

GENERAL GUIDANCE - Environmental Permitting (EP)

Background

Some activities could harm the environment or human health unless they are controlled. To regulate against this happening, the Environmental Permitting Regime (EPR) was developed.

The EPR came into force on 6th April 2008⁽¹⁾ and requires operators who undertake certain potentially polluting activities to obtain a permit for their facilities. To implement these regulations, on 5th March 2008 the Environmental Permitting Programme (EPP) was launched.

The Environmental Permitting Programme (EPP) is a major Defra, Environment Agency and Welsh Assembly Government initiative. The aim of the new regime is to create a single more user-friendly and modern permitting and compliance system for Waste Management Licensing (WML) and Pollution Prevention and Control (PPC).

All other regulatory permitting regimes such as discharge consenting, water abstraction and radioactive substance regulations, remain in force, although there are plans to extend EPP to include all permitting regimes in the future.

What does this mean to me?

If you currently hold a PPC permit or WML then these will have automatically become environmental permits on 6th April 2008. Therefore, no additional paperwork will be required.

However, if you do not currently have a PPC permit or WML and operate facilities with the following activities, you may require an *Environmental Permit*:

- **generating power**
- manufacturing and other **industrial activities**
- **waste** management activities:
- intensive **pig and poultry farming**
- **mineral** extraction or processing
- **metal** fabricating and treating
- activities involving **solvents**
- operating **landfill** sites.

What should I do?

To find out if your activities fall under one of these, you should look at the Government's Core Environmental Permitting Guidance (link below) or contact WD Environmental Ltd at contact@wdenvironmental.com for further information.

1. <http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/epp/documents/core-guidance.pdf>