



Standard Rules Consultation no. 16 - revisions to rules

Standard rules for the Environmental Permitting Regulations

June 2018

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Acting to reduce the impacts of a changing climate on people and wildlife is at the heart of everything we do.

We reduce the risks to people, properties and businesses from flooding and coastal erosion.

We protect and improve the quality of water, making sure there is enough for people, businesses, agriculture and the environment. Our work helps to ensure people can enjoy the water environment through angling and navigation.

We look after land quality, promote sustainable land management and help protect and enhance wildlife habitats. And we work closely with businesses to help them comply with environmental regulations.

We can't do this alone. We work with government, local councils, businesses, civil society groups and communities to make our environment a better place for people and wildlife.

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Summary

The Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016 allow us to offer standard permits to reduce the administrative burden on business while maintaining environmental standards. They are based on sets of standard rules that we can apply widely in England. The rules are developed using assessments of the environmental risk posed by the activity.

The rules take considerable time and resources to develop but once in place they make applying and determining the applications more straight forward.

This a consultation on revisions sets of standard rules. This consultation includes:

- changes to a number of existing standard rules
- revocation of existing standard rule

The Growth Duty requires us and other national regulators to have regard to the desirability of promoting economic growth, alongside our other statutory duties. As part of this duty we are carrying out an assessment of the financial impacts of this proposal. You can help by responding to the questions we have included to determine these impacts and inform our decision making.

We will take account of the consultation responses and publish the consultation response together with new standard rules and risk assessments (if any) on GOV.UK together.

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1. About this consultation

This document explains

- how standard permits work
- our proposed changes to specific standard rules sets

It also sets out questions which ask for your views on specific points.

We will consider your answers and comments. We'll use them to revise and finalise the rules.

1.1. What we are consulting on

The Environmental Permitting Regulations allow us to develop and revise standard rules for certain activities. We base the rules on our understanding of the risks. We would like your views on proposed amendments to standard rules, whether we have correctly identified the risks associated with the activity and whether the revised rules and risk assessments are appropriate to manage those risks.

The consultation is about the following documents:

- **Revised standard rule sets (see Section 3 for more information)**
- **Revised generic risk assessments**

This consists of all the rules necessary to ensure that the risks to the environment and human health are reduced to an acceptable level for this activity.

We are also carrying out a separate consultation from this one which is a call for evidence to review of our biowaste permits. This includes a review of the following:

- availability of standard rules
- technical and operational competence
- construction standards
- de-gritting and tank integrity
- non-routine emissions or biogas and auxiliary flares
- gas upgrade and gas to grid
- nitrogen management and ammonia emissions
- improved water efficiency
- location of sensitive receptors
- waste types and acceptance
- sludge treatment

1.2. What this consultation means to you

We think that this consultation will be of particular interest to:

Operators, trade associations and businesses: this is your opportunity to ensure that the revisions to the rules work for you and your industry but also provide the necessary protection to the environment and human health. We would like any suggestions you may have for future sets of rules.

Other regulators, the public, community groups and non-governmental organisations with an interest in environmental issues: this is your opportunity to ensure that the revisions to the rules work to provide the necessary protection to the environment and human health, whilst still being useful to industry.

2. How standard permits work

2.1. What a standard permit is

Standard permits contain one condition which refers to a fixed set (or sets) of standard rules that an operator must comply with. The standard rules define the activities that an operator can carry out and specify necessary restrictions on those activities, such as emission limits or the types of waste or raw materials that can be accepted at the site. Standard rules are published on GOV.UK following public consultation.

Any operator who wishes to carry out a particular activity at a particular site or sites can look at the standard rules and if they can comply with them, can decide to apply for a standard permit.

We are able to issue the standard permit more quickly and cheaply because we have no decisions to make on site-specific permit conditions. An operator who cannot meet the requirements of the standard rules must apply for a bespoke permit and provide us with additional information. It takes us longer to issue a bespoke permit because we have to carry out a more detailed assessment of the application. This includes deciding whether to include site-specific conditions and consult in accordance with our [public participation statement](#).

There is no right of appeal against the rules in a standard permit because applying for a standard permit is voluntary. If an operator wants to change the way the site operates so that it falls outside the scope of the standard rules or they feel that the standard permit no longer works for their particular operation, they must apply to vary to a bespoke permit.

Operators must apply for a bespoke permit for any regulated activities not covered by standard rules. These activities generally have a higher potential impact on the environment or require more complex controls than operations for which standard rules can be used.

