
Environmental Inspection Plan

Inspection Plan for Industrial Emissions Directive,
Integrated Pollution Control, and Waste Licensed Installations
September 2014



Environmental Protection Agency

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is a statutory body responsible for protecting the environment in Ireland. We regulate and police activities that might otherwise cause pollution. We ensure there is solid information on environmental trends so that necessary actions are taken. Our priorities are protecting the Irish environment and ensuring that development is sustainable.

The EPA is an independent public body established in July 1993 under the Environmental Protection Agency Act, 1992. Its sponsor in Government is the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government.

OUR RESPONSIBILITIES

LICENSING

We license the following to ensure that their emissions do not endanger human health or harm the environment:

- waste facilities (e.g., landfills, incinerators, waste transfer stations);
- large scale industrial activities (e.g., pharmaceutical manufacturing, cement manufacturing, power plants);
- intensive agriculture;
- the contained use and controlled release of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs);
- large petrol storage facilities;
- waste water discharges;
- dumping at sea.

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT

- Conducting over 1200 audits and inspections of EPA licensed facilities every year.
- Overseeing local authorities' environmental protection responsibilities in the areas of - air, noise, waste, waste-water and water quality.
- Working with local authorities and the Gardaí to stamp out illegal waste activity by co-ordinating a national enforcement network, targeting offenders, conducting investigations and overseeing remediation.
- Prosecuting those who flout environmental law and damage the environment as a result of their actions.

MONITORING, ANALYSING AND REPORTING ON THE ENVIRONMENT

- Monitoring air quality and the quality of rivers, lakes, tidal waters and ground waters; measuring water levels and river flows.
- Independent reporting to inform decision making by national and local government.

REGULATING IRELAND'S GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

- Quantifying Ireland's emissions of greenhouse gases in the context of our Kyoto commitments
- Implementing the Emissions Trading Directive, involving over 100 companies who are major generators of carbon dioxide in Ireland.

ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

- Co-ordinating research on environmental issues (including air and water quality, climate change, biodiversity, environmental technologies).

STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

- Assessing the impact of plans and programmes on the Irish environment (such as waste management and development plans).

ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING, EDUCATION AND GUIDANCE

- Providing guidance to the public and to industry on various environmental topics (including licence applications, waste prevention and environmental regulations).
- Generating greater environmental awareness (through environmental television programmes and primary and secondary schools' resource packs).

PROACTIVE WASTE MANAGEMENT

- Promoting waste prevention and minimisation projects through the co-ordination of the National Waste Prevention Programme, including input into the implementation of Producer Responsibility Initiatives.
- Enforcing Regulations such as Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) and Restriction of Hazardous Substances (RoHS) and substances that deplete the ozone layer.
- Developing a National Hazardous Waste Management Plan to prevent and manage hazardous waste.

MANAGEMENT AND STRUCTURE OF THE EPA

The organisation is managed by a full time Board, consisting of a Director General and four Directors.

The work of the EPA is carried out across four offices:

- Office of Climate, Licensing and Resource Use
- Office of Environmental Enforcement
- Office of Environmental Assessment
- Office of Communications and Corporate Services

The EPA is assisted by an Advisory Committee of twelve members who meet several times a year to discuss issues of concern and offer advice to the Board.



Environmental Inspection Plan

Industrial Emissions Directive, Integrated Pollution Control and Waste Licensed Installations

September 2014

Environmental Protection Agency
An Ghníomhaireacht um Chaomhnú Comhshaoil
Johnstown Castle Estate
Wexford
Ireland

www.epa.ie

© Environmental Protection Agency 2014

DISCLAIMER

Although every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the material contained in this publication, complete accuracy cannot be guaranteed. Neither the Environmental Protection Agency nor the author(s) accept any responsibility whatsoever for loss or damage occasioned or claimed to have been occasioned, in part or in full, as a consequence of any person acting, or refraining from acting, as a result of a matter contained in this publication. All or part of this publication may be reproduced without further permission, provided the source is acknowledged.

