

## **Standard rules SR2008No19\_250kte – non-hazardous sludge biological, chemical and physical treatment site**

### **Introductory note**

This introductory note does not form part of these standard rules

When referred to in an environmental permit, these rules will allow the operator to operate a Non-hazardous Sludge Treatment Site at a specified location, provided that the permitted activities are not carried out within 500 metres of a European Site<sup>1</sup>, Ramsar site or a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). The activities shall not be carried out within Groundwater Source Protection Zone 1, or if a Source Protection Zone has not been defined then within 50m of any well spring or borehole used for the supply of water for human consumption. This must include private water supplies.

Permitted wastes are limited to non-hazardous sludges from waste water treatment and the preparation of water for human consumption or industrial use. The total quantity of waste that can be accepted at a site under these rules must be less than 250,000 tonnes a year. Wastes can be bulked up for disposal or recovery elsewhere and can also be treated by digestion, chemical or physical processes. These rules will not permit the burning of any wastes, either in the open, inside buildings or in any form of incinerator.

These rules do not allow any point source emission into surface waters or groundwater. However, under the emissions of substances not controlled by emission limits rule:

- Liquids may be discharged into the head works of a sewage works or a sewer subject to a consent issued by the local water company.
- Liquids may be taken off-site in a tanker for disposal or recovery.
- Clean surface water from roofs, or from areas of the site that are not being used in connection with storing and treating waste, may be discharged directly to surface waters, or to groundwater by seepage through the soil via a soakaway.

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<sup>1</sup> A candidate or Special Area of Conservation (cSAC or SAC) and proposed or Special Protection Area (pSPA or SPA) in England and Wales.

**End of introductory note**

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# Rules

## 1 – Management

### 1.1 General management

- 1.1.1 The operator shall manage and operate the activities:
- (a) in accordance with a written management system that identifies and minimises risks of pollution, including those arising from operations, maintenance, accidents, incidents, non-conformances, closure and those drawn to the attention of the operator as a result of complaints; and
  - (b) using sufficient competent persons and resources.
- 1.1.2 Records demonstrating compliance with rule 1.1.1 shall be maintained.
- 1.1.3 Any person having duties that are or may be affected by the matters set out in these standard rules shall have convenient access to a copy of them kept at or near the place where those duties are carried out.
- 1.1.4 The operator shall comply with the requirements of an approved competence scheme.

### 1.2 Avoidance, recovery and disposal of wastes produced by the activities

- 1.2.1 The operator shall take appropriate measures to ensure that:
- (a) the waste hierarchy referred to in Article 4 of the Waste Framework Directive is applied to the generation of waste by the activities; and
  - (b) any waste generated by the activities is treated in accordance with the waste hierarchy referred to in Article 4 of the Waste Framework Directive; and
  - (c) where disposal is necessary, this is undertaken in a manner which minimises its impact on the environment.

The operator shall review and record at least every four years whether changes to those measures should be made and take any further appropriate measures identified by a review.

## 2 – Operations

### 2.1 Permitted activities

- 2.1.1 The operator is only authorised to carry out the activities specified in table 2.1 below ("the activities").

<b>Table 2.1 activities</b>	
<b>Description of activities</b>	<b>Limits of activities</b>
<p><b>D15:</b> Storage pending any of the operations numbered D1 to D14 (excluding temporary storage, pending collection, on the site where it is produced)</p> <p><b>R13:</b> Storage of wastes pending any of the operations numbered R1 to R12 (excluding temporary storage, pending collection, on the site where it is produced)</p> <p><b>D9:</b> Physico-chemical treatment of waste not specified elsewhere in Annex IIA which results in final compounds or mixtures which are discarded by means of any of the operations numbered D1 to D8 and D10 to D12</p> <p><b>R3:</b> Recycling/reclamation of organic substances which are not used as solvents</p>	<p>Treatment consisting only of blending, mixing, separation, digestion, thickening and/or compaction of waste for disposal, (no more than 50 tonnes per day) or recovery.</p>

## 2.2 Waste acceptance

2.2.1 Waste shall only be accepted if:

- (a) it is of a type and quantity listed in table 2.2 below; and
- (b) it conforms to the description in the documentation supplied by the producer and holder.

