

## IPPC in the Pig and Poultry Sectors Obtaining your Pollution Prevention and Control Permit

Pig and poultry producers will be aware that the deadline for obtaining their Pollution Prevention and Control (PPC) permit is fast approaching and preparations should already have started. The Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control (IPPC) Directive aims to reduce the environmental impacts of certain industrial activities, including larger pig and poultry farms. A key principle is the application of Best Available Techniques (BAT) to prevent or reduce emissions to air, land and water, and to ensure that resources are used efficiently. In Scotland the Directive is implemented through the Pollution Prevention and Control (Scotland) Regulations 2000, and the regulator is SEPA. Farms regulated under PPC require a permit to operate, and the permit will cover all aspects of farm management, from feed delivery to manure spreading.



IPPC applies to pig and poultry farms with a capacity for more than:

- 40,000 places for poultry (includes chickens, layers, pullets, turkeys, ducks and guinea fowl);
- 750 sows;
- 2000 finishing pigs over 30 kg.

Existing farms that need a permit must apply between 1 November 2006 and 31 January 2007. If you are doing any of the following you will need a permit before the above dates:

- bringing into use a new farm that exceeds the thresholds;
- expanding a unit currently below the thresholds to above the thresholds;
- making a 'substantial change' to a farm already above the thresholds.

### How do I obtain my PPC permit?

You will need to submit an application form along with supporting documentation, demonstrating how you will meet a number of 'standard rules'. Supporting documentation will usually include a manure management plan, site report, odour and noise management plans and an assessment of the environmental impacts. Standard rules have been developed for the pig and poultry sectors to provide a simpler means of permitting. The 'rules' are provided in a document titled 'IPPC: Intensive Livestock How to Comply. Guidance for intensive pig and poultry farmers.' This is available for download from the SEPA web site [www.sepa.org.uk](http://www.sepa.org.uk) as is an application form. It is an important document that farmers should read as soon as possible so that they can begin planning any improvements that may be necessary.

The rules suggest management practices, housing types and husbandry techniques on the farm that meet the requirements of BAT. They are not prescriptive but

any deviation from the rules needs to give equivalent environmental protection. Existing farms will be expected to implement a structured programme of improvements to management practices and plant and equipment to reduce emissions to air, land and water. It is recognised that improvements cannot be brought in overnight but businesses will be expected to make continual improvements taking account of the activities on the farm and the sensitivity of the local environment.

Each site will be different but priority areas are likely to include:

- storage of oils and materials such as feed and medications;
- livestock housing;
- management of drainage systems and treatment of run-off;
- management of manure and slurry systems.

A range of guidance material is available to help you prepare management plans such as odour, noise, manure, and accident management plans, or to design swales or ponds to treat lightly contaminated run-off. These are available on the Regulators web sites.



Pig and poultry farms can pose risks to the environment through the release of substances such as:

- ammonia;
- nutrients and metals from slurry/manure and litter;
- effluent discharges;
- dust;
- odour and noise.

These emissions can affect the environment by:

- causing damage to ecosystems;
- acidification;
- eutrophication;
- effects on human health;
- reduction in amenity.

These emissions will be key issues to focus on in the IPPC application. In many cases adopting techniques to reduce one pollutant will also help reduce another e.g. measures to reduce ammonia emissions will also reduce odours.

**Contact point:** Malcolm Sharp, Environmental Services, SAC

T: 0131 535 3077

E: Malcolm.J.Sharp@sac.co.uk

W: www.sac.ac.uk

04/06/0033