

ESTC Standard No. 6

Part 2 - B&CE Inspections

Amendment 1 – Appendix G

July 2015



WEAPONS



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The Explosives Storage and Transport Committee

Ministry of Defence



**Ministry
Of Defence**

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Appendix G

ESTC Standard 6, Part 2 – B&CE Inspections – Timeframe for inspection process

Summary

The purpose of this amendment to ESTC Standard 6, Part 2 (March 2011) is to introduce the following timeframe in the inspection process.

- Inspector to notify the ESR of any potential H&S risks in writing before leaving site.
- Inspector to write up their report and submit it to the Contractor within 10 working days of the inspection date
- Contractor to identify any routine maintenance tasks and submit to the ESR within 5 working days
- ESR to identify the tolerability of risk and submit to DIO (SIM & TA(Structures)) within 10 working days

Background

The MoD is exempt from the licensing requirements of the Explosives Regulations 2014 (ER14) provided that sites under the control of the Secretary of State for Defence, that manufacture or store explosives, operate under a scheme approved by him that prescribes separation distances, or a combination of separation distances and other safety measures that are designed to ensure a standard of safety which is equivalent to that ensured by the separation distances prescribed by regulation 27 and Schedule 5 of ER14. The SoSD's approved scheme is JSP 482. The legislation refers to "separation distances and other measures" to ensure an equivalent standard of safety; the ESTC Standard 6 inspections are part of the "other safety measures" required by JSP 482.

The March 2011 version of ESTC Standard 6, Part 2 (B&CE) required a copy of the complete inspection report to be submitted to TA(Structures). This has shown that it is not unusual for the inspection process to take a considerable period (between October 2014 and May 2015, 51 inspections were received from 2012 and 65 from 2013). This means that ESTC Standard 6, Part 2 (B&CE) isn't always being used to inform IE's if buildings are suitable to be explosively licensed from a B&CE perspective or plan remedial works in a timely manner.

Requirement

This amendment to ESTC Standard 6, Part 2 (March 2011) is to address the above by introducing a timeframe for the inspection process. This has tried to balance the relatively slow deterioration of B&CE elements with the need to inform IE's on the suitability of an explosives license from a B&CE perspective and plan remedial works in a timely manner. After consultation the following timeframe has been adopted:

- 1) On completion of a Standard 6 Part 2 inspection, the inspector is to notify the Head of Establishment or their dedicated safety representative (e.g. ESR) immediately and in writing of any potential H&S risks. This is defined as any defects, to structural or non-structural elements, which will be assigned a condition mark of 5 (five) or less in their report. The reason is that whilst premature collapse, unnecessary loss-of-life and/or propagation of the explosive event are obviously unacceptable, the consequence of some apparently innocuous defects can be equally as serious. For

example water ingress may present a slip hazard or affect the condition of the stored explosives etc. which, if significant, will reduce their life & stability. A copy of the inspectors notification shall be scanned and stored with the electronic copy of the report, when received.

- 2) Regardless of whether any potential H&S risks have been identified, the inspector shall submit their report on the current ESTC Standard 6 Part 2 form (accessible at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/explosives-storage-and-transport-committee-estc-standard-no-6>) to the Contractor within 10 working days of the inspection date.

Please be aware that whilst the ESTC Standard 6 Part 2 schedules suffice for a Technical Inspection, they are appendices to a Professional Appraisal, for which the scope and format of the report shall be based on 'Appraisal of Existing Structures' by the Institution of Structural Engineers.

- 3) The Contractor, on receipt of the inspectors report, shall have 5 working days in which to identify which defects (if any) are deemed to be routine maintenance (thus included under the terms of their contract) and then forward it on to the ESR for review.
- 4) The ESR, on receipt of the inspection report from the Contractor, shall have 10 working days in which to finalise the report by identifying which defects (if any) are deemed to be critical to the explosives licensing of the facility and then
 - Review the risk tolerability. The defect rankings are an assessment of the tolerability of risk and are thus used to advise the MOD Chief Inspector of Explosives via his Inspectors of Explosives whether the buildings used (or are to be used) to store and/or process explosives are in a fit state for an explosives license to be granted, and that they will continue to be so for the duration that the explosives license is valid.
 - Submit a copy of the inspection report to the SIM. The carrying out of inspections & appraisals is not an end in itself. Rather, it is the output & use of this work that is of prime importance in determining and prioritising the requirement & scope of any preventative maintenance and / or repairs that are necessary to ensure the longevity and fitness for purpose of the facility.
 - Submit a copy of the inspection schedule only (spreadsheet) to TA(Structures). The inspection reports shall be used to assess the condition of the explosives estate and whether this is getting better or worse over time.

This amendment to ESTC Standard 6, Part 2 (B&CE) is to be adopted with immediate effect but any surveys which are currently in progress or have already been ordered will continue to be exempt from any time constraints.