



Animal &  
Plant Health  
Agency

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Our Ref: ATIC2760

[REDACTED]  
{By Email}

20 May 2022

Dear [REDACTED]

## PROVISION OF REQUESTED INFORMATION

Thank you for your request for information about incinerators, which APHA received on 25 April 2022. Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000.

The information you requested and the response is detailed below:

"I would appreciate your assistance in my investigation of a report of alleged non-compliance of Inciner8 Limited's incinerators to Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) and APHA Manufacturer's Self Certification of Incinerator Compliance with Annex III Animal By-Products Regulation (EU) NO. 142/2011.

I would request DEFRA (APHA) to investigate alleged breaches of manufacturers claims of meeting the requirements.

- I would like clarification regarding the DEFRA certification process for cremators in general and this model in particular.

- Can you confirm if manufacturers are only required to self-certify that the installed burners can reach 850 degrees centigrade? Or is certification achieved thorough DEFRA viewing the cremator in operation?"

With regards to the incinerator model part of your question, we are unable to comment on a specific model of incinerator. This is because you refer to a manufacturer and not a model within their range of products for sale.

On certification, there is an element of both manufacturer certification and APHA assessment involved. It is the manufacturer's responsibility to assess the suitability of the equipment and provide an appropriate certificate or manufacturer's declaration to the buyer. This declaration confirms, to the buyer, that the equipment in question has been

tested and, under defined operating parameters, would meet the requirements of the ABP (animal by-products) regulations.

During initial approval of the premises, which the operator must apply for before being allowed to incinerate ABPs, APHA will assess the manufacturer's declaration and confirm that the incinerator is being used in line with the parameters stated in that declaration.

If the declaration is not fit for purpose (i.e. if the manufacturer has not properly evaluated the equipment) and the incinerator was found to be non-compliant, APHA would not issue an approval for its use within that premises for ABP disposal purposes.

Ongoing performance checks also occur, during subsequent scheduled inspections, following the initial approval of a premises. These checks assess the condition and operation of the incineration equipment, including checks on service & maintenance records and temperature records / data from incineration cycles, to ensure that the equipment continues to function in line with the manufacturer's claimed parameters.

“- Please confirm if the design of cremators is taken into account when certifying cremators. Are different model cremators checked by DEFRA to ensure that hazardous waste materials including liquid effluent, odours, and smoke do not exit the cremator during the cremation process on a variety of waste material including animal by products or is this also part of self-certification? ”

Defra no longer certifies or type approves cremators. Instead the performance of such equipment is assessed during the initial set up and approval process. Therefore each piece of equipment installed, and operated, is checked and assessed on a case-by-case basis. This applies to incineration equipment installed specifically for use in the disposal of ABPs. Sites which operate industrial scale or mixed waste incineration equipment will be regulated by the Environment Agency.

Information disclosed in response to this FOI request is releasable to the public. In keeping with the spirit and effect of the FOI and the government's Transparency Agenda, this letter and the information disclosed to you may be placed on GOV.UK, together with any related information that will provide a key to its wider context. No information identifying you will be placed on the GOV.UK website.

An Annex is attached which explains the copyright that applies to the information being released to you and contact details should you be unhappy with the service you have received.

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact the Access to Information Team at the email address below or postal address at the top of this letter.

Yours sincerely

## **ACCESS TO INFORMATION TEAM**

Email: [enquiries@apha.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@apha.gov.uk)

## Annex

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### Complaints

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request, you may make a complaint or appeal against our decision under section 17(7) of the FOIA or under regulation 11 of the EIRs, as applicable, within 40 working days of the date of this letter. Please write to the Access to Information Manager at the address at the top of this letter or email [enquiries@apha.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@apha.gov.uk) and the team will arrange for an internal review of your case.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, section 50 of the FOIA and regulation 18 of the EIRs gives you the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) for a decision. Please note that generally the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have first exhausted APHA's own complaints procedure. The ICO can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF

If you need to contact the ICO, it's best to do so online. Please click [here](#) for contact details. You can also call them on 0303 123 1113.