

Briefing

Industrial Emissions Directive - Waste Sector

July 2014

This briefing provides an update on the work we are doing to implement the Industrial Emissions Directive (IED). **It is aimed at operators of permitted waste operations and installations as well as our Area staff.**

Interpretation

We will not pursue applications for some specific activities as there still remains uncertainty with the Directives intention and we are putting these on hold until the interpretation is clear. Once the decision has been announced, we will allow a reasonable period, of for example 6 months, for Operators to prepare their applications. For all other permits however, both waste permits and installation permits, any change to the permitted activity may still require a variation.

We will not pursue applications for the following activities:

1. Pre-treatment for incineration or co-incineration type activities.
2. Sewage sludge digestion at sewage treatment works and the associated burning of biogas. This exclusion does not apply to:
 - co-digestion,
 - existing installations,
 - new biogas burners located in Air Quality Management Areas. These shall be permitted as waste operations until the scope of IED has been confirmed.
3. Burning of biogas as a stand-alone waste activity. Burning of biogas associated with another IED activity, e.g. anaerobic digestion or active landfill, will be regulated as a directly associated activity.

Applications for variations

Our duly made checklist is now available. The checklist confirms what information needs to be included in applications for an administrative variation to permits issued after April 2007 and a normal variation to older permits. Operators preparing applications should use this checklist to gain confidence their application will be duly made when it is submitted.

We are starting to resource our National Permitting Team to process applications. Applications prepared to this duly made checklist should be submitted to us with the correct fee by the following deadlines.

- 1st deadline - 30 Sept 2014 (*for gasification of fuels other than coal, biological processing of chemicals, non-hazardous waste recovery, or a mix of recovery and disposal*)
- 2nd deadline - 1 Jan 2015 (*for hazardous waste recovery, non-hazardous waste disposal, wood preservation*)
- 3rd deadline - 31 Mar 2015 (*for hazardous waste storage, independent waste water treatment works*)

The determination process

This variation process will allow the requirements of the IED to be implemented and incorporated into permits. The purpose is therefore to move waste permits to waste installation permits, to ensure operators continue to use appropriate measures to protect the environment and not to review the treatment standards used. Treatment standards will be reviewed when the Waste Treatment BREF document is published in 2016/17. Where there is an issue which need to be addressed now, we do not expect a delay as a result of the pending publication of the Waste Treatment BREF.

Further Information

We will provide further briefing and guidance at appropriate times in future. If you want further information about IED please refer to IED at our [website](#) or speak to your usual Environment Agency Area or Sector lead contact or contact us at enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk or on 03708 506 506.