Standard rules permits can only be granted where the regulated facility has one single legal person as the operator. The term 'operator' is defined in Regulation 7 of the Environmental Permitting Regulations as the person who has control over the operation of a regulated facility. If a regulated facility has not been put into operation, the person who will have control over it when it is in operation is the operator.

The central issue in deciding whether someone is the operator of a regulated facility is whether they are able to exercise control over its operation. The operator must demonstrate they have the authority and ability to ensure that the environmental permit is complied with.

When assessing whether an operator (or proposed operator) has the authority and ability we consider the following and other factors.

Whether the operator / proposed operator has the authority and ability to:

- manage site operations through having day-to-day control of plant operations, including the manner and rate of operation.
- ensure that permit conditions are complied with.
- decide who holds key staff positions and have incompetent staff removed.
- make investment and/or other financial decisions affecting performance of the facility
- ensure that regulated activities are suitably controlled in an emergency.

A site owner can continue to be the operator and hold the permit where it lets a contract for activities at a site, provided the owner continues to take responsibility and exert sufficient supervision.

2.2. What standard rules are

When developing sets of standard rules we carry out a single assessment of risk for a commonly undertaken activity. This enables us to define the risk boundary within which the rules can be used.

This boundary comprises a number of restrictions such as size, location and operational controls. The restrictions will be those necessary to enable a consistent set of rules to reduce the risk to an acceptable level. The rules are the same for each operator carrying out that particular activity, irrespective of location. Rules and risk assessments are published in advance so that operators and the public know precisely what controls we will apply to a proposed activity.

In developing the risk boundary for each set of standard rules, we have to protect the environmental quality of some specific sensitive receptors. For example, standard rules sets may contain a rule which requires that the activity must not be carried out within a certain distance of a specified type of nature conservation site, such as European sites¹.

The rules for some operations will not permit activities carried out within a specified distance of a watercourse or groundwater source protection zone. Operators will need to check that their operation fits within the rules before making an application. If after the permit has been issued, the operation no longer fits within the standard rules because of a change to local circumstances. For example, a conservation site is designated within the prescribed screening distance, an operator may be required to upgrade the operation to maintain levels of protection or apply to change to a bespoke permit.

We have based most of the rules on the objectives that need to be achieved. They specify what we want operators to achieve, but do not tell them how to achieve it. That is their responsibility.

2.3. The generic risk assessment for these activities

We have done a generic risk assessment for each activity. These list the potential risks and how to properly manage them. We did it by identifying possible pathways from the sources of the risks to the receptors (these are people, animals, property and anything else that could be affected by the hazard). The risk assessment is split into three sections:

1. **Data and information** - this section is made up of receptor, source, harm and pathway information that is relevant to the activity under consideration.
2. **Judgement** - we have done the risk assessment to work out the likelihood of the receptors being in danger from the hazard, the consequences of the hazard happening and the overall size of the risk.
3. **Action** - risks will be controlled by setting standard rules. For noise and vibration management, compliance with the relevant noise and vibration management plan will be required where necessary. We will control residual risks by doing compliance assessment, such as site inspections, to ensure that operators comply with the rules.

A set of standard rules may contain a rule which requires activities not be carried out within a certain distance of specified nature conservation sites. The broad sensitivity of habitats and species groups to the potential hazards from facilities we regulate through EPR is well understood. Harm can occur through hazards such as toxic contamination, nutrient enrichment, habitat loss, siltation, smothering, disturbance and predation.

Specified distances allow us to filter out activities which could not have an effect on the interest features of these sites and species. This is part of the overall risk boundary for each activity. It's necessary because, in line with our public participation statement, we will not be consulting the nature conservation bodies on individual applications for standard permits.

¹ Candidate or Special Area of Conservation (cSAC or SAC) and proposed or Special Protection Area (pSPA or SPA) in England and Wales). For the purposes of standard rules, a Ramsar site is considered as a European site

3. Proposed changes to rules

This consultation contains proposed changes to a number of existing standard rules. We have listed the proposed changes under the following category headings.

3.1. Water discharges - SR2010 No2 and SR2010 No3

We are proposing minor changes to SR2010 No2 and SR2010 No3 to bring the wording in line with the conditions that have been subject to appeal decisions under the Environmental Permitting Regulations and to update references to the Flows and Loads document.

