

The Office of Environmental Sustainability Environmental Licensing Programme Application Prioritisation Scoring System

for Industrial Emissions Directive, Integrated Pollution
Control, and Waste Licensed Installations



ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

The EPA is responsible for protecting and improving the environment as a valuable asset for the people of Ireland. We are committed to protecting people and the environment from the harmful effects of radiation and pollution.

The work of the EPA can be divided into three main areas:

Regulation: *Implementing regulation and environmental compliance systems to deliver good environmental outcomes and target those who don't comply.*

Knowledge: *Providing high quality, targeted and timely environmental data, information and assessment to inform decision making.*

Advocacy: *Working with others to advocate for a clean, productive and well protected environment and for sustainable environmental practices.*

Our responsibilities include:

Licensing

- Large-scale industrial, waste and petrol storage activities;
- Urban waste water discharges;
- The contained use and controlled release of Genetically Modified Organisms;
- Sources of ionising radiation;
- Greenhouse gas emissions from industry and aviation through the EU Emissions Trading Scheme.

National Environmental Enforcement

- Audit and inspection of EPA licensed facilities;
- Drive the implementation of best practice in regulated activities and facilities;
- Oversee local authority responsibilities for environmental protection;
- Regulate the quality of public drinking water and enforce urban waste water discharge authorisations;
- Assess and report on public and private drinking water quality;
- Coordinate a network of public service organisations to support action against environmental crime;

- Prosecute those who flout environmental law and damage the environment.

Waste Management and Chemicals in the Environment

- Implement and enforce waste regulations including national enforcement issues;
- Prepare and publish national waste statistics and the National Hazardous Waste Management Plan;
- Develop and implement the National Waste Prevention Programme;
- Implement and report on legislation on the control of chemicals in the environment.

Water Management

- Engage with national and regional governance and operational structures to implement the Water Framework Directive;
- Monitor, assess and report on the quality of rivers, lakes, transitional and coastal waters, bathing waters and groundwaters, and measurement of water levels and river flows.

Climate Science & Climate Change

- Publish Ireland's greenhouse gas emission inventories and projections;
- Provide the Secretariat to the Climate Change Advisory Council and support to the National Dialogue on Climate Action;
- Support National, EU and UN Climate Science and Policy development activities.

Environmental Monitoring & Assessment

- Design and implement national environmental monitoring systems:

technology, data management, analysis and forecasting;

- Produce the State of Ireland's Environment and Indicator Reports;
- Monitor air quality and implement the EU Clean Air for Europe Directive, the Convention on Long Range Transboundary Air Pollution, and the National Emissions Ceiling Directive;
- Oversee the implementation of the Environmental Noise Directive;
- Assess the impact of proposed plans and programmes on the Irish environment.

Environmental Research and Development

- Coordinate and fund national environmental research activity to identify pressures, inform policy and provide solutions;
- Collaborate with national and EU environmental research activity.

Radiological Protection

- Monitoring radiation levels and assess public exposure to ionising radiation and electromagnetic fields;
- Assist in developing national plans for emergencies arising from nuclear accidents;
- Monitor developments abroad relating to nuclear installations and radiological safety;
- Provide, or oversee the provision of, specialist radiation protection services.

Guidance, Awareness Raising, and Accessible Information

- Provide independent evidence-based reporting, advice and guidance to Government, industry and the public on environmental and radiological protection

topics;

- Promote the link between health and wellbeing, the economy and a clean environment;
- Promote environmental awareness including supporting behaviours for resource efficiency and climate transition;
- Promote radon testing in homes and workplaces and encourage remediation where necessary.

Partnership and networking

- Work with international and national agencies, regional and local authorities, non-governmental organisations, representative bodies and government departments to deliver environmental and radiological protection, research coordination and science-based decision making.

Management and structure of the EPA

The EPA is managed by a full time Board, consisting of a Director General and five Directors. The work is carried out across five Offices:

- Office of Environmental Sustainability
- Office of Environmental Enforcement
- Office of Evidence and Assessment
- Office of Radiation Protection and Environmental Monitoring
- Office of Communications and Corporate Services

The EPA is assisted by advisory committees who meet regularly to discuss issues of concern and provide advice to the Board.



