

Terms of Reference

Assessment of the implementation of the VOC Stage I directive

1. CONTEXT/GENERAL INFORMATION

The storage and distribution of petrol is associated with the emissions of volatile organic compounds due to the volatile nature of petrol. The VOC Stage I directive 94/63/EC¹ aims to limit the emissions of petrol vapour during the storage of petrol at terminals and its subsequent distribution from terminals to service stations. There are several technical requirements governing the reflective coatings of tanks at terminals, roofs for storage tanks, bottom loading of road tankers, inland waterway and rail vessels and vapour recovery whilst filling underground storage tanks at service stations.

The Directive was adopted in 1994 and no systematic reporting framework has been established in order to monitor the implementation of the directive by the Member States. In fact all of the implementation deadlines have passed and so it is perhaps timely to review the implementation status of this directive.

2. SUBJECT OF THE SERVICE OR STUDY REQUEST

Services are required to assess the implementation status of the VOC Stage I directive 94/63/EC with particular emphasis on the old Member States because of their greater experience in implementing this directive which was adopted in 1994.

However, ENTEC UK has undertaken a related study in 2005 which looked the obstacles and difficulties for the new Member States in implementing the Stage I directive². Where appropriate, the information in this report should also be used in undertaking the tasks below.

3. TASKS TO BE PERFORMED

The contractor should undertake the following three tasks:

- (1) The Contractor should consult Member State regulatory authorities, industry associations and economic operators and review any open literature in order to identify
 - (a) any technical issues or problems of interpretation which hinder an effective implementation of the directive;

¹ <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CELEX:31994L0063:EN:HTML>

² http://ec.europa.eu/environment/air/pdf/voc_final_report.pdf

- (b) any potential to simplify the directive's provisions and technical annexes taking account of technical progress since the directive was adopted in 1994 (e.g. reference to relevant CEN standards);
- (2) From a purely technical perspective, the Contractor should briefly assess how the degree of VOC abatement stipulated in the directive for the various activities (storage at terminals, loading at terminals, unloading at service stations) compares with that possible with the current state of the art. This should cover all of the technical requirements specified in the directive relating to storage of petrol in tanks at terminals, loading at terminals, non-road vessels, and unloading at service stations;
- (3) The Contractor should assess the status of implementation of the VOC Stage I directive for all Member States given that most of the transitional provisions agreed in the relevant accession treaties have now passed (except for Bulgaria and Rumania).

This should identify whether (1) throughput thresholds for derogating service stations and terminals are correctly applied; (2) additional time periods have been granted beyond those stipulated in the directive and accession treaties; (3) the extent to which the technical requirements of the directive are applied in practice (if such information is available from regulatory authorities, published statistics, from industry associations or non-governmental organizations or other readily available sources).

4. ESTIMATED EXPERTISE REQUIREMENT

Familiarity with the regulatory requirements of Directive 94/63/EC.

5. ESTIMATED TIMETABLE

The work should be completed within 12 months from the signature of a specific agreement.

6. REPORTING

The information required and or produced in response to tasks (1) to (3) above should be presented in a report to the Commission. The report should be drafted in English. Any spreadsheets developed to prepare the required information should also be reported at the end of the contract.

A draft final report should be submitted to the Commission within 10 months following signature of the contract. The Commission will provide comments within 21 days and the contractor shall have a further 30 days to finalise the report and submit it to the Commission.