



05 August 2021

United Kingdom Emissions Trading Scheme (UK ETS) offshore site visits by verifiers

In our previous [communication](#) in 2020, OPRED provided guidance in respect of the position of offshore site visits by independent verifiers during the Covid-19 pandemic, and a flexible and proportionate approach was adopted.

With the easing of the pandemic restrictions, the requirements of the UK ETS will now revert to the pre-pandemic obligations for permit holders requiring that site visits are undertaken by independent verifiers. **Going forward, this means that all offshore UK ETS permitted installations will require a site visit in support of their annual reportable emissions for either 2021 or 2022.**

OPRED is still adopting a flexible and proportionate approach by allowing a site visit to be done over two reportable calendar years. This approach is due to the previous pandemic restrictions, verifier capacity and is a similar approach to that previously taken when we moved between different phases of the EU ETS.

Where an installation is not planned to have a site visit in 2021 but one will be done in 2022, a waiver for 2021 will still be required and must be submitted through ETSWAP as a notification before 29 October 2021 for each respective installation. The waiver request must be supported by the appropriate verifier's risk assessment. There is no requirement to advise or confirm if a site visit is planned, or has taken place during 2021 or any other year.

In relation to new installations, a site visit is required to be undertaken within the first calendar year of operation. Installations that are undergoing a permit surrender, or about to submit an application to surrender, will require a site visit as part of the surrender process.