September 2014

Introduction

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is responsible for granting and enforcing licences for waste and industrial installations under the following legislation:

- Industrial Emissions Directive (IED) 2010/75/EU as transposed into Irish legislation;
- EPA Act 1992, as amended – industrial activities not controlled under the IED; such licences are referred to as Integrated Pollution Control (IPC) licences;
- Waste Management Act 1996, as amended – waste activities not controlled under the IED.

Whether or not an installation needs a licence depends on the activities being carried out on the site and the scale of those activities. The activities and thresholds are defined in the legislation; full details of these are available at www.epa.ie/licensing/.

These licences are enforced by the Office of Environmental Enforcement (OEE) of the EPA. EPA inspectors carry out environmental inspections which cover all aspects of the environmental effects from the installations licensed by the Agency. Such inspections are an essential tool to ensure compliance.

Under Article 23 of the IED, an environmental inspection plan is required to consider and contain a number of elements;

- (a) A general assessment of relevant significant environmental issues;
- (b) The geographical area covered by the inspection plan;
- (c) A register of the installations covered by the plan;
- (d) Procedures for drawing up programmes for routine environmental inspections;
- (e) Procedures for non-routine environmental inspections;
- (f) Where necessary, provisions on the co-operation between different inspection authorities.

This document outlines the EPA's environmental inspection plan for Industrial Emissions Directive, Integrated Pollution Control and Waste Licensed Installations. This provides the overall framework in which inspections are planned and take place.

Environmental Inspection Plan

1. Register of Installations

The EPA maintains a database for all licensed installations. This database contains detailed information about each licensed installation which is used to inform the inspection plan. There are currently over 800 licensed installations and the public can access a register of these through the EPA website at www.epa.ie.

The EPA provides access to the enforcement correspondence and inspection activities for all licensed sites, through an electronic Licence Enforcement Access Portal (LEAP) available for public access in regional offices. Information on applications, prosecutions and enforcement activities is currently provided via the EPA website and options for broader availability of data are being examined. Correspondence prior to January 2013 is available for viewing in hardcopy.

2. Geographical Area

The inspection plan covers all the counties in Ireland. The EPA has subdivided these counties for enforcement on a regional basis by its regional inspectorates in Dublin, Cork, Wexford, Kilkenny and Castlebar.

Castlebar	Cork	Dublin	Kilkenny	Wexford
Cavan West	Clare	Dublin (part)	Kilkenny	Wexford
Donegal	Cork	Meath	Tipperary	Carlow
Galway	Kerry	Louth	Laois	Wicklow
Leitrim	Limerick	Monaghan	Offaly	Kildare
Longford		Cavan East	Dublin (part)	Waterford
Mayo				
Roscommon				
Sligo				
Westmeath				

Figure 1: Counties enforced by each regional inspectorate

3. Environmental Issues Identification

In addition to the regional enforcement teams, there are thematic teams who focus on three areas: Air, Water and Waste. These areas are further divided into nine main sectoral groupings consisting of:

- (1) Air: the chemical/pharmaceutical, solvent, cement, incineration and energy sectors;
- (2) Water: food and drink, intensive agriculture, timber and metals sectors; and
- (3) Waste: landfill, waste transfer stations (hazardous & non-hazardous) and composting sectors.

Each year, the thematic teams in conjunction with the regional enforcement teams identify the main environmental issues for each sector, and a sector specific plan, consisting of both project and site inspection work, is developed. The issues identified for each sector feed back into the main challenges for each thematic area, i.e. ensuring that waste is managed correctly, water quality is safeguarded, and air is kept clean.

Sector	Issue
Intensive agriculture	Waste control and water protection
Food and drink	Wastewater Treatment Plant operation, quality of monitoring and odour
Metals	Prevention of run-off and water contamination
Energy, incineration and co-incineration	Air and waste monitoring
Pharma-chem and solvents	Quality of air and water monitoring, prevention of incidents
Waste	Unauthorised waste movements and odour

Figure 2: Issues which have been highlighted for attention through sectoral enforcement plans

Smaller sectors of industrial/waste licensed sites are also included within the enforcement activities of the above thematic sectors as appropriate. Other cross-sectoral work areas managed by these groups include contaminated sites and closed sites.

