

Ministerial decree amending the Ministerial Decree of 19 March 2004 establishing the list of low-ammonia-emission barn systems, implementing Articles 1.1.2 and 5.9.2.1bis of the Decree of the Government of Flanders of 1 June 1995 laying down general and sectoral provisions on environmental hygiene with regard to the amendment of the list of low-ammonia-emission barn systems

Legal bases

This Decree is based on:

- the Decree of 5 April 1995 laying down general provisions concerning environmental policy, Article 5.4.1, inserted by the Decree of 25 April 2014;
- the Decree of the Flemish Government of 1 June 1995 laying down general and sectoral provisions on environmental hygiene, Article 1.1.2, last amended by the Decree of the Government of Flanders of 21 June 2024, and Article 5.9.2.1bis, last amended by the Decree of the Government of Flanders of 7 July 2023.

Procedural requirements

The following formal requirements have been met:

- The Inspectorate of Finance issued its opinion on 26 August 2025.
- The Council of State issued Opinion No 78.247/1 on 20 October 2025.
- This draft was communicated to the European Commission in accordance with Article 5 of Directive (EU) 2015/1535 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 September 2015 laying down a procedure for the provision of information in the field of technical regulations and of rules on Information Society services.

Legal context

This Decree is consistent with the following regulations:

- the Decree of 26 January 2024 on the programmatic approach to nitrogen;
- the Decree of 19 April 2024 on ammonia emission reduction measures.

THE FLEMISH MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND AGRICULTURE DECREES:

Article 1. In Annex I to the Ministerial Decree of 19 March 2004 establishing the list of low-ammonia-emission barn systems, implementing Articles 1.1.2 and 5.9.2.1bis of the Decree of the Government of Flanders of 1 June 1995 laying down general and sectoral provisions on environmental hygiene, last amended by the Ministerial Decree of 16 July 2025, a new section 5 is inserted in Section 3, which consists of points 3.5.1 to 3.5.1.5 and reads as follows:

'Section 5: Low-ammonia-emission barn systems for multiple types of pig categories
3.5.1 System V-5.1. Floating balls on the manure surface

3.5.1.1

Animal category:

V-1 Piglets

V-2 Sows (including piglets for weaning) in stalls

V-3 Sows in mating and gestation sheds

V-4 Fattening pigs

PAS code:

PAS V-1.1

PAS V-2.1

PAS V-3.1

PAS V-4.1

Name of the system:

Floating balls on the manure surface

Emission factor:

29%

3.5.1.2. Operating principle

Ammonia emissions are reduced by limiting the surface area of manure in the manure pit in the barn, which is achieved by floating balls on the surface of the manure. When manure falls onto the ball, the ball tilts, allowing the manure to fall under the ball into the manure pit.

3.5.1.3 Design of the measure

§1. Requirements as regards implementation

To ensure proper implementation of the measure, the following conditions must always be met:

1° the manure pit is fitted with vertical walls;

2° the balls floating on the emitting manure surface meet the following conditions:

- a) They are made of HDPE (high-density polyethylene) and are manure-repellent;
- b) They have a diameter of 225 mm;
- c) They have a smooth surface;
- d) They are filled approximately halfway with water, and filled in such a way that half of the balls float on the manure surface;
- e) They are leak-proof and manure resistant.

3° Manure pit under the grate:

- a) The entire emitting surface is covered with the balls referred to in point 2°, which are in contact with one another;
- b) The manure pit is covered with 18 balls per m² of emitting surface area.

§2. Usage requirements:

- 1° The manure pit is not filled to the maximum with manure. The balls floating on the manure surface are always able to move freely;
- 2° When removing the manure from the manure pit, the balls are not removed from the manure pit;
- 3° The cleaning water remains in the manure pit after each production round.

3.5.1.4 Monitoring of the measure

The owner of the barn must be able to present the technical sheet and a copy of the invoice from the supplier.

The technical sheet and the invoice must contain at least the following information:

- 1° the total number of balls delivered;
- 2° the number of balls per manure pit;
- 3° the type of balls.

3.5.1.5 Emission reduction

In applying this measure, a reduction of ammonia emissions of 29% can be achieved.'.

Article 2. In Chapter Seven of the same Annex, subsection 7.1.30 is added, which consists of points 7.1.30.1 to 7.1.30.5 and reads as follows:

‘7.1.30. Floating balls on the manure surface
7.1.30.1

Animal category: R-4 Feeder calves up to eight months
Code: R-4.3
Name of the system: Floating balls on the manure surface
Emission factor: 11%

7.1.30.2 Operating principle

Ammonia emissions are reduced by limiting the surface area of manure in the manure pit in the barn, which is achieved by floating balls on the surface of the manure. When manure falls onto the ball, the ball tilts, allowing the manure to fall under the ball into the manure pit.

7.1.30.3 Design of the measure

§1. Requirements as regards implementation

To ensure proper implementation of the measure, the following conditions must always be met:

- 1° the manure pit is fitted with vertical walls;
- 2° the balls floating on the emitting manure surface meet the following conditions:
 - a) They are made of HDPE (high-density polyethylene) and are manure-repellent;
 - b) They have a diameter of 225 mm;
 - c) They have a smooth surface;
 - d) They are filled approximately halfway with water, and filled in such a way that half of the balls float on the manure surface;
 - e) They are leak-proof and manure resistant.

3° Manure pit under the grate:

- a) The entire emitting surface is covered with the balls referred to in point 2°, which are in contact with one another;
- b) The manure pit is covered with 18 balls per m² of emitting surface area.

§2. Usage requirements:

1° The manure pit is not filled to the maximum with manure. The balls floating on the manure surface are always able to move freely;

2° When removing the manure from the manure pit, the balls are not removed from the manure pit;

3° The cleaning water remains in the manure pit after each production round.

7.1.30.4 Monitoring of the measure

The owner of the barn must be able to present the technical sheet and a copy of the invoice from the supplier.

The technical sheet and the invoice must contain at least the following information:

1° the total number of balls delivered;

2° the number of balls per manure pit;

3° the type of balls.

7.1.30.5 Emission reduction

In applying this measure, a reduction of ammonia emissions of 11% can be achieved.'.

Article 3. This Decree shall enter into force on the day of its publication in the Belgian Official Gazette.

Brussels, (date).

The Flemish Minister for Environment and Agriculture,

Jo BROUNS