

Thermal Treatment of Waste Guidelines 2013

Purpose of this Consultation

SEPA is consulting on proposed Thermal Treatment of Waste Guidelines 2013. They update and replace the 2009 guidelines to take account of new policy, legislation and practice in the industry.

Consultation Questions

We have some specific questions which we would encourage consultees to address. However, please feel free to comment on any aspect of the guidelines or make any general observations which you feel are relevant.

- SEPA recognises that the weighting factors used in the CHPQA scheme favour electricity over heat and in some cases produce lower QI values for proposals with higher overall efficiencies. We propose to decouple the targets from the CHPQA and provide the flexibility for efficiency to be demonstrated using either the QI number **or** the Indicative Efficiency. Do you agree?
- Regulation 29 requires that Mixed Municipal Waste destined for incineration does not, as far as is practicable, contain recyclable metals and plastics. We have made a number of proposals to implement this provision, including a framework for demonstrating when the residual waste from the highest performing kerbside schemes could be considered exempt. Do you agree with our approach to material recycling from mixed municipal waste?
- In some European countries it is standard practice for to provide the results of continuous monitoring in near real time to the public. This done by operators through electronic signage boards or on websites. We are keen to see the industry in Scotland take this up as a voluntary step. Do you agree that such reporting would be a positive step and do you consider it could be implemented through a voluntary scheme?
- Some European countries (e.g. Belgium) also use systems to semi-continuously monitor the release of dioxins and furans. SEPA is keen that plants with highly variable operations such as batch processes install such systems. SEPA intends that these would be to assess mass releases of dioxins and furans and not be used as a compliance measure against the Directive emission limit values (which are set on a different basis). Do you agree that for specific plant such monitoring would be a positive step and do you consider that it could be implemented through a voluntary scheme?

How and when to respond

This consultation will run for 12 weeks. Please submit a response to SEPA on this statement by **19 July 2013** in one of the following ways:

By email: Alexander.Sinclair@sepa.org.uk

In writing to: National Operations Waste Unit, SEPA, Erskine Court, Castle Business Park, Stirling, FK9 4TR

If you wish your response to remain anonymous, please state this clearly as part of your submission. In line with the requirements of the Data Protection Act 1998 the information you provide will only be used for the purpose of this consultation. It will not be used, retained or distributed for any other purpose.

Public authorities, including SEPA, are subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 and would therefore have to consider any request made under the Act for information relating to responses made to this statement.