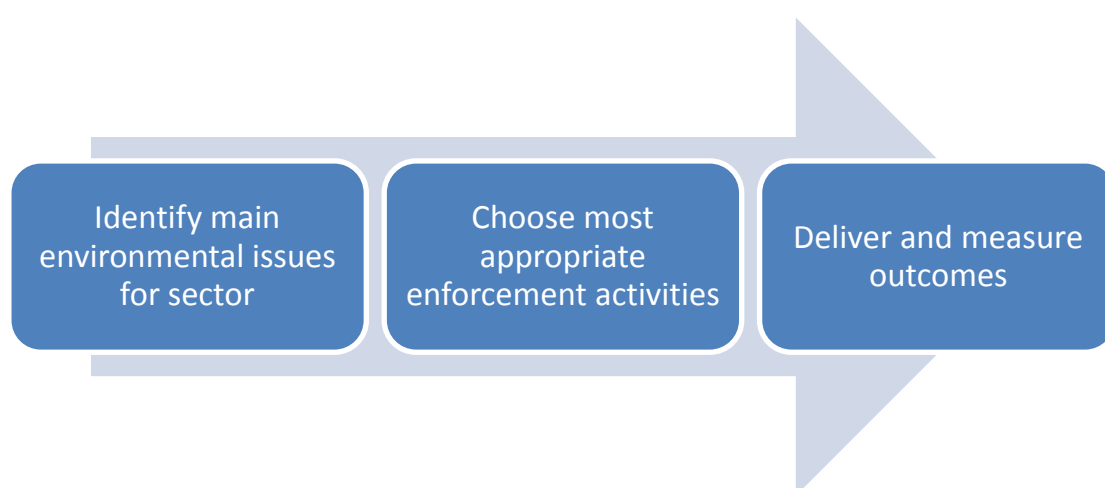


Figure 3: Summary of the sectoral enforcement approach

4. Procedure for Developing the Annual Programme of Environmental Inspections

The annual programme of environmental inspections covers all installations licensed by the Agency. This programme is drawn up at national level and implemented by the regional inspectorates. The programme includes routine inspections and also makes provision for non-routine inspections.

Routine environmental inspections

The programme of routine inspections is based on a number of criteria, namely;

1. A systematic appraisal of the environmental risks of the installations through the completion, by each licensee, of an assessment methodology i.e. the Risk Based Method of Enforcement (RBME), details of which can be found on the Agency's website at <http://www.epa.ie/enforcement/lic/how/categories/>. This categorises sites in one of nine categories; A1, A2, A3, B1, B2, B3, C1, C2 and P, with A1 being the highest risk sites. Based on the outcome of this assessment the minimum frequency of site visits of installations, by Agency Inspectors, is as follows:
 - A sites: Site visit every year;
 - B sites: Site visit every 2 years;
 - C sites: Site visit every 3 years;
 - P sites: Site visit every 3 years.