The substantive changes arising from the Environmental Permitting Regulations appeal relate to:

- the scope of the risks that an environmental management plan should cover (condition 1.1.1)
- details of access to a copy of the standard rules (condition 1.1.3)
- removal of the reference to a site boundary (condition 2.2.1)
- rephrasing how the limit for visual appearance and other environmental effects is expressed (tables S3.1 and S3.3 – SRP No3 only)
- removing reference to emissions of substances not controlled by emissions limits (conditions 3.2 and 3.3.1 – SRP No3 only)
- amending the conditions relating to emissions of substances not controlled by emissions limits (condition 3.2 – SRP No2 only)
- removing details relating to monitoring requirements (condition 3.3.2)
- a new condition requiring that convenient access be maintained to records (new condition 4.1.2)
- rephrasing the requirement for the Operator to notify the Environment Agency in prescribed circumstances (condition 4.3.1)
- shortening the period within which the Environment Agency must be notified of actual or potential incidents or breaches of emissions limits from 7 days to 24 hours (condition 4.3.2)
- a new condition requiring notification of the Environment Agency regarding the introduction or increased concentration of substances that might have a significant environmental effect (new condition 4.3.4)
- the addition of a condition defining the term ‘appropriate measures’ (condition 4.4 – SRP No2 only)
- the addition of a condition defining the term ‘significant pollution’ (condition 4.4 – SRP No3 only)

There are no proposed changes to the associated risk assessment.

3.2. Materials recovery and recycling - SR2015 No19 and SR2015 No20

We propose to add two new waste codes to the existing standard rules permits for household waste amenity sites (SR2015 No19 and SR2015 No20).

We propose to add 16 01 03 (end-of-life tyres) following feedback from operators that many household waste amenity sites do accept waste tyres from members of the public but can currently only do so if they hold a bespoke permit. We propose to limit storage to 1 tonne of intact vehicles tyres.

We propose to add 17 09 04 (mixed construction and demolition wastes other than those mentioned in 17 09 01, 17 09 02 and 17 09 03) following feedback from operators that they often receive mixed construction and demolition type wastes from householders. Operators are not

always able to segregate or provide segregated storage and so are not able to accept these waste types under the current standard rules permit.

There are no proposed changes to the associated risk assessment.

3.3. Waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) - SR2008 No23, SR2015 No15 and SR2015 No3

Standard rule set SR2008 No 23 is nearly ten years old. We have taken the opportunity to review SR2008 No23, SR2015 No15 and also SR2015 No3 because of the changes and developments relating to WEEE treatment in that period. As a result we propose to make a number of changes to these rule sets.

The maximum annual input for these standard rules was set at 75,000 tonnes. The majority of sites do not have the capacity to handle these quantities (actual site capacity should be set out in their management system). Because of the hazardous nature of some of the wastes and the range of treatments permitted - we think this limit is excessively high. Waste return data from sites operating under these rules shows that in the last 3 years, none of them have exceeded 20,000 tonnes a year, with the majority being well under 10,000 tonnes. As a result we propose to reduce the annual input limit to 25,000 tonnes per annum. For SR2015 No3 this limit only applies to WEEE. Anything above this would need a bespoke permit.

The generic risk assessments for standard rules permits assume that a range of the permitted waste types will be accepted. If large quantities of a single waste type are accepted the risk profile of a site can change. With these 2 standard rules, we are concerned that a site handling large quantities of batteries could pose risks that fall outside the scope of the generic risk assessment. As a result we propose to reduce the maximum quantity of batteries that can be accepted to 5000 tonnes per annum.

Some WEEE treatment activities pose risks which fall outside the scope of the GRA and need to be considered on a case by case basis. This includes:

- the treatment of waste batteries
- mechanical treatments (like crushing and shredding) of hazardous WEEE such as cooling appliances and display equipment.

Many of these activities will require an installation permit so will not be in scope for these standard rules. However, it is feasible some small scale activities could operate under a waste permit. To ensure these are considered on a case by case basis we intend to prohibit any treatment of batteries (other than sorting) and any mechanical treatment of cooling appliances and display equipment under these rules.

The WEEE storage requirements are based on the requirements of the WEEE Directive. In some cases the requirement is unclear because of the use of the term 'where appropriate'. To clarify on our expectations we have re-structured item 3 in table 2.3 so that as well as setting storage requirements for all wastes, it identifies those wastes which need to be stored in a container and/or under weatherproof covering.

Operators with these standard rules permits must comply with the Best Available Treatment Recycling and Recovery Techniques guidance. It states that any hydrocarbons released from equipment such as refrigerators must be captured for disposal. Table 2.5 of these rules currently only refers to hydrofluorocarbons (treatment of ODS containing equipment is prohibited). To avoid any ambiguity we will amend table 2.5 so that it refers to 'equipment containing hydrofluorocarbons or hydrocarbons.....'.

