



# Quality support for waste-derived products

## Welcome to EQUAL

Spring 2014

EQUAL is a major LIFE+ programme that will support and encourage the use of products made from waste. It is being led by the Environment Agency, with partners CIWM, Energy UK, ESA, the Northern Ireland Environment Agency, the Organics Recycling Group (part of REA) and Rijkswaterstaat, the Dutch environmental regulator. The output from the programme will help companies seeking to achieve end of waste status for their waste-derived products, support a more consistent and streamlined regulatory approach, and improve end market confidence.

Deriving value from waste by turning it back into useful products is an increasingly important activity for both economic and environmental reasons. Whether the rationale is to increase resource efficiency, improve the bottom line, reduce reliance on landfill or diversify into new markets, the EQUAL programme will offer support to businesses in a range of industry sectors while at the same time ensuring that waste-derived products are safe and fit for purpose.



*The EQUAL programme is made possible with the contribution of the Life+ financial instrument of the European Community*

## Quality Protocol Checker web tool

## End of Waste news

### Quality Protocol update

In the last six months, two updated QPs have been issued for aggregates from inert material and anaerobic digestate. In addition, a new Biomethane QP was published in January this year. This takes the total number of QPs up to twelve as follows:

- [Aggregates from inert waste](#)
- [Anaerobic digestate](#)
- [Biomethane from waste](#)
- [Compost](#)
- [Cooking oil & rendered animal fat](#)
- [Plastics](#)
- [Poultry Litter Ash](#)



Paul Murray (right), EA Environment & Business Advisor, talks to delegates about the new online support tool

## Online support tool launched for compost and recycled aggregate producers

Over 100 delegates at the Organics Recycling Conference last month were among the first to see EEqual's first online resource – the **Quality Protocol (QP) Checker** web tool for compost and recycled aggregates.

The web tool, which will be expanded to cover other QP waste streams over time, provides an easy step-by-step guide for producers to assess whether their product meets the requirements of the relevant QP and has achieved End-of Waste (EoW) status. Demonstrated live at the event, the tool will help users to understand and apply QP procedures, and creates a user report that documents performance and pinpoints areas where improvement is needed.

For the aggregates industry, the aim is to provide producers with a quality checklist and feedback to help them meet the necessary QP requirements. For the compost industry, the tool will also save producers time and money by providing guidance and feedback before they go through the formal process of being audited and certified to the PAS 100 specification.

The tool can also be used as an internal audit check for established QP compliant producers and provides a template for regulatory enforcement officers to support more consistent

- Pulverised fuel ash and furnace bottom ash
- Tyres - tyre-derived rubber materials
- Glass
- Lubricating oil
- Plasterboard

wrap

Environment Agency

Quality Protocol

**Biomethane from waste**

End of waste criteria for the production and use of biomethane from landfill gas and anaerobic digestion (AD) biogases.

## Creating a EU-wide regulatory community for End-of-Waste

As part of its 2014 programme of work, the EU regulatory network IMPEL is supporting a project with EEqual to set up systems to share best practice in this area. The aim is to deliver a more robust and consistent approach to EoW across EU Member States through improved access to tools, information, and expertise. It will also explore solutions for managing trans-frontier movement of materials that have

compliance assessment procedures.

*"The revised QP for aggregates from inert waste launched last autumn provides more detailed guidance on the procedures required for recycled aggregates to achieve End-of-Waste. The QP Checker tool is a valuable resource to assist recycled aggregates producers in developing new quality management systems, and auditing existing systems, to ensure compliance." John Barratt, Special Advisor-Built Environment, WRAP*

*"Ultimately, the aim is to increase the number of businesses following the QP approach, promote the manufacture of more quality waste-derived products and boost market growth and end-user confidence," explains Roger Hoare, Environment & Business Manager at the Environment Agency*

The QP Checker tool is currently available for compost and recycled aggregates, but the intention is that industry stakeholders with an interest in other QP waste streams will take it forward and tailor it to their own needs. The Organics Recycling Group (ORG) has already prepared content for an Anaerobic Digestate (AD) QP Checker and rapid progress on this is expected, with testing likely to start this month (April 2014).

The QP Checker web tool can be found at [www.qpchecker.info](http://www.qpchecker.info)

## Definition of Waste web tool

### Waste or Product? Test the new decision tool

The Definition of Waste web tool, which will help businesses to assess whether their waste-derived material is a by-product, achieves End of Waste criteria or remains a waste, is almost ready for a first round of external user testing and feedback. The tool has been reviewed by the Environment Agency's Definition of Waste panel and guidance to accompany it is now being finalised. As part of this, new Risk Assessment guidance will be available to help users understand and complete the section of the tool that deals with the End of Waste or By-Product Assessment process.

A series of user testing workshops is being organised to give those interested the chance to try out the prototype tool and provide feedback to ensure that it is as user friendly as possible. The confirmed dates so far are:

**Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> June in Sheffield**

**Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> June in Bristol**

**Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> July in London**

encourage a common language on EoW and support a better service for regulatory customers.

Information gathering will begin over the next few months and culminate in a dedicated event in October. To register interest in the project and its outcomes please email [equal@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:equal@environment-agency.gov.uk).

## Are EU End-of-Waste Regulations working?

It seems that it is too early to tell. Work commissioned by the EU's technical Joint Research Council last year to consider the uptake and impact of the scrap metal EoW Regulations presented its initial findings at an event in Brussels at the end of last month. The work appears to suggest a slight increase in value and quality but it is a very complicated situation with poor data availability.

It was clear from the event that, as with other waste streams impacted by EoW, the metal sector is divided and the point at which 'recycling' is achieved is contentious due to the financial incentives that it brings. Uptake has been low throughout Europe, apart from in Italy which has a very high level of engagement. This disparity seems primarily due to historic approaches to regulation and the Italian government's support for the regulations by making the use of EoW scrap mandatory at its steel mills.

The consultation remains open until the end of April and can be accessed [here](#) for Competent Authorities and [here](#) for industry respondents.

## Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July in Northampton

Places are limited, so to register early for one of these workshops, please email Tina at [equal@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:equal@environment-agency.gov.uk)

## EEqual field trials

### Results expected by Winter 2014

The EEqual field trials, designed to provide a better understanding of the environmental performance of four waste-derived products, are progressing well. The results for the agricultural trials (Poultry Litter Ash and Paper Sludge) are expected in Autumn 2014 and those for the construction material trials (Pulverised Fuel Ash and Incinerator Bottom Ash Aggregate) at the end of the year.

In the meantime, the EEqual programme work on the IBAA Risk Assessment has been completed and has concluded that it will not be possible to develop a Quality Protocol (QP) for unbound IBAA. However, IBAA can be used in appropriate locations and applications with suitable controls, and the appropriate long term regulatory controls and any changes that may be needed in the interim Regulatory Position Statement are being assessed. This work has now been passed to the Environment Agency's regulatory team. A QP for bound IBAA remains a possibility and an industry group, supported by the Environment Agency, is taking forward work to explore this further.

The EEqual web information is in the process of being transferred to the [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) website. The archived version can be found [here](#) and a new EEqual web page will be available from the end of May.

Alternatively you can call 0117 934 4612



Rijkswaterstaat  
Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment

