

Agreement start dates

This note sets out the application start dates and associated deadlines that will apply for Environmental Stewardship (ES). Please note that the first possible agreement start dates are 1 August 2005 for ELS/OELS and 1 November for HLS.

Entry Level Stewardship (ELS) and Organic Entry Level Stewardship (OELS)

We have now introduced monthly, rather than quarterly, agreement start dates for ELS and OELS to help with early entry into the scheme.

Our target will be to provide you with an agreement within three months of receipt of a valid application. Agreements will commence on the first day of each month so, for example, we aim to issue an agreement by 1 November for a valid application received during August. We will give you the earliest start date we are able to unless you ask for a specific date later than the three month target.

Higher Level Stewardship (HLS)

We are not able to extend monthly agreement start dates to HLS as the requirements of this element of ES are quite different and more complex.

The quarterly agreement start dates for HLS will remain as previously published:

HLS application deadline	HLS agreement start date
31 July 2005	1 November 2005
30 September 2005	1 February 2006
31 December 2005	1 May 2006
and quarterly thereafter	and quarterly thereafter