

Working Together Agreement between Environment Agency and Food Standards Agency (FSA)

Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 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 food safety.
- Better public awareness of the relationship between the Environment Agency and the Food Standards Agency.

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 Food Standards Agency is responsible for providing any necessary advice on food safety issues to the Environment Agency with respect to the activities regulated under the Environmental Permitting Regulations.

How we will work together

Generally we will:

- Work to the principles described in the Memorandum of Understanding between the Environment Agency and the Food Standards Agency;
- Share relevant information;
- Use electronic media rather than paper.

Specifically the Environment Agency will:

- Consult with the Food Standards Agency when developing the risk criteria to be complied with for standard permits;
- Consult with the Food Standards Agency on applications for bespoke permits (except for water discharge activities and groundwater discharges activities) and for radioactive substances activities on nuclear licensed sites, and for non-

nuclear sites where the initial screening suggests a dose from the food-chain of greater than 20 microSievert per year;

- Consult on any specific matters of concern notified to us by Food Standards Agency staff;
- Consult the Food Standards Agency on applications for variations (from operators) and regulator initiated variations which entail a substantial change¹, or where the Environment Agency otherwise considers there should be consultation;
- Take account of comments that are received within the agreed timescale;
- Alert the Food Standards Agency where further information is submitted which we consider pertinent to their interests.

Specifically FSA will:

- Prioritise applications for permits and variations received from the Environment Agency to focus available resources on effective and efficient assessment of selected applications for installations of certain types that the Food Standards Agency considers could potentially have an impact on food safety, providing a nil response where applications are not prioritised;
- Provide clear and concise advice on food safety issues where appropriate and necessary;
- Respond within 20 working days.

¹ A substantial change is a change to an IPPC Directive activity that could have significant negative effects on the environment or the general public.