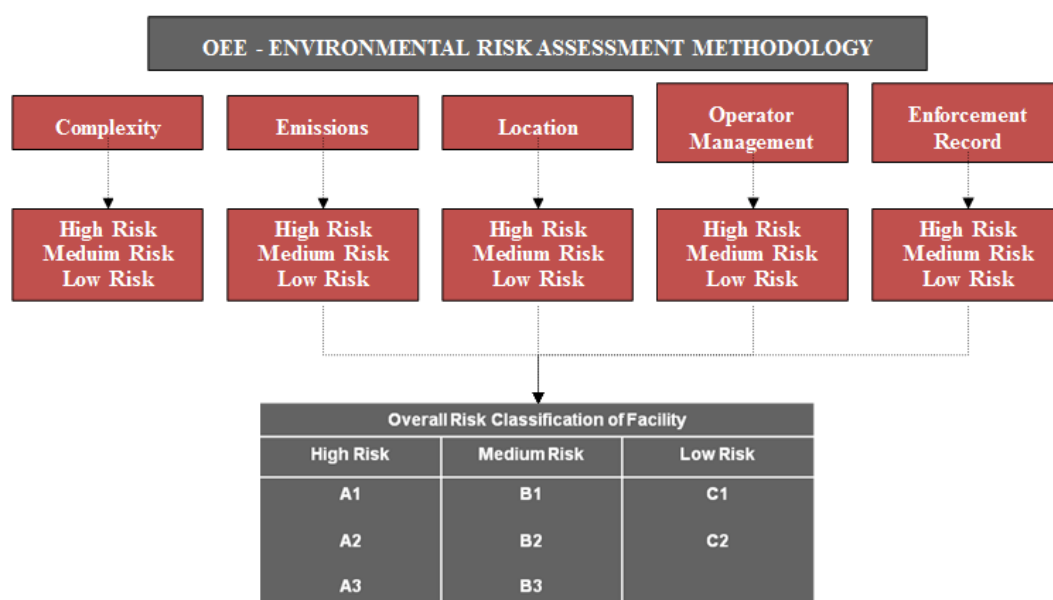


Figure 4: Environmental Risk Assessment Methodology

2. Assessment of the environmental issues at all sites which may have come to light during the previous year and which was not reflected in the sites RBME risk ranking score. A site may subsequently be designated as a priority site for enforcement and a site specific enforcement plan (SSEP) may be developed. This plan may cover such aspects as additional site visits; site specific investigations or reports required; and any legal actions considered necessary.
3. Additional sectoral requirements for site inspections/audits based on identified priority issues within each sector.

In addition to inspections by EPA inspectors, routine monitoring is carried out:

- Aqueous emissions and groundwater monitoring are conducted by EPA staff to assess compliance with the emission limit values (ELVs) set in the licences.
- Air Emissions monitoring is conducted by third party contractors appointed by the EPA, for the purposes of collecting emission samples for verification of compliance with the emission limit values (ELVs) set in the licences. The frequency and scope of these visits is risk based, and consider criteria such as likely emissions from the activity, range and potential impact of pollutants emitted, as well as previous compliance history based on EPA monitoring data and licensee self-monitoring data.

Non-Routine Environmental Inspections

Non-routine environmental inspections are conducted in the following situations:

1. Where serious environmental complaints, incidents, accidents or non-compliances occur. Subsequent investigations remain open until corrective and preventative actions have been taken which are to the satisfaction of the Agency.
2. Where a significant case of non-compliance has been identified an additional site visit is scheduled.
3. To investigate complaints about licensed sites.

5. Provision for Co-Operation with Other Authorities

The EPA coordinates a network of enforcement authorities in Ireland which is called the Network for Ireland's Environmental Compliance and Enforcement (NIECE). The key objective of the network is to foster co-operation between the various public service bodies involved in the enforcement of environmental legislation, so that a higher and more consistent standard of enforcement is achieved throughout the country.



In pursuit of this objective, the functions of the Network are to:

- Ensure more effective co-ordination in the implementation of environmental enforcement activities;
- Provide a framework for a co-ordinated approach to special investigations/actions;
- Develop a consistent approach to the enforcement of environmental legislation;
- Promote the exchange of information and experience in the implementation, application and enforcement of environmental legislation;
- Provide assistance to local authorities and other relevant agencies in the development of best practice; and
- Provide a mechanism for feedback to policy makers and legislators on the practical implementation of policies and regulations.

The EPA also maintains specific written agreements with relevant statutory bodies in relation to how the bodies will co-operate to assist each other in achieving their objectives. For further information, please see www.epa.ie/about/mou/

Conclusion

This Environmental Inspection Plan is prepared in accordance with the requirements of Article 23 of the Industrial Emissions Directive. The Plan will be reviewed and updated where appropriate to incorporate changing environmental and sectoral priorities to ensure that enforcement resources are always targeted where they are most needed. This results in the delivery of the most effective and resource efficient environmental enforcement activities and contributes towards the achievement of the EPA strategic environmental goals.

The Focus on Environmental Enforcement in Ireland Report sets out the details of Ireland's enforcement of environmental law by local authorities and the EPA, and the role of the enforcement network (NIECE) in improving the effectiveness of enforcing environmental law. The most recent report covering the years 2009 to 2012 was published in 2014. For further information, please see www.epa.ie/enforcement/.

