

**ENVIRONMENTAL ALERT
PROFORMA**

ALERT NUMBER: 04/2009

ISSUE DATE: 11 August 2009

ALERT DETAILS:

The Offshore Chemicals Regulations 2002 – PON 15 Permit Holders

The holders of PON 15 chemical permits should note that the following changes have been made to DECC's emergency chemical permit variation procedures:

Currently, emergency chemical permit variations may be granted following verbal communication between the permit holder and DECC. These discussions must then be followed with a formal variation request, in writing, within two working days.

Following a review of the chemical permitting procedures, DECC now require that all emergency chemical variation requests are made in writing and subsequent granting or refusal of the emergency variation will also be made in writing.

These written communications can be made using e-mail so it is not anticipated that this new process will significantly delay the emergency variation process. It does however require that permit applicants have access to an e-mail system.

NEW EMERGENCY PERMIT VARIATION PROCEDURE:

Permit holders applying for an emergency variation should telephone the DECC out of hours contact as per existing procedures and provide the requested details. These details will be passed to the DECC on-call Environmental Inspector who will contact the permit holder to further discuss the emergency variation request.

The on-call Inspector will forward a list of 14 questions to the applicant by e-mail. These questions will be as follows:

- (1) Date of variation request
- (2) Full company name of permit holder
- (3) PON15 Permit number
- (4) Installation name
- (5) Full chemical name(s)
- (6) Chemical type and reasons for use/discharge
- (7) Are chemicals being requested for operational use/discharge, or disposal
- (8) Are chemicals included on the CEFAS approved list

(9) Are chemicals PLONOR

(10) Chemical OCNS category (non-CHARMable) or RQ/HQ ranking (CHARMable)

(11) Quantities to be used (kg)

(12) Quantities to be discharged (kg)

(13) Are requested chemicals replacing those of the same OCNS category/HQ ranking, and are the discharge quantities the same or less than those being replaced

(14) Provide health and safety and/or technical and/or operational reasons why this emergency chemical variation is required

The applicant must forward the completed questions to the DECC on-call Inspector by return of e-mail.

The on-call Inspector will complete a review of the application and a written response granting or refusing the emergency variation will be sent by return of e-mail.

The applicant must, as with previous procedures, formally vary the PON15 permit within two working days. This can be done by contacting the relevant DECC Environmental Manager assigned to the permit holder.

It should be noted that a failure to provide a response to any of the 14 questions will result in the emergency variation request being refused.

Further Information

Any queries relating to this alert should be addressed to:

Energy Development Unit
Offshore Environment and Decommissioning
Atholl House
86-88 Guild Street
ABERDEEN
AB11 6AR

Or:

Offshore.inspectorate@berr.gsi.gov.uk