The current rules do not explicitly authorise point source emissions to air but neither do they prohibit them. Some WEEE treatment processes require use of extraction or local exhaust ventilation to protect the health and safety of workers and to prevent fugitive releases to air. For example, mercury vapour may be released from the dismantling of flat screen TVs and monitors, and particulates may be released from any shredding operation. The extracted air should then be abated before it is discharged. Where the air is released to atmosphere outside of a building we

believe that release should be risk assessed and specifically authorised, specifying emission limit values and monitoring requirements where necessary.

As a result we propose to prohibit point source emissions to air from the site under these standard rules. This doesn't necessarily prevent the abated air being released back inside a building but this must meet health and safety requirements.

3.4. Storage of electrical insulating oils SR2012 No15

When these standard rules were produced, the clear intention was that point source emissions to water should be prohibited. The generic risk assessment reflects this and the introductory note to the rules says 'These rules do not allow any point source emission into surface waters or groundwater'. The only exception to this is roof water and other clean water from parts of the site not used in connection with the storage of waste.

The current rules require an impermeable, bunded area for storage of the oil. They do not explicitly prohibit discharges from other parts of the site that are used in connection with storage. For example, the loading and unloading areas where spillage is most likely to occur.

To rectify this we will require all parts of the site used in connection with the storage of waste to have an impermeable surface with a sealed drainage system. Sealed drainage systems prohibit any release to groundwater or surface water. However discharge to foul sewer under the appropriate consent is allowed.

To eliminate doubt we will amend the storage requirement to also refer to a sealed drainage system.

3.5. Metal recovery / scrap metal

For the following permits: SR2008 No21, SR2011 No2, SR2015 No14 and SR2015 No16 we propose to include the following conditions:

- the acceptance and storage of up to 10 tonnes of intact waste vehicle catalytic converters (waste code 16 01 21* or 16 01 22) at any one time
- there shall be no treatment of catalytic converters including decanning, other than sorting and separating from other wastes
- catalytic converters will be stored in a manner that prevents the metal casing being damaged or pierced - if the metal casing becomes damaged the catalytic converter should be either double bagged or wrapped in a minimum of 400 gauge polyethylene

In addition, for the following permits: SR2008 No20, SR2011 No3, SR2012 No14, SR2015 No13, SR2015 No17 and SR2015 No 20 we propose to include the following conditions to allow catalytic converters from third parties to be accepted and stored:

- the acceptance and storage of up to 10 tonnes of intact waste vehicle catalytic converters (waste code 16 01 21* and 16 01 22) at any one time
- there shall be no treatment of catalytic converters including decanning, other than sorting and separating from other wastes
- no more than 25 tonnes of waste vehicle batteries (waste code 16 01 01* or 16 06 05) shall be stored at the site at any one time
- catalytic converters will be stored in a manner that prevents the metal casing being damaged or pierced - if the metal casing becomes damaged the catalytic converter should be either double bagged or wrapped in a minimum of 400 gauge polyethylene.

We propose to remove the following waste types because waste returns data indicates that these wastes do not appear to be accepted at End of Life Vehicle (ELV) sites:

- 16 01 07* - oil filters
- 16 01 11* - brake pads containing asbestos
- 16 01 12 - brake pads other than 16 01 11*.

We propose to add the following conditions:

- lead acid batteries shall be stored upright in containers with the electrical connectors pointing upwards - the containers shall be impermeable with an acid resistant base and, unless stored under weatherproof covering, a lid to prevent ingress of water
- batteries of different types and chemistry shall be stored separately

For clarity we propose to add the following wording:

- "air-conditioning system fluids and gases"

In addition we propose to reduce the tonnage from 75,000 tonnes per year of ELV and the other wastes to 25,000 tonnes per year in SR2008 No20 and SR2015 No13. This is to more accurately reflect the data from waste returns. This means that these standard rules would fall into the charge band 3 rather than the higher charge band 2.

We propose to reduce the tonnage from 5,000 tonnes per year of ELV and the other wastes to 2,500 tonnes per year in the SR2011 No3 and SR2015 No17. This is to ensure that these standard rules permits will fit into the charge band 4 rather than the higher charge band 3.

There will be amendments to the generic risk assessments to reflect the above changes.

