**Scottish Environment Protection Agency Consultation**

**Introduction of standard rules for the permitting of dry cleaning activities**

**What do standard rules mean for you?**

SEPA wants to reduce the regulatory burden on businesses and we believe that the introduction of standard rules will bring a range of potential benefits for businesses regulated under PPC. These include:

* Standard rules mean less likelihood of changes to permit conditions in the future.
* Shorter application forms and a simpler more streamlined application process.
* Less time for a permit to be considered and issued by SEPA.
* Greater transparency and consistency, with standard rules replacing bespoke permit conditions.
* Clearer rules about the regulatory requirements placed on an activity. This will help planning and financing and reduce both management and consultancy time during the application process.

**What do standard rules mean for SEPA?**

The introduction of standard rules also provides benefits for SEPA. These include:

* streamlined issue of permits;
* easier to monitor generic sector-specific permit conditions;
* simpler reviews and compliance assessment; and
* fewer variations.

**Giving us your views**

SEPA wants to know what you think of the proposal to use standard rules for the permitting of dry cleaning activities. To help gather your views, we have put together the following questions for you to consider. We would appreciate your answers to any or all of these and any other comments you might have regarding the use of standard rules.

Q1. Do you consider standard rules to be an improvement over the existing system of permits?

 Yes No

 Do you have any comments or suggestions in relation to this question?

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Q2. Do you consider that introducing standard rules will adequately address the regulation of dry cleaning activities?

 Yes No

 Do you have any comments or suggestions in relation to this question?

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Q3. Do the proposed standard rules for dry cleaning activities make the requirements clear?

 Yes No

Do you have any comments or suggestions in relation to this question?

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Q4. Do you find the appendices a useful aid in understanding the requirements of the proposed standard rules?

 Yes No

 Do you have any comments or suggestions in relation to this question?

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Q5. Do you consider the removal of site boundary plans to be appropriate?

 Yes No

 Do you have any comments or suggestions in relation to this question?

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Q6. What are your views regarding the exclusive use of electronic systems, e.g. the internet and email, for dissemination of standard rules and guidance for the dry cleaning sector?

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Q7. What would you consider to be the benefits to you of introducing standard rules?

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Q8. Can you foresee any additional implications in terms of costs or resources (monetary or time) to you as an individual business or the sector as a whole?

 Yes No

 Do you have any comments or suggestions in relation to this question?

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Q9. Do you have any other comments to make?

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**What happens next?**

Your response to this consultation will be taken into account when producing the final version of the standard rules for a dry cleaning activity. These standard rules will be published in 2016, and thereafter all permits for the dry cleaning sector will be varied to standard rules permits.

The standard rules will be published electronically and will be available on SEPA’s website. Once published, the standard rules can only be altered by SEPA following external consultation.

**Having your say**

Responses or queries should be submitted no later than **18 December 2015** eitherby letter to SEPA, 7 Whitefriars Crescent, Perth PH2 0PA or email to ppc@sepa.org.uk Unless you specifically request your response to be treated confidentially, responses may be made publicly available.

Respondents should be aware that SEPA is subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 and would therefore have to consider any request made to it under the Act for information relating to responses made.