

ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTING

Basic Questions

ISO 14001, the environmental standard requires an audit annually. The environmental inspection is intended to provide evidence that the company is complying with the standard through the period.

EBSG Ltd will, when requested, carry out 3 environmental inspections during the life of a site. Usually one inspection will be carried out at the beginning, one at the end, and then one, at the discretion of the Safety Advisor, during the site programme.

The Eastern Builders Safety Group environmental report covers 17 areas of inspection.

This note is by way of providing some guidance to the member on the requirements of each area.

1. Environmental Policy

A policy statement is required. The Site Manager needs to know that the company has one and that it exists. Does he possess a copy? Is it recent? Is it in the Planning Documents?

2. Environmental Assessment

Has any environmental assessment been carried out to minimise the risks/impacts on the site by the site activities? Have the results and controls been documented?

3. Hazardous Waste Registration

Has the Principal Contractor registered the site as one producing waste? The licence needs to be for the site, not the Head Office.

Guidance: A construction site needs to register only if it expects to produce 200kgs or more of hazardous waste in a period of 12 months or less. E.g. asbestos, oils, fuels, fluorescent tubes, materials labelled hazardous under COSHH or contaminated soil. 200kgs equates to 4m³ skip or 20m² of asbestos sheeting.

4. Waste Transfer Records

Is there evidence of waste removal notes from the site to an authorised tipping location (consignment note)?

5. Waste Carrier Licence

The waste haulier requires a licence – is there evidence on site?

6. Waste Separation/Disposal

Is waste being segregated? Is this practical on site? Is the waste going for re-use/recovery/recycling where practical? How is it managed?

7. Waste Containment

Are there signs of blown waste, seepage or overspill around the site, or at the waste collection points? Management controls of housekeeping to prevent a further pollution or impact on the environment.

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8. - 12. Controls

Are there processes that are emitting any of the substances (foul waste, air dust, fumes, waste water)? This is looking for leaks in the systems employed.

13. Protection of the Ground/Water

Are there habitats at risk? Is there a positive attempt to protect by fencing or containment? (Fish, newts, water courses.)

14. Protection of Flora/Fauna

Is there adequate protection of the natural environment (bats, badgers, flowers, trees)? Has any plant or animal life been identified as at risk?

15. Fuel/Oil Chemical Storage

Are storage arrangements suitable? Are there any leaks from storage vessels? This will include security, bunding and controlled dispensing arrangements.

16. Plant Maintenance

Is the mechanical plant in good condition? Are there any signs of oil or material discharge?

17. Spillage Controls

Are suitable spill kit or containment materials available for the substances on site? Are the emergency procedures defined and known by the employees? This may form part of the site induction or a Toolbox Talk on the subject.

18. Other

There may always be a significant risk presented that we require a further space for.

Further questions may be asked by the Site Managers during the site visit to clarify individual points of the reporting system.