3.6. Clarification of wording - distances from spring, well or borehole

A number of our standard rule sets contain a rule with the following wording:

The permitted activities shall not be within:

- 10 metres of any watercourse
- 50 metres from any spring or well, or from any borehole not used to supply water for domestic or food production purposes; and
- 50 metres from any well, spring or from any borehole used for the supply of water for human consumption. This must include private water supplies.

The word 'not' in the second bullet has caused confusion. To be clear on what is required we propose to amend the wording as follows:

The permitted activities shall not be within:

- 10 metres of any watercourse;
- 50 metres from any spring or well, or from any borehole used for the supply of water for human consumption, domestic or food production purposes. This must include private water supplies.

The standard rules affected by this proposed change are SR2010No18, SR2010No7, SR2010No8, SR2010No9, SR2010No11 and SR2010No13.

3.7. Onshore oil and gas exploration and mining operation SR2014 No2, SR2015 No1 and SR2015 No2

Existing SR2014 No2

These rules cover a mining waste operation for the management of extractive waste such as drilling muds and drill cuttings generated from prospecting and well decommissioning not involving a mining waste facility.

One operator operates under this set of standard rules.

A different set of rules were introduced (SR2015 No1) that give an operator permission to carry equivalent activities and more.

We propose to either:

- close set of Standard Rules SR2014 No2 to new applications, maintain it for the 1 operator, or
- revoke it.

This would remove the requirement for us to maintain this set of rules, the risk assessment and 2 versions of the waste management plan. Agreement would be made with the operator on how best to permit their activity, e.g. move to SR2015 No1.

Existing SR2015 No.1

These rules, risk assessment and waste management plan are for the management of extractive waste, not including a waste facility, generated from onshore oil and gas prospecting activities including drill, core, leak off well testing, acid wash and decommissioning but excluding any well stimulation or hydraulic fracturing for the production of oil or gas (using oil and/or water based drilling mud). They have been updated to reflect the consolidated legislation Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016.

Two operators currently hold this SRP (5 sites).

The level of regulation and environmental protection are not diminished by the proposed changes.

Changes to rules

The proposed changes are:

- Removal of reference to cement as an extractive waste (Introductory note)
- Addition of flood zone 1 to location criteria (Introductory note & condition 2.2)
- Removal of activity description for management of extractive waste generated by well abandonment which would have been cement based waste (Table 2.1)
- Operating techniques Table 2.3 clarify storage / containment requirements
- Update to the interpretation section (4.4).

Changes to Waste Management Plan (WMP3)

The proposed changes are:

- Removal of reference to cement as an extractive waste
- Removal of requirement to use American Petroleum Institute (API) SPEC 10A as a reference
- Updated section 6 Risk Management Measures to include the existing mitigation measures linked to the generic risk assessment.

Changes to Generic Risk Assessment

The proposed changes are:

- Removal of separate mitigation measures (now incorporated into WMP3)
- Removal of duplicate entries
- Consolidation of risks and clarification of risk management methods.

Existing SR2015 No.2

These rules and risk assessment are for the storage and handling of crude oil arising from onshore oil and gas exploration and production facilities. They have been updated to reflect the consolidated legislation Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016.

Four SRP have been granted.

The level of regulation and environmental protection are not diminished by the proposed changes.

Changes to rules

The proposed changes are:

- Update to table 2.1 Activities change of activity reference due to legislation consolidation;
- Condition 3.2.3 added regarding liquid containment;
- Condition 3.2.4 amended to match the standard IED condition regarding periodic monitoring;
- Removal of condition 3.3.2 a) requirement to have an odour management plan;
- Condition 4.2.2 removed relating to records of waste accepted / removed.
- Update to the interpretation section (4.4).

Changes to Generic Risk Assessment

- Clarification of risk management measures

3.8. Business impact

The Growth Duty requires us and other national regulators to have regard to the desirability of promoting economic growth, alongside our other statutory duties. As part of this duty we are carrying out an assessment of the financial impacts of these proposed changes. You can help by responding to the questions we have included in Section 4 to determine these impacts and inform our decision making.

4. Consultation questions

This consultation is your opportunity to contribute towards the revisions of these standard rules. Once we have considered all the consultation responses, and made any changes, we hope to be able to publish the rule and risk assessment before the end of August 2018.

We particularly want your feedback on the following questions:

4.1. Water discharges - SR2010 No2 and SR2010 No3

Question 1. Do you agree with the proposed minor changes to SR2010 No2 and SR2010 No3 to bring the wording in line with the conditions that have been subject to appeal decisions under the Environmental Permitting Regulations and to update references to the Flows and Loads document?

