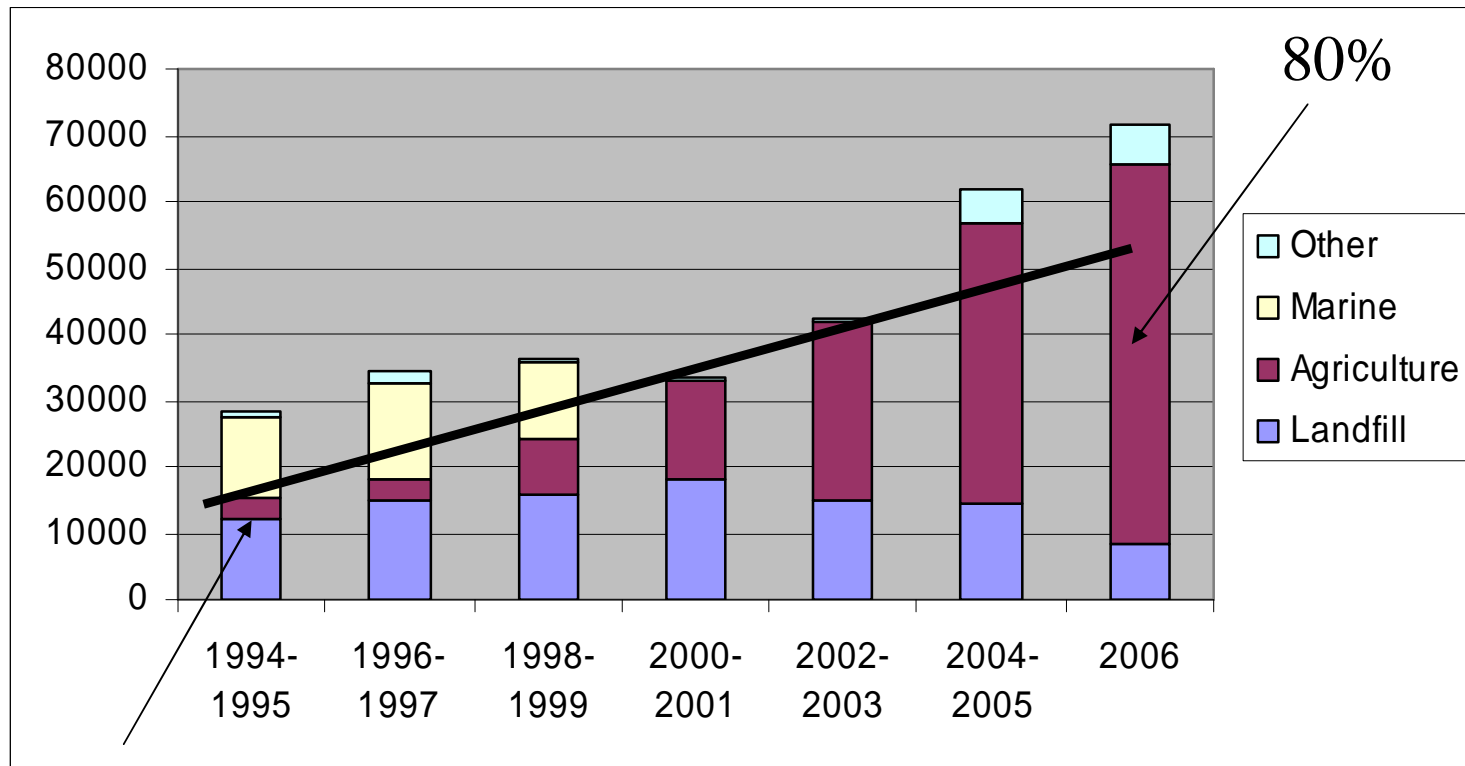
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FSAI report

“Appropriately managed land-spreading provides a sustainable option for the utilisation of organic agriculture materials and some treated organic municipal & industrial materials..”

Conditional on implementation of effective controls & application of good practice at every level

Sludge Reuse in Ireland



significant increase in the use of sewage sludge in agriculture

11%



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Definitions

Septic tanks, urban waste water treatment plants or from other sewage treatment plants

Treated/untreated sludge

Treated has undergone biological, chemical or heat treatment, long-term storage or any other appropriate process used to reduce its fermentability and the health hazards resulting from its use



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Competent authority

Local Authority hold sludge register

Quantities produced and supplied for use in
agriculture

Composition and properties of the sludge

Treatment undergone

Name, address of each recipient & spread
location



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Sludge Analysis

Ph

Dry matter, organic matter

Nitrogen, phosphorous

Heavy metals – cadmium, copper, nickel, lead,
zinc, mercury, chromium (mg/kg of dry
matter)



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Nutrient Management Plan

Cannot be used without NMP

Ensure that soil quality, surface/groundwater is not impaired

Specify the quantities to be applied on a field by field basis

Cannot exceed heavy metal limits in regulation

Store separately to other fertilisers



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Nutrient Management Plan

Availability as for cattle manure

Can vary this with prior agreement of Las

Majority of problems are with NMPs

Restrictions

Untreated sludge – to be injected or worked into the land.

Septic tank sludge – use on grassland but cannot graze for 6 months.

Cannot use any sludge on soft fruit/veg crops other than fruit trees.

Land intended for growing soft fruit/veg crops that are in direct contact with the soil and eaten raw for a period commencing 10 months prior to harvest and during harvesting.

Grassland/forage crops cannot be grazed/harvested within 3 weeks of use of treated sludge.