

# Industrial Emissions Directive



October 2013

## At a Glance.

We welcome any Directive that will lead to more innovative ways to transform waste into a resource.

Industrial production processes account for a considerable share of the overall pollution in Europe in terms of emissions of greenhouse gases and acidifying substances, wastewater emissions and waste.

The Industrial Emissions Directive (IED) published in 2010 is a recast Directive. It replaces seven existing Directives (Integrated Pollution Prevention & Control, Large Combustion Plant, Waste Incineration, Titanium Dioxide (three directives) and Solvent Emissions). Its aim is to achieve significant environmental and public health benefits by reducing emissions across the European Union Member States, in particular through better application of Best Available Techniques.

## Where we Stand.

Veolia Environmental Services welcomes this new Directive, which will encourage technological development by considering Best Available Techniques (BAT) for more types of waste treatments. Hopefully this will lead to more innovative solutions to transform waste into a resource and reduce the environmental impact of our resource management facilities.

Furthermore, this Directive will also remove enforcement and implementation inconsistencies across the Member states, something that can only improve the sustainability of the industry. However, Veolia will closely monitor the permitted emission limits for future developments. Under no circumstances will we consider any lower emission limits to be acceptable unless it is completely justified by the locality of the plant.



*Turning waste into a resource*

# The Situation.



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## The Legal Requirements

The IED came into force on 6 January 2011 and was transposed into national legislation by Member States by 7 January 2013. The IED has been implemented into UK Law through the Environmental Permitting Regulations (EPR) in England and Wales (amended) 2013. It is being implemented to provide a single coherent regime. This should remove ambiguities and inconsistencies across Member States, promote cost-effectiveness and encourage technological innovation.

## The IED is based on five principles:

- 1 An integrated approach
- 2 Best available techniques
- 3 Flexibility
- 4 Inspections
- 5 Public participation

# The Situation.

## The legal requirements

The integrated approach means that permits must take into account the whole environmental performance of the plant. For example, they must cover emissions to air, water and land, generation of waste, use of raw materials, energy efficiency, noise, prevention of accidents, and restoration of the site upon closure.

The permit conditions, including emission limit values (ELVs), must be based on the Best Available Techniques (BAT), as defined in the IPPC Directive. BAT conclusions (documents containing information on the emission levels associated with the best available techniques) will be the reference for setting permit conditions. To help authorities and companies to determine BAT, the European Commission organises the exchange of information between experts from the EU Member States, industry and environmental organisations. This work is co-ordinated by the European IPPC Bureau of the Institute for Prospective Technology Studies at the EU Joint Research Centre. This results in the Commission adopting and publishing the BAT conclusions and BAT Reference Documents (the so-called BREFs).

The IED offers a degree of flexibility by allowing authorities to set less strict emission limit values in specific cases. Such measures are only applicable where an assessment shows that achieving emission levels associated with BAT, as described in the BAT conclusions, would lead to disproportionately higher costs compared to the environmental benefits due to:

- (a) **geographical location or the local environmental conditions or**
- (b) **the technical characteristics of the installation.**

The competent authority must always document the reasons for applying the flexibility measures in the permit, including the result of the cost-benefit assessment.

The IED also contains mandatory requirements on environmental inspections.

Finally, the Directive ensures that the public has a right to participate in the decision-



making process. They also have the right to be informed of its consequences and have access to permit applications and permits, the results of the monitoring releases and the European Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (E-PRTR). In the E-PRTR, emission data reported by Member States are made accessible in a public register, which is intended to provide environmental information on major industrial activities. E-PRTR has replaced the previous EU-wide pollutant inventory - the European Pollutant Emission Register (EPER).

As the nature of End of Waste (EoW) candidates are extremely varied, the EoW criteria for each different material will be specific to each case. The EoW criteria focus on the product, however the control of the output is not the only measure that is available. For instance EoW criteria can also include controls on the source waste, on the processing and on the use.

## The intended outcomes

Of course, the intended outcome of the Directive is to avoid or minimise polluting emissions in the atmosphere, water and soil, as well as waste from industrial and agricultural installations, with the aim of achieving high levels of environmental and health protection. In order to achieve this, the Directive regulates Industrial installations. In many operations it also imposes the use of best available techniques to protect the environment as a whole with economically and technically viable conditions.

Work on the Waste Technology BREF documents will commence at the end of 2013. It is expected that the revised BREFs will be available by the end of 2016 to give organisations a benchmark to work to regarding BAT requirements for future developments. Once the conclusions have been published, organisations will have four years to comply with them.

Where we  
**Stand.**



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Where do you stand?

Join the debate at: [www.veolia.co.uk](http://www.veolia.co.uk)