

Conditions for using the OverseerFM nutrient risk assessment tool in your farm plan

Conditions of Use:

1. The nutrient budget is to be used for dairy farms, dry stock farms, arable and horticultural farms, forestry, and any support blocks which form part of the landholding.
2. OverseerFM must be used undertaking the following steps:
 - a. Data used for input into the tool must be made available for verification upon certification of your farm plan.
 - b. The farm input data is processed via the OverseerFM nutrient budget model. The budget itself or the summary produced must record the version of OverseerFM used and the date that the budget was modelled.
 - c. Model outputs are utilised to produce a summary to inform farm plan actions. Requirements for this assessment are detailed in condition 3.
3. As part of completing a nutrient budget, a suitably qualified person will provide a short summary that shows the key findings of the OverseerFM report and the main opportunities that exist to reduce Nitrogen and Phosphorus losses. This summary must include:
 - a. Confirmation that Farm data inputs used are in accordance with the OverseerFM user guide (2019) and are representative of the farm system being modelled (e.g. blocks represent areas of land with consistent biophysical features, correct source inputs are entered, and information used is in alignment with the farm plan information).
 - b. An evaluation of OverseerFM outputs for high losses from farm systems or blocks, including identifying actions available to the farm operator to reduce the losses.

Suitably Qualified Persons:

For the purposes of carrying out an assessment using the OverseerFM budget, any person who holds the following certification is an approved Suitably Qualified Person:

1. Certified Nutrient Management Advisor

The Southland Water and Land Plan (Appendix N) requires that the nutrient budget must be prepared by a Suitably Qualified Person approved as such by the Chief Executive. Due to the complexity of the OverseerFM model, comprehensive farm systems knowledge and scientific knowledge of soils and nutrients is required, along with comprehensive training in the use of OverseerFM. Therefore, it is recommended that a Suitably Qualified Person is someone who has been assessed as a Certified Nutrient Management Adviser¹ via the Nutrient Management Adviser Certification Programme.

The Nutrient Management Adviser Certification Programme includes multiple components which provide assurance of quality standards, being:

- completion of the Intermediate and Advanced courses in Sustainable Nutrient Management in New Zealand Agriculture, including passing a competency assessment;
- Continuing professional development requirements each year; and
- Regular auditing of nutrient management reports. They are also required to work to a Code of Ethics and Rules of Conduct, which provides further assurance.

Environment Southland considers that the certification above would ensure sufficient knowledge and competency to be considered a Suitably Qualified Person for OverseerFM. Some individuals without the CNMA certification may also have sufficient knowledge and competency to be considered a Suitably Qualified Person for OverseerFM, but this will be highly dependent on the level of Overseer training undertaken and other qualifications and experience. These practitioners are able to request individual consideration for approval as a Suitably Qualified Person for OverseerFM.¹

¹ At the time of writing the CNMA (provided by the Nutrient management Adviser Certification Programme) is the only formal qualification for the use of OverseerFM. However, Environment Southland is open to assessing individuals with relevant and sufficient experience on a case-by-case basis. Additionally, if alternative official qualifications for the use of OverseerFM are developed in the future, then those qualifications will be incorporated into this assessment of SQP.