4.2. Materials recovery and recycling - SR2015 No19 and SR2015 No20

Question 2: Do you agree with the addition of new waste codes for SR2015 No19 and SR2015 No20?

4.3. Waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) - SR2008 No23 and SR2015 No3

Question 3: Do you agree that the proposed reductions in the overall quantity limit as well as the limit specifically for batteries are appropriate in view of the nature and scale of current WEEE operations?

Question 4: Do you agree that requiring activities such as treatment of batteries and mechanical treatment of cooling appliances and display equipment to be carried out under a bespoke permit is necessary in order to fully protect the environment?

Question 5: Do you agree that the revised table 2.3 provides greater clarity about storage requirements than the old one?

Question 6: Do you agree that point source emissions to air should be considered on a bespoke basis and therefore not allowed under these standard rules?

4.4. Storage of electrical insulating oils SR2012 No15

Question 7: Do you agree the changes are necessary to ensure there are no point source releases to water from sites that are receiving and storing these waste oils?

4.5. Metal recovery / scrap metal

Question 8: Do you agree with our proposal to add catalytic converters and the associated conditions to the permits listed?

Question 9: Do you agree with our proposal to remove 16 01 07* oil filters, 16 01 11* Brake pads containing asbestos and 16 01 12 brake pads other than 16 01 11* from ELV standard rules permits?

Question 10: Do have any comments or views on our proposals to drop the annual tonnage limits in SR2008 No 20, SR2015 No13, SR2011 No 3 and SR2015 No17?

Question 11: Do have any comments or views on our proposals to add in some extra conditions around battery storage at ELV sites?

Question 12: Have we correctly identified all the risks for the activities, as described in the generic risk assessment associated with the consultation?

4.6. Clarification of wording - distances from spring, well or borehole

Question 13: Do you agree with the proposed word change for SR2010No18, SR2010No7, SR2010No8, SR2010No9, SR2010No11 and SR2010No13?

4.7. Onshore oil and gas exploration and mining operation SR2014 No2, SR2015 No1 and SR2015 No2

Question 14: Do you agree with our approach to reviewing and updating these standard rules for these onshore oil and gas activities?

Question 15: Do you agree with our proposal to remove SR2014 no 2 to new applicants?

Or, do we revoke the standard rules set?

Question 16: For SR2015 No1 and No2 have we correctly identified all the risks for each activity, as described in the generic risk assessments associated with the consultation?

Question 17: Can you identify any barriers to complying with these standard rules?

Question 18: Are there any other activities that you think would benefit from the standard permitting approach or future revisions?

4.8. The business impact

We do not intend to publish the responses to the business impact question as part of this consultation.

Question 19: Do you think that any of the proposed changes to the standard rules will have a significant financial impact overall on your business?

5. Responding to this consultation

5.1. Important dates

This consultation will start on 28th June 2018 and run until 20th September 2018.

5.2. How to respond

You can view the consultation documents and questions online.

Here you can submit your response using our online tool which will enable you to manage your comments more effectively. It will also help us to gather and summarise responses quickly and accurately as well as reducing the costs of the consultation.

If you prefer to submit your response by email or letter, or if you would like to ask for a printed version of the document to be posted to you, please contact our National Customer Contact Centre on 03708 506 506 (Minicom, for the hard of hearing; 03702 422 549), Monday to Friday, 8am to 6pm, or email standard-rules@environment-agency.gov.uk

If you would like to send your response by post, please send your completed response form by 20th September 2018 to:

Regulatory Development (Permitting) Team

Environment Agency

Horizon House

Deanery Road

Bristol, BS1 5AH

5.3. How we will use your information

We will use your information to help shape these standard rules.

During the consultation we will publicise all comments (excluding personal information) on our website. This includes comments received online, by email, post and by fax, unless you have specifically requested that we keep your response confidential. We will not publish names of individuals who respond but we will publish the name of organisations that respond.

If you respond online and provide an email address, your response will be automatically acknowledged. After the consultation has closed we'll publish a summary of the responses on GOV.UK. We'll contact you to tell you it's available. We will not respond individually to responses.

In line with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, we may be required to publish your response to this consultation, but will not include any personal information. If you have requested your response be kept confidential, you must tell us why.

5.4. Consultation principles

We are running this consultation in line with the guidance set out in the government's Consultation Principles.

If you have any queries or complaints about the way this consultation has been carried out, please contact:

Emma Hammonds, Consultation Co-ordinator

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