

EMS Summary – Coombe Farm Lagoon.

This summary explains the documents that comprise the Environmental Management System (EMS) for the lagoon facility at Coombe Farm operated by JR Hilyer and Son.

Descriptions are provided using the headings incorporated within the EA guidance document, 'Develop a management system: environmental permits'.

Site operations

The EMS utilises two procedures to control aspects of the permitted activities. The first controls the acceptance, operation, inspection and maintenance of the lagoon and grid for the single waste stream. Detailed sections are:

- Authorisation – pre-delivery authorisation of contractors.
- Delivery – access method and instructions for operation, including paperwork requirements.
- Operations – inspection regime, freeboard monitoring and waste movement.
- Accidents and emergencies – spillages, lagoon failure, contact details.

The second focuses upon the environmental controls necessary to maintain permit compliance. Detailed sections are:

- Litter – control of litter from the waste skip.
- Odour – odour monitoring and management plan.
- Pests – pest control and management
- Dust – control and management plan
- Site cleaning – controls to reduce the impact the operation has on the local environs.

Site and equipment maintenance plan

Maintenance records are kept for the injection machinery which is used to empty the lagoon and is serviced in accordance with the manufacturer's instruction. The only other maintenance that is required is in relation to the grid which is actioned following an adverse inspection event.

Contingency plans

Contingency plans are based upon control of incoming waste volumes. Tankers and other mechanical equipment are available on the farm and assistance can be obtained from local companies and farms.

Accident prevention and management plan

Whilst no electrical, mechanical or hydraulic plant are based at the site, the site has an accident management plan dealing with lagoon leaks and instances of heavy intense rainfall. Prevention controls include maintaining a 750mm freeboard and increased pumping when heavy rainfall is imminent. The proprietor lives some 355m from the lagoon and his son, the only operator, 255m.

No hazardous chemicals or other liquids, such as fuel, are stored on the site.

A changing climate

Control measures implemented in the existing EMS are considered sufficient to mitigate the potential for increased rainfall events, drier summers, and temperature increases. Whilst these scenarios have

been considered the only significant aspect that gives a negative impact was assessed as an increase in heavy rainfall event.

Complaints procedure

A complaints procedure is available, with a dedicated complaints form to record any contact by third parties. Any complaints will initiate a corrective action report to close out the complaint.

Managing staff competence and training records

The site is operated by the Proprietor and his son. All operational work is undertaken by the son as the proprietor is in his mid 70s. Both are conversant with the requirements of the permit and have certification for the plant that they operate. Both are updated as environmental procedures and requirements change by the external TCM.

Keeping records

The EMS generates the following records that are stored either electronically, or manually (in paper format):

- Environmental Permit
- Plant and equipment maintenance records
- Site environmental monitoring checks
- Waste returns
- Written information season tickets
- Operator training records
- Complaint records
- Environment Agency CAR forms
- Manage system reviews
- Odour management plan
- Environmental risk assessment
- Changes to the EMS

Review your management system

Management reviews are conducted between the Proprietor, his son and the TCM and highlight the following:

- Results of inspections
- Recommendations for improvement
- Changing circumstances, including developments in legal and other requirements relating to the organisation's aspects and associated risks.
- Complaints and other non-conformances requiring preventative and corrective actions.

All changes to the management system are recorded.

Make sure people understand what you do

Both the Proprietor and his son have access to the EMS and environmental permit and are conversant with both documents.