

# **Working Together Agreement between the Environment Agency, the British Ports Association and the UK Major Ports Group**

## **Environmental Permitting Regulations (England and Wales) 2010**

This is a Working Together Agreement as described in *Working together: your role in our environmental permitting*, our public participation statement made under the Environmental Permitting Regulations 2010.

### **What we want to achieve by working together on permitting decisions**

- Protection of the environment and the general public in relation to activities prescribed under the Regulations.
- A risk based approach to permitting and to requests for further information.
- Shared information on permitted activities and any potential impact on the environment.

### **Roles and Responsibilities** (of each participating organisation)

- The Environment Agency is one of the regulators under the Environmental Permitting Regulations in England and Wales and has responsibility for the permitting of certain industrial, waste management, radioactive substances, discharges to surface water and groundwater activities specified in the Regulations.
- Under the Environmental Permitting Regulations, the Environment Agency has responsibility for regulatory measures contributing to the implementation of a number of European Directives.
- The British Ports Association and the UK Major Ports Group Ltd represent the interest of their member ports to the United Kingdom and devolved Governments, the European Union and numerous national and international bodies.

### **How we will work together**

#### **Generally, we will:**

- Work together to ensure protection of the water environment of ports in England and Wales.
- Share relevant information.
- Use electronic media rather than paper.

#### **Specifically, the Environment Agency will:**

- Consult with the local port authority on applications for bespoke permits for installations, waste operations, mining waste operations, water discharge activities or groundwater activities specified in the Regulations that might affect surface water within their boundaries.
- Consult on matters of concern identified by Environment Agency or local port authority staff.

- Consult the local port authority on all applications for a variation (from operators) and regulator-initiated variations which entail a change to any of the bespoke permits mentioned above for a discharge to surface waters within the boundaries of a local port authority which may have a significant negative effect on the environment or the general public; or where we otherwise consider there should be consultation.
- Take account of comments that are received within the agreed timescale.
- Seek to improve the current joint working agreements.

**Specifically, the local port authority will:**

- Respond on matters within their remit with clear, concise views concluding whether, in their opinion, the Environment Agency should approve the application, approve it with specific conditions or reject it.
- Respond within 20 working days.