



Environmental Regulations (Scotland) Charging Scheme Radioactive Substances Act 1993

Variations & Surrenders Definitions Guidance

June 2020

RS-G-020

Every day SEPA works to protect and enhance Scotland's environment, helping communities and businesses thrive within the resources of our planet.



We call this **One Planet Prosperity**

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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 in relation to registrations and authorisations made under the Radioactive Substances Act 1993 (RSA93).

RSA93 currently only applies offshore. For activities occurring within 12 nautical miles of Scotland’s shore, please refer to the guidance relating to charging definitions under the Environmental Authorisations (Scotland) Regulations 2018 (EASR).

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) 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- Standard Technical Assessment

- 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.
- Revocation of an authorisation and/or cancellation of a registration where another person has applied for authorisation/registration within 72 hours of SEPA receiving the revocation/cancellation application to carry out the exact same activity, including the exact same number of sources, at the exact same location and has paid the required application fees.