



Agri SA Water Desk

WATER MEASURING AND METERING



AGRI SA'S WATER MANDATE

Agri SA and its affiliated members are committed to actively support and participate in any and all initiatives aimed at:

- Ensuring that water uses by Agri SA's affiliated members are lawful in accordance with the National Water Act, 36 of 1998 (NWA).
- Promoting water use efficiency, through the use of appropriate metering and other technology in order to minimise water losses and the wastage of water.

WHY MEASURE?

Compliance:

- To adhere to conditions of a water use license where such has been issued in terms of the NWA.
- Under instruction from the relevant responsible authority (i.e. Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS), Catchment Management Agencies (CMAs) and any person who fulfills the functions of a water management institution in terms of the NWA).



Increased Water Use Efficiency:

- Optimisation of water use.
- A more accurate determination of use which could free up water for production expansion and improved farm planning.

Improved Irrigation System Performance:

- As a source of data in a distribution network, variations in flows are used as a diagnostic tool. High (damaged emitters or multiple zones functioning) or low (leaks, clogs, faulty pump) flows suggest possible faults within the irrigation system.

Benefits of flow data transcend farm level:

- Due to more accurate flow data information, water management can be improved at the local, catchment and national level. This data can be used to verify compliance with water use entitlements, accurately levy water charges and provide key insights into planning in all water management areas.



WHO SHOULD MEASURE?

All water users taking water from a water resource for irrigation purposes should measure their water uses.

WHERE SHOULD MEASUREMENT TAKE PLACE?

1. Point of abstraction from the water resource.
2. Point of discharge into a water source (where applicable).

REGULATIONS

1. GN 131 of 2017 - Water for irrigation purposes must be measured, recorded and reported on.
2. GN 141 of 2018 - Water User Associations and Irrigation Boards must install meters.
3. GN 34 of 2020 - All irrigation farmers outside of Water User Associations and Irrigation Boards must install meters.



USER GUIDELINES

1. Guideline for water users
2. Open-channel flow
3. Pipe-flow

[Click here for link to relevant documents](#)

Should you have any further questions regarding water metering, please contact your local Irrigation Board, Water User Association, DWS Regional Office or Agri SA's water desk.

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