

Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control



PPC in 2007

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The objective of the Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control (IPPC) Directive is to prevent or reduce emissions to air, water and land (including waste). We have to use the best available techniques to do this in order to achieve a high level of protection of the environment as a whole.

The Pollution Prevention and Control (England and Wales) Regulations 2000 have implemented the Directive. The Welsh Assembly Government has devolved authority in Wales for certain functions under the PPC Regulations. Separate, but similar regulations cover Scotland and Northern Ireland.

The Directive applies to a list of named activities covering most industrial activities where there is a risk of significant pollution. The regulations include a limited number of additional activities that were previously covered by the UK Integrated Pollution Control (IPC) regime. In England and Wales, the activities posing the most risk are classified as A(1) activities and regulated by the Environment Agency. A(2) activities are regulated by local authorities.

Progress on Permitting

PPC has been progressively implemented since October 1999. A major milestone will pass on 30 October 2007 – the European deadline for issuing PPC permits for existing activities. Over this time, we have reduced paperwork

by placing more responsibility on operators for establishing and protecting the quality of the land. We have also made permitting arrangements simpler for low impact installations and streamlined the application process by setting up Strategic Permitting Groups.

By April 2007 we had issued about 60 per cent of the expected 3,700 PPC permits. The last application window has closed and we are tackling nearly 1,000 applications from intensive poultry and pig farms. We tailored the application form to help these farmers, and we also provided special guidance and ran 35 workshops.

We will be reorganising our permitting teams after October 2007 and a smaller National Permitting Service will take over. This service will include a Permit Support Centre in Sheffield, which will provide administration for variation of existing permits and new applications. As part of the Service, we are also setting up four new permitting centres at Warrington, Solihull, Nottingham and Cardiff. A key part of their work will be permit reviews. In these reviews, we will be reviewing sector environmental performance and permit conditions, on a priority basis determined by risk and availability of the revised European BAT Reference (BREF) guides. First up will be cement and lime, textiles and paper. These were some of the first to be permitted.

Risk-based Compliance

Our risk-based approach has now been implemented throughout the PPC regime. We have a Methodology for Assessing Compliance (MAC), with operator performance quantified through the Compliance Classification Scheme (CCS). This feeds into Operator and Pollution Risk Appraisal (OPRA), which in turn provide input to our annual Compliance Assessment Plans (CAPS) that set compliance priorities for the year. Of course, OPRA also provides the basis for our charging schemes. During the coming year we will be reviewing how effective it is and refining it as needed. **Figure 1** overleaf shows how these four tools fit together.

Monitoring Emissions

The conditions of PPC permits require emissions to air and water to be monitored. This happens in accordance with the Monitoring and Certification Scheme (MCERTS) to ensure consistent data, of adequate quality. Incineration plant falling under the Waste Incineration Directive (WID) and boiler plant falling under the Large Combustion Plant Directive (LCPD) both have to fit and operate Continuous Emissions Monitoring Systems (CEMS). Selection, commissioning and operation of such CEMS are subject to the CEN quality assurance ►

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▶ standards BS EN 14181 and BS EN 13284-2.

Operators of these plants should check their PPC permits to see the timing and extent of their obligations under the standards. BS EN 14181 is mainly divided into three Quality Assurance Levels (QALs):

- QAL1: design and operation of the CEMS (initial performance standard);
- QAL2: set-up of the CEMS, including calibration against standard reference methods;
- QAL3: checking of on-going performance and stability.

An Annual Surveillance Test (AST) is also required – see **Figure 2** below.

Environmental Permitting Programme (EPP)

The EPP is a joint initiative between Defra, the Welsh Assembly Government (WAG) and ourselves to modernise and streamline environmental permitting. It has begun with PPC and Waste Management Licensing (WML) regimes and will be implemented via the Environmental Permitting Regulations that will replace the PPC Regulations.

EPP will do a lot to reduce the complexity of legislation by harmonising our approach to permitting and compliance assessment across process and waste industries. There will be one simple administration system for all activities. As well as the existing site-specific bespoke permit, there will also be a standard permit available. These will be for common, lower risk activities that can have standard regulatory rules. The advantages are that once a standard

permit is available, the operator will have a simpler, quicker application system and have to give us less information. The standard rules will be widely consulted on and then available on our website.

They will be supported with new government guidance to replace *IPPC: A Practical Guide*, simplified and streamlined processes, forms, guidance and IT systems.

You can track progress and have your say on consultations at: www.defra.gov.uk/environment/epp/index.htm

Do you have a new Best Available Technique (BAT)?

The European Commission has issued its first range of BREFs. A programme of BREF reviews is now under way and a review for the cement and lime sector should be complete in 2007. Revised BREFs for glass, paper and pulp are due in 2008 and ferrous and non-ferrous metals 2009. These reviews are an opportunity for UK companies with a technique that is proven, or in the process of being demonstrated to influence the BREF process, through the UK Technical Group Representatives. A convincing case requires technical and economic information. The ideal time to do this is when the statement of questions is produced at the beginning.

Plans and progress of BREFs can be followed at: <http://eippcb.jrc.es/pages/Factivities.htm>

IPPC Directive Review

The European Commission has a review of the IPPC Directive well under way. It is looking at what changes

could be made to build on its success and reduce administrative burden to reflect the Lisbon Agenda. Possibilities include harmonising with directives like WID and LCPD and whether to extend the scope by adding new sectors (like dairy farming and aquaculture) and reducing thresholds. We welcome harmonising the various overlapping directives under the IPPC umbrella. However, we're cautious about extending the scope unless:

- It remains true to its core aim of an integrated approach to air, water and land;
- It remains focused where there is a risk of significant pollution.

The Commission plans to publish a communication in late 2007 that will include the draft text of a revised IPPC Directive, for possible implementation in 2013. Defra is providing a UK voice in the review. You can find more information at:

www.defra.gov.uk/environment/ppc/envagency/meetings/index.htm

Full details are given on the Europa site at:

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/ippc/ippc_review_process.htm

Which links to the Circa page at:

http://forum.europa.eu.int/Public/irc/env/ippc_rev/library

For more information about PPC, contact our National Customer Contact Centre or your local Environment Agency office on **0870 8506506** ●

FIGURES

Figure 1

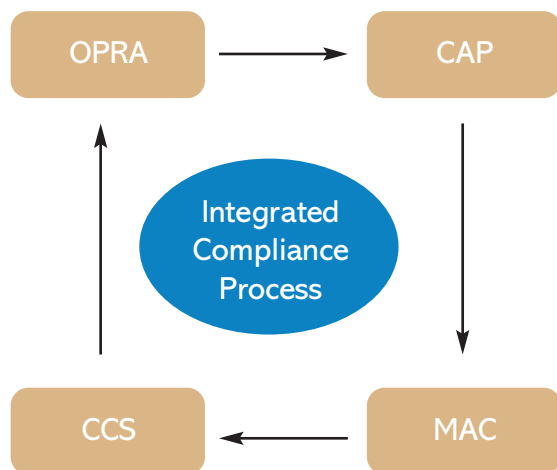


Figure 2