An Ghníomhaireacht um Chaomhnú Comhshaoil

Is í an Ghníomhaireacht um Chaomhnú Comhshaoil (EPA) comhlachta reachtúil a chosnaíonn an comhshaol do mhuintir na tíre go léir. Rialaímid agus déanaimid maoirsiú ar ghníomhaíochtaí a d'fhéadfadh truailliú a chruthú murach sin. Cinntímid go bhfuil eolas cruinn ann ar threochtaí comhshaoil ionas go nglactar aon chéim is gá. Is iad na príomhnithe a bhfuilimid gníomhach leo ná comhshaol na hÉireann a chosaint agus cinntiú go bhfuil forbairt inbhuanaithe.

Is comhlacht poiblí neamhspleách í an Ghníomhaireacht um Chaomhnú Comhshaoil (EPA) a bunaíodh i mí Iúil 1993 faoin Acht fán nGníomhaireacht um Chaomhnú Comhshaoil 1992. Ó thaobh an Rialtais, is í an Roinn Comhshaoil, Pobal agus Rialtais Áitiúil.

ÁR bhFREAGRACHTAÍ

CEADÚNÚ

Bíonn ceadúnais á n-eisiúint againn i gcomhair na nithe seo a leanas chun a chinntiú nach mbíonn astuithe uathu ag cur sláinte an phobail ná an comhshaol i mbaol:

- áiseanna dramhaíola (m.sh., líonadh talún, loisceoirí, stáisiúin aistrithe dramhaíola);
- gníomhaíochtaí tionsclaíocha ar scála mór (m.sh., déantúsaíocht cógaisíochta, déantúsaíocht stroighne, stáisiúin chumhachta);
- diantalmhaíocht;
- úsáid faoi shrian agus scaoileadh smachtaithe Orgánach Géinathraithe (GMO);
- mór-áiseanna stórais peitreal;
- scardadh dramhuisce;
- dumpáil mara.

FEIDHMIÚ COMHSHAOIL NÁISIÚNTA

- Stiúradh os cionn 2,000 iniúchadh agus cigireacht de áiseanna a fuair ceadúnas ón nGníomhaireacht gach bliain
- Maoirsiú freagrachtaí cosanta comhshaoil údarás áitiúla thar sé earnáil - aer, fuaim, dramhaíl, dramhuisce agus caighdeán uisce
- Obair le húdaráis áitiúla agus leis na Gardaí chun stop a chur le gníomhaíocht mhídhleathach dramhaíola trí chomhordú a dhéanamh ar líonra forfheidhmithe náisiúnta, díriú isteach ar chiontóirí, stiúradh fiosrúcháin agus maoirsiú leigheas na bhfadhbanna.
- An dlí a chur orthu siúd a bhriseann dlí comhshaoil agus a dhéanann dochar don chomhshaol mar thoradh ar a ngníomhaíochtaí.

MONATÓIREACHT, ANAILÍS AGUS TUAIRISCIÚ AR AN GCOMHSHAOIL

- Monatóireacht ar chaighdeán aer agus caighdeáin aibhneacha, locha, uiscí taoide agus uiscí talaimh; leibhéil agus sruth aibhneacha a thomhas.
- Tuairisciú neamhspleách chun cabhrú le rialtais náisiúnta agus áitiúla cinntí a dhéanamh.

RIALÚ ASTUITHE GÁIS CEAPTHA TEASA NA HÉIREANN

- Cainníochtú astuithe gáis ceaptha teasa na hÉireann i gcomhthéacs ár dtiomantas Kyoto.
- Cur i bhfeidhm na Treorach um Thrádáil Astuithe, a bhfuil baint aige le hos cionn 100 cuideachta atá ina mór-ghineadóirí dé-ocsaíd charbóin in Éirinn.

TAIGHDE AGUS FORBAIRT COMHSHAOIL

- Taighde ar shaincheisteanna comhshaoil a chomhordú (cosúil le caighdeán aer agus uisce, athrú aeráide, bithéagsúlacht, teicneolaíochtaí comhshaoil).