<b>Table 2.2. Waste types and quantities</b>	
<b>Maximum Quantities</b>	
The total quantity of waste accepted at the site shall be less than 250,000 tonnes a year.	
<b>Exclusions</b>	
Wastes having any of the following characteristics shall not be accepted:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consisting solely or mainly of dusts, powders or loose fibres</li> </ul>	
<b>Waste Code</b>	<b>Description</b>

<b>19</b>	<b>WASTES FROM WASTE MANAGEMENT FACILITIES, OFF-SITE WASTE WATER TREATMENT PLANTS AND PREPARATION OF WATER INTENDED FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION/INDUSTRIAL USE</b>
19 08	wastes from waste water treatment plants not otherwise specified
19 08 01	screenings
19 08 02	waste from desanding
19 08 05	sludges from treatment of urban waste water
19 08 09	grease and oil mixture from oil/water separation containing only edible oil and fats
<b>19 09</b>	<b>wastes from the preparation of water intended for consumption or water for industrial use</b>
19 09 02	sludges from water clarification
19 09 03	sludges from decarbonation
19 09 06	solutions and sludges from regeneration of ion exchangers
<b>20</b>	<b>MUNICIPAL WASTES (HOUSEHOLD WASTE AND SIMILAR COMMERCIAL, INDUSTRIAL AND INSTITUTIONAL WASTES) INCLUDING SEPARATELY COLLECTED FRACTIONS</b>
20 03	other municipal wastes
20 03 04	septic tank sludge
20 03 06	waste from sewage cleaning
20 03 99	municipal wastes not otherwise specified (cesspool waste and other sewage sludge only)

## 2.3 Operating techniques

- 2.3.1 The activities shall be operated using the techniques and in the manner described in Table 2.3 below.

<b>Table 2.3 Operating techniques</b>	
1.	All waste shall be stored and treated on an impermeable surface with sealed drainage system.

## 2.4 The site

- 2.4.1 The activities shall not extend beyond the site, being the land shown edged in green on the site plan attached to the permit.
- 2.4.2 The activities shall not be carried out within 500 metres of a European Site or a SSSI.
- 2.4.3 The activities shall not be carried out within Groundwater Source Protection Zone 1, or if a Source Protection Zone has not been defined then within 50m of any well spring or borehole used for the supply of water for human consumption. This must include private water supplies.

# 3 – Emissions and monitoring

## 3.1 Emissions of substances not controlled by emission limits

- 3.1.1 Emissions of substances not controlled by emission limits (excluding odour) shall not cause pollution. The operator shall not be taken to have breached this rule if appropriate measures, including, but not limited to, those specified in any approved emissions management plan, have been taken to prevent or where that is not practicable, to minimise, those emissions.
- 3.1.2 The operator shall:

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- (a) if notified by the Environment Agency that the activities are giving rise to pollution, submit to the Environment Agency for approval within the period specified, an emissions management plan;
  - (b) implement the approved emissions management plan, from the date of approval, unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Environment Agency.
- 3.1.3 All liquids in containers, whose emission to water or land could cause pollution, shall be provided with secondary containment, unless the operator has used other appropriate measures to prevent or where that is not practicable, to minimise, leakage and spillage from the primary container.

## **3.2 Odour**

- 3.2.1 Emissions from the activities shall be free from odour at levels likely to cause pollution outside the site, as perceived by an authorised officer of the Environment Agency, unless the operator has used appropriate measures, including, but not limited to, those specified in any approved odour management plan, to prevent or where that is not practicable, to minimise, the odour.
- 3.2.2 The operator shall:
- (a) maintain and implement an odour management plan;
  - (b) if notified by the Environment Agency that the activities are giving rise to pollution outside the site due to odour, submit to the Environment Agency for approval within the specified period, a revised odour management plan;
  - (c) implement any approved revised odour management plan from the date of approval, unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Environment Agency.

## **3.3 Noise and vibration**

- 3.3.1 Emissions from the activities shall be free from noise and vibration at levels likely to cause pollution outside the site, as perceived by an authorised officer of the Environment Agency, unless the operator has used appropriate measures, including, but not limited to, those specified in any approved noise and vibration management plan, to prevent or where that is not practicable, to minimise, the noise and vibration.
- 3.3.2 The operator shall:
- (a) if notified by the Environment Agency that the activities are giving rise to pollution outside the site due to noise and vibration, submit to the Environment Agency for approval within the period specified, a noise and vibration management plan;
  - (b) implement the approved noise and vibration management plan, from the date of approval, unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Environment Agency.

# **4 – Information**

## **4.1 Records**

- 4.1.1 All records required to be made by these standard rules shall:
- (a) be legible;
  - (b) be made as soon as reasonably practicable;
  - (c) if amended, be amended in such a way that the original and any subsequent amendments remain legible or are capable of retrieval; and
  - (d) be retained, unless otherwise agreed by the Environment Agency, for at least 6 years from the date when the records were made, or in the case of the following records until licence surrender:
    - (i) off-site environmental effects; and

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(ii) matters which affect the condition of land and groundwater.

4.1.2 The operator shall keep on site all records, plans and the management system required to be maintained by these standard rules, unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Environment Agency.

