

Frequently asked questions concerning inspection

Which types of waste treatment facilities need to be inspected?

Establishments producing hazardous waste, collectors and transporters of waste, broker and dealers and waste treatment facilities (recovery and disposal operations, including preparation for recovery and disposal) need to be inspected.

■ How often have the facilities to be inspected?

Appropriate periodic inspections have to be realised (taking into account the level of potential to harm human health and the environment).

Landfills have to be inspected at least before start of the operation and before closure.

WEEE recovery facilities which are *exempted from a permit requirement* have to be inspected before registration is verified and at least once a year.

■ What kind of information has to be checked within inspections?

Inspections for *collection and transport operations* have to cover at least the:

- origin and nature of the collected/transported waste
- quantity
- destination

Inspections for *WEEE treatment facilities* have to cover at least the:

- type and quantities of waste treated
- general technical requirements to be compliant with
- safety precautions

■ What is the connection between inspections and EMAS?

The registration of a waste management facility under the Community Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS) can be taken into account when planning the frequency and intensity of inspections.

■ Can waste inspections be combined with other inspection issues?

Inspections of waste issues can be combined with other inspection requirements (national and EU legislation) to reduce financial effort and administrative burden.

■ How is the inspection procedure organised?

Organisation of inspection procedures is in the responsibility of Member States. However, in general the inspection can be divided into the following steps:

- Strategic planning describing the scope of the inspection plan, gathering information for performing the risk assessment, setting priorities, defining objectives and strategies, organisational, human and financial conditions, a inspection plan including inspection schedule, review and revision
- Execution framework including work protocols and instructions, protocols for communication, information management and exchange, equipment and other resources
- Realisation of Inspections (routine/non-routine inspections) including reporting

Inspection FAQ

Further reading

The frequently asked questions (FAQ) are also available at:

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/waste/frameswork/index.htm>

and information exchange with partner organisations/authorities

- Monitoring and follow-up including accounting for effort, performance results, external reporting

■ Which types of inspections are possible?

The following inspection types can be conducted:

- Inspection of paper documents, i.e. within a permitting procedure
- Initial inspection at the facility to confirm permit conditions within the permitting procedure
- Regular, announced on-site inspection
- Regular, not announced inspection (following an inspection plan)
- Inspection in case of accidents, incidents and complaints

■ Which instruments are available for inspection planning?

Inspection frequency and intensity need planning to concentrate inspection resources on the facilities imposing the major risks. The following principal instruments are available:

- Risk assessment based instruments
- Inspection plan
- Classification system

The following information can be used:

- Waste facility register
- Information on state of compliance (previous inspection results)
- Risk and environmental risk impacts (waste stream based, operation based)

■ How can other authorities be involved in the inspection procedure?

Waste treatment facilities, in most cases, cause different emissions (into air, water, land). As complex techniques are applied, issues like occupational health are to be included in the inspection procedures. Thus, this often requests the involvement of other authorities; also at different regional levels. The following ways of involvement are generally possible:

- Inspections are organised by national authority and upcoming inspections are communicated to regional/local level
- Inspections are organised by regional/local authority and upcoming inspections are communicated to central authority
- Authorities competent for other environmental issues (chemicals, emissions, control) are involved in inspection planning and realisation

■ How can the national/regional authority support the inspection procedures?

If regional/local authorities are in charge for inspection of waste treatment facilities, the national/regional authority can support thorough implementation with:

- Providing training and assistance to the competent authority on regional/local level, e.g. on a regular basis or on request
- Providing guidance for planning and realising inspections, e.g. guidance and checklists for particular waste streams/operations
- Enabling networking and cooperation amongst regional/local authorities, e.g. by providing a network, platforms, round tables, regular meetings

■ Why and how should inspection information be stored?

The access to inspection information for other concerned authorities is crucial to enable more efficient implementation and to use the data for follow-up purposes, i.e. the planning of further inspection, revising conditions in permit and follow up in case of irregularities. Beside paper documentation, the following systems are possible:

- Electronic reporting
- Local database with authorised access for other authorities
- Central database with authorised access to authorities
- Open database with access to the general public

■ Which procedures follow the inspection in case of irregularities?

In case of irregularities at inspections the following general procedures are possible:

- Administrative order
- Administrative ruling in terms of permit conditions, i.e. setting new additional conditions within a permit
- Sanctions, fines and penalties
- Court procedures
- Withdrawal of a permit

Member State legislation has to be consulted to check what kind of procedure is applied in case of irregularities and non-compliance.