

Position Statement

Gable End Fans

July 2011

This statement clarifies our enforcement position in relation to the addition of heat extraction gable end fans at poultry farms regulated under the Environmental Permitting Regulations.

This only applies to gable end fans that are used to supplement ventilation of poultry housing in later stages of a crop cycle during the summer months and not as permanent tunnel ventilation.

Background

There are a number of poultry farms where heat extraction gable end fans have been recently fitted and are not referenced in their environmental permit as an emission point.

Overall emissions of ammonia, dust and odour are not likely to increase as a result of the addition of a new ventilation point on a poultry shed however the emission characteristics may change. These could have the potential to impact on a nearby sensitive receptor such as a neighbouring property, watercourse or nature conservation site.

Operator obligations

- An environmental permit specifies that there shall be no point source emission to water, air or land except from the emission points listed in the relevant schedule in the permit - see permit condition 3.1.1.
- The permit holder should notify the Environment Agency before making changes to a sites infrastructure, such as the addition of an emission point, to check if a variation application will be required.

Enforcement Position

If you are **planning to install gable end fans** for heat extraction purposes, you must notify the Environment Agency in writing before doing so.

You will not be required to apply for a variation. The permit can be updated when you next apply for a variation.

If you have already **installed a gable end fan/s** that is not described in the permit and you have not yet notified the Environment Agency you should do so in writing (by email or letter) as soon as possible and no later than **31st August 2011**.

N.B. Other types of ventilation alteration may trigger the need to assess the impact of the changes on nearby nature conservation sites. In such circumstances the requirement for a variation will need to be discussed with the Environment Agency on a site specific basis.

Environmental considerations

When installing fans, you must consider the location of the ventilation in relation to nearby sensitive receptors and undertake the necessary pollution prevention measures to minimise the impact of emissions from the gable end fans.

For example:

- The proposed ventilation points **should not** be pointing towards a nature conservation site or a watercourse that is directly adjacent to the site boundary.
- The ventilation points **should not** be pointing towards nearby (within 200m) residential properties and or/the site has a history of odour, noise or dust complaints.

If they are, because they have already been installed, or you are considering installing them you will need to undertake a risk assessment and mitigate the risks associated with changing the shed's emission characteristics such as putting in a screen to capture dust or positioning the fans at the other end of the sheds.

Where there are residential properties within 200 metres of the farm you must update the Odour Management Plan.

Environment Management Technical Services