MEASÚNÚ STRAITÉISEACH COMHSHAOIL

- Ag déanamh measúnú ar thionchar phleananna agus chláracha ar chomhshaol na hÉireann (cosúil le pleananna bainistíochta dramhaíola agus forbartha).

PLEANÁIL, OIDEACHAS AGUS TREOIR CHOMHSHAOIL

- Treoir a thabhairt don phobal agus do thionscal ar cheisteanna comhshaoil éagsúla (m.sh., iarratais ar cheadúnais, seachaint dramhaíola agus rialacháin chomhshaoil).
- Eolas níos fearr ar an gcomhshaol a scaipeadh (trí cláracha teilifíse comhshaoil agus pacáistí acmhainne do bhunscoileanna agus do mheánscoileanna).

BAINISTÍOCHT DRAMHAÍOLA FHORGHNÍOMHACH

- Cur chun cinn seachaint agus laghdú dramhaíola trí chomhordú An Chláir Náisiúnta um Chosc Dramhaíola, lena n-áirítear cur i bhfeidhm na dTionscnamh Freagrachta Táirgeoirí.
- Cur i bhfeidhm Rialachán ar nós na treoracha maidir le Trealamh Leictreach agus Leictreonach Caite agus le Srianadh Substaintí Guaiseacha agus substaintí a dhéanann ídiú ar an gcrios ózóin.
- Plean Náisiúnta Bainistíochta um Dramhaíl Ghuaiseach a fhorbairt chun dramhaíl ghuaiseach a sheachaint agus a bhainistiú.

STRUCHTÚR NA GNÍOMHAIREACHTA

Bunaíodh an Ghníomhaireacht i 1993 chun comhshaol na hÉireann a chosaint. Tá an eagraíocht á bhainistiú ag Bord lánaimseartha, ar a bhfuil Príomhstíúrthóir agus ceithre Stíúrthóir.

Tá obair na Ghníomhaireachta ar siúl trí ceithre Oifig:

- An Oifig Aeráide, Ceadúnaithe agus Úsáide Acmhainní
- An Oifig um Fhorfheidhmiúchán Comhshaoil
- An Oifig um Measúnacht Comhshaoil
- An Oifig Cumarsáide agus Seirbhísí Corparáide

Tá Coiste Comhairleach ag an nGníomhaireacht le cabhrú léi. Tá dáréag ball air agus tagann siad le chéile cúpla uair in aghaidh na bliana le plé a dhéanamh ar cheisteanna ar ábhar inní iad agus le comhairle a thabhairt don Bhord.

Headquarters and South East Region

Environmental Protection Agency
PO Box 3000, Johnstown Castle Estate
County Wexford, Ireland

Bosca Poist 3000, Eastát Chaisleán Bhaile Sheáin
Contae Loch Garman, Éire

T: +353 53 916 0600

F: +353 53 916 0699

Seville Lodge, Callan Road, Kilkenny, Ireland

Cigireacht Réigiúnach, Lóiste Sevilla,
Bóthar Challainn, Cill Chainnigh, Éire

T: +353 56 779 6700

F: +353 56 779 6798

South/South West Region

Inniscarra, County Cork, Ireland

Inis Cara, Contae Chorcaí, Éire

T: +353 21 487 5540

F: +353 21 487 5545

East/North East Region

McCumiskey House, Richview

Clonskeagh Road, Dublin 14, Ireland

Teach Mhic Chumascaigh

Dea-Radharc, Bóthar Cluain Sceach

Baile Átha Cliath 14, Éire

T: +353 1 268 0100

F: +353 1 268 0199

The Glen, Monaghan, Ireland

Cigireacht Réigiúnach, An Gleann

Muineachán, Éire

T: +353 47 77600

F: +353 47 84987

West/North West Region

John Moore Road,

Castlebar, County Mayo, Ireland

Bóthar Sheán de Mórdha

Caisleán an Bharraigh, Contae Mhaigh Eo, Éire

T: +353 94 904 8400

F: +353 94 902 1934

E: info@epa.ie

W: www.epa.ie

LoCall: 1890 33 55 99