## 4.2 Reporting

4.2.1 The operator shall send all reports and notifications required by this set of standard rules to the Environment Agency using the contact details supplied in writing by the Environment Agency.

4.2.2 Within one month of the end of each quarter, the operator shall submit to the Environment Agency using the form made available for the purpose, the information specified on the form relating to the site and the waste accepted and removed from it during the previous quarter.

## 4.3 Notifications

4.3.1 The Environment Agency shall be notified without delay following the detection of:

- (a) any malfunction, breakdown or failure of equipment or techniques, accident or emission of a substance not controlled by an emission limit which has caused, is causing or may cause significant pollution;
- (b) the breach of a limit specified in these standard rules; or
- (c) any significant adverse environmental effects.

4.3.2 Written confirmation of actual or potential pollution incidents and breaches of emission limits shall be submitted within 24 hours.

4.3.3 Where the Environment Agency has requested in writing that it shall be notified when the operator is to undertake monitoring and/or spot sampling, the operator shall inform the Environment Agency when the relevant monitoring and/or spot sampling is to take place. The operator shall provide this information to the Environment Agency at least 14 days before the date the monitoring is to be undertaken.

4.3.4 The Environment Agency shall be notified within 14 days of the occurrence of the following matters except where such disclosure is prohibited by Stock Exchange rules:

- a) Where the operator is a registered company:
  - any change in the operator's trading name, registered name or registered office address; and
  - any steps taken with a view to the operator going into administration, entering into a company voluntary arrangement or being wound up.
- b) Where the operator is a corporate body other than a registered company:
  - any change in the licence holder's name or address; and
  - any steps taken with a view to the dissolution of the licence holder.
- c) In any other case:
  - the death of any of the named operators (where the operator consists of more than one named individual);
  - any change in the operator's name(s) or address(es); and
  - any steps taken with a view to the operator, or any one of them, going into bankruptcy, entering into a composition or arrangement with creditors, or, in the case them being in a partnership, dissolving the partnership.

## 4.4 Interpretation

4.4.1 In this set of standard rules the expressions listed below shall have the meaning given.

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4.4.2 In these standard rules references to reports and notifications mean written reports and notifications, except when reference is being made to notification being made “without delay”, in which case it may be provided by telephone.

“*accident*” means an accident that may result in pollution.

“*Annex IIA*” means Annex IIA to Directive 2006/12/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 April 2006 on Waste.

“*authorised officer*” means any person authorised by the Environment Agency under section 108(1) of The Environment Act 1995 to exercise, in accordance with the terms of any such authorisation, any power specified in Section 108(4) of that Act.

“*D*” means a disposal operation provided for in Annex IIA to Directive 2006/12/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 April 2006 on Waste.

“*emissions of substances not controlled by emission limits*” means emissions of substances to air, water or land from the activities, either from emission points specified in these standard rules or from other localised or diffuse sources, which are not controlled by an emission limit.

“*European Site*” means Special Area of Conservation or candidate Special Area of Conservation or Special Protection Area or proposed Special Protection Area in England and Wales, within the meaning of Council Directives 79/409/EEC on the conservation of wild birds and 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild flora and fauna and the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c) Regulations 1994. Internationally designated Ramsar sites are dealt with in the same way as European sites as a matter of government policy and for the purpose of these rules will be considered as a European Site.

“*groundwater*” means all water, which is below the surface of the ground in the saturation zone and in direct contact with the ground or subsoil.

“*impermeable surface*” means a surface or pavement constructed and maintained to a standard sufficient to prevent the transmission of liquids beyond the pavement surface, and should be read in conjunction with the term “sealed drainage system” (below).

“*pollution*” means emissions as a result of human activity which may—

- (a) be harmful to human health or the quality of the environment,
- (b) cause offence to a human sense,
- (c) result in damage to material property, or
- (d) impair or interfere with amenities and other legitimate uses of the environment.

“*quarter*” means a calendar year quarter commencing on 1 January, 1 April, 1 July or 1 October.

“*R*” means a recovery operation provided for in Annex IIB to Directive 2006/12/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 April 2006 on Waste.

“*sealed drainage system*” in relation to an impermeable surface, means a drainage system with impermeable components which does not leak and which will ensure that:

- (a) no liquid will run off the surface otherwise than via the system;
- (b) except where they may lawfully be discharged to the head works of a sewage works or to foul sewer, all liquids entering the system are collected in a sealed sump.

“*SSSI*” means Site of Special Scientific Interest within the meaning of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000).

“*waste code*” means the six digit code referable to a type of waste in accordance with the List of Wastes (England) Regulations 2005, or List of Wastes (Wales) Regulations 2005, as appropriate, and in relation to hazardous waste, includes the asterisk.

“*year*” means calendar year commencing on 1<sup>st</sup> January.

#### **End of standard rules**

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