

Scheme Notice: For Information

Updates for RPID staff – internal use only 27 September 2017 – Scheme Notice - AECS068- AECS 2017 assessment process

AECS case officers should note the following issues as part of the 2017 application process:

Initial Cut-Off Score

Please note that a sufficient number of applications have now been scored online and the initial cut-off score for Agri cases is 11 points. However, we still advise that co-ordinators prioritise cases from highest to lowest scoring. The initial cut-off score for Organic and Slurry Storage cases is likely to be 1 point.

Rejecting Applications

The application 'Approver' stage of the application process must NOT be completed online until we advise you of the final cut – off scores and confirm that you can issue approvals.

Applications can only be rejected online at the present stage if they have been found ineligible and this will be triggered by answering 'No' to one of the AECS assessment questions online. This type of rejection is to be rejected at the 'Application Manager' stage and not be taken forward to the 'Approver' stage as it is being rejected on the grounds of eligibility failures rather than failure to obtain sufficient points .

Several case officers have queried what method to use if the case is to be rejected due to a significant proportion of the application being found to be ineligible (usually 10 per cent). Where you intend to reject an application due to too many ineligible items, the question “ Confirm that the application meets all of the eligibility criteria and scheme requirements as set out in the guidance” should be answered as 'No'.

You should then state in the comments box “a significant proportion of the application was found to be ineligible” listing specific items or options, if appropriate.

For cases to be rejected in terms of its score approving officers must first seek clearance from AECS Scheme managers before confirming their decisions online and notification of decision letters are issued.

If you have inadvertently rejected any cases due to ineligibility failures after completing the 'Approver' stage you will need to roll back the application on the system by using the 'Recover Unsuccessful' button – Section 3.5 of the AECS

Application Processing part 2 Desk instructions - A15784376 refers and reject the application as outlined above. A rejection letter will have been generated and issued to the applicant therefore you must contact them to inform them that a second 'rejection' letter will be issued.

For any follow up queries or if you require further information please request this through your relevant local area office co-ordinator.

Notice requested by:

AECS Team