


## Quick start environmental permitting checklist

Use this quick start checklist to see if your business is complying with environmental permitting legislation in England and Wales.

### Check if you have an existing permit or exemption

- If you have a pollution prevention control (PPC) permit, waste management licence (WML), water discharge consent, groundwater authorisation or permit, radioactive substances authorisation or registration it is now called an **environmental permit** or, in some cases, a registered exemption.
- If you have a **registered waste exemption** find out what happened to your exemption on 6 April 2010 as you may need to register a new exemption or apply for an environmental permit.

 [NetRegs: What happened to your old permit, licence or exemption?](http://www.netregs.gov.uk/old-permits)  
[[www.netregs.gov.uk/old-permits](http://www.netregs.gov.uk/old-permits)]


### Check if you need an environmental permit

- Check if you carry out any **listed activities** at an installation or mobile plant that need an environmental permit, such as burning fuel or using solvents.
- Check if you carry out any **waste disposal or recovery activities** or operate any waste mobile plant that need an environmental permit, such as operating a waste transfer station, metal recycling site or mobile plant for landspreading activities.
- Check if you carry out any **mining waste operations** that need an environmental permit, such as handling, storing or treating extractive waste.
- Check if you carry out any **radioactive substances activities** that need an environmental permit, such as keeping or using radioactive material or mobile radioactive apparatus or storing, receiving or disposing of radioactive waste.
- Check if you carry out any **water discharge activities** that need an environmental permit, such as vegetation management activities near water or discharging pollutants into water.
- Check if you carry out any **groundwater activities** that need an environmental permit, such as discharging pollutants directly or indirectly into groundwater.

 [NetRegs: Who needs an environmental permit?](http://www.netregs.gov.uk/who-needs-permit) [[www.netregs.gov.uk/who-needs-permit](http://www.netregs.gov.uk/who-needs-permit)]

### Check if you need to register an exemption from environmental permitting

- Check if you need to register an **exempt waste operation** for low risk waste activities, such as using waste in construction or storing waste in small quantities in a secure place.
- Check if you are covered by a **non-waste framework directive exemption** that does not need registering, such as storing waste securely at the place of production for up to 12 months.
- Check if you need to register an **exempt water discharge activity**, such as discharging 5 cubic metres or less per day of sewage effluent from a small sewage treatment plant into water.
- Check if you need to register an **exempt groundwater activity**, such as discharging 2 cubic metres or less per day of sewage effluent from a septic tank or sewage treatment plant into groundwater.

 [NetRegs: Who needs to register an exemption from environmental permitting?](http://www.netregs.gov.uk/permits-exemptions)  
[[www.netregs.gov.uk/permits-exemptions](http://www.netregs.gov.uk/permits-exemptions)]

## Comply with your environmental permit or exemption

- Check that you are complying with all conditions in your environmental permit or exemption.
  - Tell your regulator in advance if you are planning any changes to your operations.
  - Provide any information that your regulator requests, unless you have a reasonable excuse.
  - Comply with any notices your regulator sends you, unless you want to challenge the notice.
- [NetRegs: How to comply with an environmental permit?](http://www.netregs.gov.uk/permits-comply) [www.netregs.gov.uk/permits-comply]
- [NetRegs: What happens if you don't comply with environmental permitting?](http://www.netregs.gov.uk/permits-enforcement)  
[www.netregs.gov.uk/permits-enforcement]

## Further information

Find out more about environmental permitting including how to apply and how to change, transfer or cancel your environmental permit on NetRegs.

[NetRegs: Environmental permits](http://www.netregs.gov.uk/environmental-permits) [www.netregs.gov.uk/environmental-permits]

Keep up to date with any changes in the laws that affect you with NetRegs free email updates.

[NetRegs: Sign up for environmental legislation updates](http://www.netregs.gov.uk/updates) [www.netregs.gov.uk/updates]