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An Ghníomhaireacht um Chaomhnú Comhshaoil
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1. Introduction

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is responsible for granting and enforcing licences for industrial installations and waste facilities under the following legislation:

- Industrial Emissions Directive (IED) 2010/75/EU as transposed into Irish legislation;
- EPA Act 1992, as amended – industrial activities not controlled under the IED; such licences are referred to as Integrated Pollution Control (IPC) licences;
- Waste Management Act 1996, as amended – waste activities not controlled under the IED.

Whether or not an installation needs a licence depends on the activities being carried out on the site and the scale of those activities. The activities and thresholds are defined in the legislation; full details of these are available at www.epa.ie/licensing/.

The EPA Strategic Plan 2022 - 2026 establishes the EPA's vision, purpose, values and behaviours as well as the Strategic Outcomes the EPA will strive to achieve by 2026. It sets out what the EPA intends to achieve over the next five years in delivering its mandate and purpose to protect, improve and restore our environment through regulation, scientific knowledge and working with others.

The Office of Environmental Sustainability's Environmental Licensing Programme (OES-ELP) work programme is linked to the Strategic Plan, and OES-ELP will be active in supporting the Plan. In line with the EPA's new Strategic Plan 2022 – 2026, priority I to;

“have an agile, effective and responsive regulatory system, delivering timely decisions to promote sustainable and environmentally sound development.”

the OES-ELP work programme proposes, among other targets, to both;

- provide a high quality, efficient and timely licensing decision and authorisation regime, and to
- process authorisation applications to an EPA decision supported by efficient business processes.

As part of this action this document sets out OES- ELP's application prioritisation scoring system and criteria used in order to provide reassurance to all stakeholders that appropriate aspects of an activity are considered during our work programme planning stage.

This document outlines the OES-ELP application prioritisation scoring system for IED, IPC and Waste Licensed installations.

2. Background

Approximately 30-40 applications are received by the Agency's OES-ELP on an annual basis under the IED, IPC and Waste licensing regimes.

Applications are assigned to an inspector for assessment generally in the order of the application having been submitted. However, other factors are taken into consideration by the Office in determining the work programme application assessment list for the year.

All applications are assessed against specified criteria and given a prioritisation score. This determines the work programme, in relation to sequence in which applications will be progressed to decision.

These prioritisation criteria allow all stakeholders (including applicants and the public) to clearly see the aspects of an activity which are considered during OES- ELP's work programme planning stage. This provides for greater transparency and confidence in the assessment process.

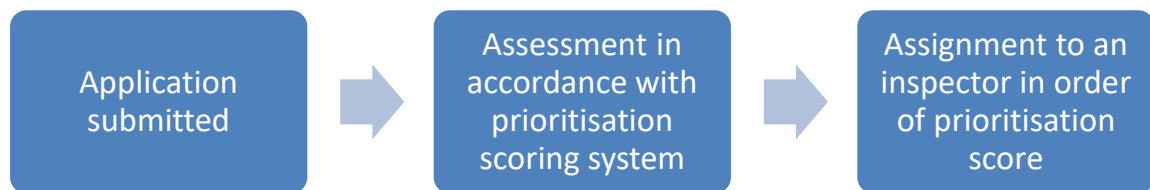


Figure 1: Summary of the application assignment process

3. Application Prioritisation Scoring System

All applications will be assigned a designated score and held centrally until an inspector resource is available to complete the assessment. Assignment of a score will always be done at the annual work programme planning stage; however, it will be reviewed quarterly and as required e.g. national priority, pollution issue. The aim is to have an efficient process flow, with resources allocated on a systematic priority basis.

Specific scoring and their associated ranges for each criterion are laid out in the Figure 2 below

Criteria	Description	Prioritisation Score Range
Age of application	Each application assessed in the order of submission date	0 to 40
Environmental Impact/Footprint:	Preventing and limiting environmental pollution, compliance with environmental standards, and to protect people and the environment (including those listed on the enforcement priority licensing list).	0 to 55
National Priority (e.g. Security of energy supply, Climate Action Plan Action)	Installation/facility identified as significant in resolving national priority or required by Government policy.	0 or 60
Economic Impact	Significant new activity or expansion of existing activities contributing to a sustainable society and economy.	10 to 20
Regulatory Requirement:	Applications with licence changes necessitated by law e.g. BAT implementation.	0 to 40
Current Assessment Stage	Applications that have all the required information available and assessment processes close to finalisation; scoring also reflects whether pre-requisite planning permissions are in place.	-40 to 30

Figure 2: Criteria and applicable scoring range.

