Environmental Regulations (Scotland) Charging Scheme
Radioactive Substances Act 1993
Variations and Surrenders (Cancellations/Revocations)
Definitions Guidance
SEPA has developed a consolidated charging scheme for all of its regulatory regimes, including non-nuclear radioactive substances. One consequence of this consolidation is the introduction of a graded approach to transfers, variations and surrenders (cancellations/revocations) of licences which did not exist previously in relation to radioactive substances. In order to align with the new scheme, the circumstances where a “substantial”, “standard” or “administrative” charge for non-nuclear applications have been developed below.

Under RSA93, transfers only relate to nuclear authorisations. All nuclear applications will continue to be directly charged.

It is strongly recommended that the applicant discusses the proposed changes with SEPA at the earliest opportunity and that the category of variation or revocation/cancellation is determined prior to making the application.

Every application for variation or revocation/cancellation will be assumed to be “substantial” unless it appears on the list for “standard” or “administrative”. The list provided for “substantial” is indicative only.

**Substantial Technical Variation**

- Increase in the number or individual/total activity of a sealed source(s) in an existing registration that results in a change to the security category and/or financial provision arrangements.
- Adding a new radionuclide/group of radionuclides to a registration (sealed or unsealed).
- Adding a new disposal route(s) to the environment (e.g. gas to atmosphere, liquid to sewer or watercourse) in an authorisation.
- Increasing an existing authorised disposal limit(s).
- Adding a new radionuclide/group of radionuclides to an existing authorised limit.
- Removal of a specified area/space/building from the Authorised/Registered Premises.
- Addition of disposal route outwith the UK that does not fall within the Transfrontier Shipments of Radioactive Waste and Spent Fuel Regulations 2008.
- Addition of waste receipt conditions not impacting on the front notice.

**Standard Variation**

- Increase in the number or individual/total activity of a sealed source(s) in an existing registration that does not result in a change to the security category or financial provision arrangements.
- Increase in the activity of an existing radionuclide/group of radionuclides in an open source registration that does not affect any disposal route in the associated authorisation.
- Removal of a disposal route from the authorisation.
- Addition of a “waste permitted person” disposal route to an existing authorisation.
• Change in specified block numbers for offshore certificate that does not impact on the front notice.

Administrative Variation

• Reduction in the number of source(s) or amount of activity per radionuclide/group of radionuclides held in the registration.
• Reduction in an authorised disposal limit.
• Removal of a registered radionuclide/group of radionuclides from the registration.
• Correct an error made by SEPA.

Surrender- Substantial Technical Assessment

• Whenever a site visit is required to verify the removal of all radioactive substances, ensure labels have been removed and/or access paperwork relating to the decommissioning of the premises.

Surrender- Standard Technical Assessment

• Revocation of an authorisation where only short-lived radionuclides (around 100 days half-life) have been used, where any contamination can reasonably be expected to have decayed below out of scope values and a decommissioning report in accordance with SEPA guidance has been supplied as part of the application.
• When an FPSO moves outwith Scotland and full regulatory control is in place in the new location.

Administrative Surrender

• Applicant supplies all the disposal/transfer paperwork for every registered sealed source appearing on the registration as part of the application for cancellation.
• Revocation of an authorisation that only permits the disposal of waste to a contractor where the applicant provides all the paperwork to demonstrate that the waste has been disposed of.
• Revocation of a single-use authorisation for disposal (e.g. orphan source) where all paperwork demonstrating the disposal has occurred and all decommissioning (if required) has been undertaken has been supplied as part of the application.