

Overview

Permitted sites



433 regulated sites

Main activities:

247



Organic chemicals

122



Inorganic chemicals

26



Pharmaceuticals

Industry facts



139,000 employees



£43.4 billion turnover



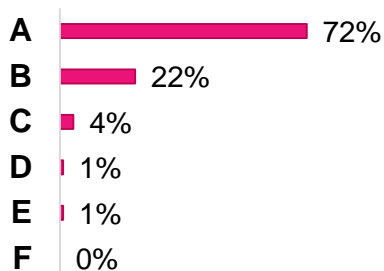
The UK is the 5th largest producer of chemicals in the EU



Total exports exceeds £50 billion

Performance

Compliance ratings



4 persistently poor performing sites

Pollution incidents



Serious 3
Minor 94

Permit breaches



Serious 9
Minor 399

Annual emissions

Principal emissions to air*

5.4 million t of **carbon dioxide**
5,667 t of **nitrogen oxides**
5,744 t of **non-methane volatile organic compounds**
1,514 t of **ammonia**

Waste produced by sites

Hazardous



10% recovered
29% disposed

Non-Hazardous



30% recovered
31% disposed

1 million tonnes

Industry focus



Reduction in benzene emissions to air in the sector since 2013.



Reduction in waste produced by sites in the sector since 2013.

*Above the Pollution Inventory reporting threshold

Corporate outcomes 2016 to 2020

Our objective is for:

- A cleaner, healthier environment which benefits people and the economy;
- A nation better protected against natural threats and hazards, with strong response and recovery capabilities;
- A higher visibility, stronger partnerships and local choices

| Our approach | How we will put this into practice |
|---|---|
| <p>We will control and reduce the impact of industrial emissions on the environment. We will do this through implementing the Industrial Emissions Directive and following the associated Best Available Techniques Reference documents (BREFs).</p> <p>We will ensure permit holders are engaged in the development of the Common Waste Gas Treatment BREF so we can provide a robust input into the review.</p> <p>We will continue to work within current EU legislation until such time new legislation is implemented after the European Union exit.</p> | <p>We will carry out a sector review as soon as we start using the revised BREF(s). We will measure success by monitoring the number of permits we've reviewed and the number of Best Available Techniques (BAT) requirements permit holders have implemented.</p> <p>We will track the improvement conditions of those reviewed permits to ensure improvements are completed and on time.</p> <p>We will lead the UK shadow Technical Working Group to provide data for the Seville Process.</p> <p>We will do this by setting up a joint working group with our permit holders to ensure they're represented during the BREF review process.</p> <p>We will keep permit holders and trade associations updated on how they may be affected.</p> |
| <p>We will improve our environment by progressively reducing the gases of concern. Permit holders will be responsible for reducing their emissions of greenhouse gases, carcinogens, volatile organic compounds and ammonia.</p> | <p>We will identify the top 20 emitters of the gases of concern and we will audit their permits. We will provide advice and guidance on how they can reduce their emissions. Our success will be a drop in emissions reported in the pollution inventory.</p> <p>We will check if businesses are complying with the relevant legislation and take prompt action if they are not.</p> |
| <p>We will improve our environment by reducing the amount of hazardous waste produced by permit holders.</p> | <p>During our compliance activity of permit holders we will provide advice and guidance on how they can reduce their hazardous waste. We will advise them on best practice. Success will be seeing a reduction in hazardous waste produced and removed from the site.</p> |
| <p>We will make sure permit holders are more resilient to climate change.</p> | <p>We will provide advice and guidance on mitigating the effects of climate change.</p> |
| <p>We will implement the outputs of the Strategic Charges Review to ensure we recover the correct charges to fund our regulatory work.</p> | <p>We will keep permit holders and trade associations updated on how they may be affected.</p> |
| <p>We are transforming our information systems and supporting guidance to be more customer-focused to support businesses and make it as easy as possible for them to do the right thing.</p> | <p>We will listen to those we regulate and communicate clearly with them making our guidance and advice clear and easy to understand. We are digital by default, to make transactions with us as easy as possible, while recognising that some businesses prefer more traditional approaches.</p> |

Data Sources:

The Environment Agency holds records for the number and type of regulated sites, the number of pollution incidents and permit breaches, and the compliance rating for each regulated site. The number of serious pollution incidents include both permitted and unpermitted sites in this sector.

Substance release and waste transfer data is collected from sites that operate under a Part A(1) environmental permit and form part of the Environment Agency's Pollution Inventory. See the [2016 datasets](#) that support this report.

Industry data has been collected from a variety of sources including industry trade organisations and publicly available resources.