4. Conclusion

The above criteria will allow applications received by ELP under the IE, IPC and Waste licensing regimes to be appropriately prioritised. This will contribute to an efficient process flow, whilst taking account of criteria which will provide for maximum environmental protection while also incorporating national and legislative priorities.

The criteria will be reviewed and updated annually to incorporate changing environmental, sectoral and strategic priorities and to ensure that assessments are always prioritised in an efficient manner providing maximum regulatory compliance and environmental protection.

AN GHNÍOMHAIREACTH UM CHAOMHNÚ COMHSHAOIL

Tá an GCC freagrach as an gcomhshaol a chosaint agus a fheabhsú, mar shócmhainn luachmhar do mhuintir na hÉireann. Táimid tiomanta do dhaoine agus don chomhshaol a chosaint ar thionchar díobhálach na radaíochta agus an truaillithe.

Is féidir obair na Gníomhaireachta a roinnt ina trí phríomhréimse:

Rialáil: *Rialáil agus córais chomhlíonta comhshaoil éifeachtacha a chur i bhfeidhm, chun dea-thorthaí comhshaoil a bhaint amach agus díriú orthu siúd nach mbíonn ag cloí leo.*

Eolas: *Sonraí, eolas agus measúnú ardchaighdeán, spriocdhírithé agus tráthúil a chur ar fáil i leith an chomhshaoil chun bonn eolais a chur faoin gcinnteoireacht.*

Abhcóideacht: *Ag obair le daoine eile ar son timpeallachta glaine, táirgiúla agus dea-chosanta agus ar son cleachtas inbhuanaithe i dtaobh an chomhshaoil.*

I measc ár gcuid freagrachtaí tá:

Ceadúnú

Gníomhaíochtaí tionscail, dramhaíola agus stórála peitрил ar scála mór;
Sceitheadh fuíolluisce uirbigh;
Úsáid shrianta agus scaoileadh rialaithe Orgánach Géinmhodhnaithe;
Foinsí radaíochta ianúcháin;
Astaíochtaí gás ceaptha teasa ó thionscal agus ón eitlíocht trí Scéim an AE um Thrádáil Astaíochtaí.

Forfheidhmiú Náisiúnta i leith Cúrsaí Comhshaoil

Iniúchadh agus cigireacht ar shaoráidí a bhfuil ceadúnas acu ón GCC;
Cur i bhfeidhm an dea-chleachtais a stiúradh i ngníomhaíochtaí agus i saoráidí rialáilte;
Maoirseacht a dhéanamh ar fhreagrachtaí an údaráis áitiúil as cosaint an chomhshaoil;
Caighdeán an uisce óil phoiblí a rialáil agus údaruithe um sceitheadh fuíolluisce uirbigh a fhorfheidhmiú
Caighdeán an uisce óil phoiblí agus phríobháidigh a mheasúnú agus tuairisciú air;
Comhordú a dhéanamh ar líonra d'eagraíochtaí seirbhíse poiblí chun tacú le gníomhú i gcoinne coireachta comhshaoil;
An dlí a chur orthu siúd a bhriseann dlí an chomhshaoil agus a dhéanann dochar don chomhshaol.

Bainistíocht Dramhaíola agus Ceimiceáin sa Chomhshaol

Rialacháin dramhaíola a chur i bhfeidhm agus a fhorfheidhmiú lena n-áirítear saincheisteanna forfheidhmithe náisiúnta;
Staitisticí dramhaíola náisiúnta a ullmhú agus a fhoilsiú chomh maith leis an bPlean Náisiúnta um Bainistíocht Dramhaíola Guaisí;
An Clár Náisiúnta um Chosc Dramhaíola a fhorbairt agus a chur i bhfeidhm;
Reachtaíocht ar rialú ceimiceáin sa timpeallacht a chur i bhfeidhm agus tuairisciú ar an reachtaíocht sin.

Bainistíocht Uisce

Plé le struchtúir náisiúnta agus réigiúnacha rialachais agus oibriúcháin chun an Chreat-treoir Uisce a chur i bhfeidhm;
Monatóireacht, measúnú agus tuairisciú a dhéanamh ar chaighdeán aibhneacha, lochanna, uiscí idirchreasa agus cósta, uiscí snámha agus screamhuisce chomh maith le tomhas ar leibhéal uisce agus sreabhadh abhann.

Eolaíocht Aeráide & Athrú Aeráide

Fardail agus réamh-mheastacháin a fhoilsiú um astaíochtaí gás ceaptha teasa na hÉireann;
Rúnaíocht a chur ar fáil don Chomhairle Chomhairleach ar Athrú Aeráide agus tacaíocht a thabhairt don Idirphlé Náisiúnta ar Gníomhú ar son na hAeráide;
Tacú le gníomhaíochtaí forbartha Náisiúnta, AE agus NA um Eolaíocht agus Beartas Aeráide.

Monatóireacht & Measúnú ar an gComhshaol

Córais náisiúnta um monatóireacht an chomhshaoil a cheapadh agus a chur i bhfeidhm: teicneolaíocht, bainistíocht sonraí, anailís agus réamhaisnéisiú;
Tuairiscí ar Staid Thimpeallacht na hÉireann agus ar Tháscairí a chur ar fáil;
Monatóireacht a dhéanamh ar chaighdeán an aeir agus Treoir an AE i leith Aeir Ghlain don Eoraip a chur i bhfeidhm chomh maith leis an gCoinbhinsiún ar Aerthruailliú Fadraoin Trasteorann, agus an Treoir i leith na Teorann Náisiúnta Astaíochtaí;
Maoirseacht a dhéanamh ar chur i bhfeidhm na Treorach i leith Torainn Timpeallachta;
Measúnú a dhéanamh ar thionchar pleananna agus clár beartaithe ar chomhshaol na hÉireann.

Taighde agus Forbairt Comhshaoil

Comhordú a dhéanamh ar ghníomhaíochtaí taighde comhshaoil agus iad a mhaoiniú chun brú a aithint, bonn eolais a chur faoin mbeartas agus réitigh a chur ar fáil;
Comhoibriú le gníomhaíocht náisiúnta agus AE um thaighde comhshaoil.

plé a dhéanamh ar ábhair imní agus le comhairle a chur ar an mBord.

Cosaint Raideolaíoch

Monatóireacht a dhéanamh ar leibhéal radaíochta agus nochtadh an phobail do radaíocht ianúcháin agus do réimsí leictreamaighnéadacha a mheas;
Cabhrú le pleananna náisiúnta a fhorbairt le haghaidh éigeandálaí ag eascairt as tairmí núicléacha;
Monatóireacht a dhéanamh ar fhorbairtí thar lear a bhaineann le saoráidí núicléacha agus leis an tsábháilteacht raideolaíochta;
Sainseirbhísí um chosaint ar an radaíocht a sholáthar, nó maoirsiú a dhéanamh ar sholáthar na seirbhísí sin.

Treoir, Ardú Feasachta agus Faisnéis Inrochtana

Tuairisciú, comhairle agus treoir neamhspleách, fianaise-bhunaithe a chur ar fáil don Rialtas, don tionscal agus don phobal ar ábhair maidir le cosaint comhshaoil agus raideolaíoch;
An nasc idir sláinte agus folláine, an geilleagar agus timpeallacht ghlan a chur chun cinn;
Feasacht comhshaoil a chur chun cinn lena n-áirítear tacú le hiompraíocht um éifeachtúlacht acmhainní agus aistriú aeráide;
Tástáil radóin a chur chun cinn i dtithe agus in ionaid oibre agus feabhsúchán a mholadh áit is gá.

Comhpháirtíocht agus líonrú

Oibriú le gníomhaireachtaí idirnáisiúnta agus náisiúnta, údaráis réigiúnacha agus áitiúla, eagraíochtaí neamhrialtais, comhlachtaí ionadaíochta agus ranna rialtais chun cosaint chomhshaoil agus raideolaíoch a chur ar fáil, chomh maith le taighde, comhordú agus cinnteoireacht bunaithe ar an eolaíocht.

Bainistíocht agus struchtúr na Gníomhaireachta um Chaomhnú Comhshaoil

Tá an GCC á bainistiú ag Bord lánaimseartha, ar a bhfuil Ard-Stiúrthóir agus cúigear Stiúrthóir. Déantar an obair ar fud cúig cinn d'Oifigí:

An Oifig um Inbhunaitheacht i leith Cúrsaí Comhshaoil
An Oifig Forfheidhmithe i leith Cúrsaí Comhshaoil
An Oifig um Fhianaise agus Measúnú
An Oifig um Chosaint ar Radaíocht agus Monatóireacht Comhshaoil
An Oifig Cumarsáide agus Seirbhísí Corparáideacha

Tugann coistí comhairleacha cabhair don Ghníomhaireacht agus tagann siad le chéile go rialta le



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