
This publication was withdrawn on 26 February 2026.

The standard rules permit SR2018 No.5 has been withdrawn.
An outcome of the consultation '[Amendments to standard rules permits for medium combustion plant and specified generators](#)' was that this standard rules permit is no longer needed.

Standard rules SR2018 No 5

The Environmental Permitting (England & Wales) Regulations 2016

SR2018 No 5 standard rules Specified Generator, Tranche B low risk, between 0 to less than or equal to 20 MWth of gas or abated diesel engines, that may include New Medium Combustion Plant greater than 1MWth, operated a maximum of 1,500 hours a year

Introductory note

This introductory note does not form a part of these standard rules.

When referred to in an environmental permit these rules will allow the operator to operate one or more Tranche B Specified Generators operated for a maximum of 1500 hours a year which are gas fired or abated diesel engines which may be providing a balancing service in the peaking market to the National Grid. Individual unit capacity is less than 1 MWth to less than or equal to 20MWth and the total is less than or equal to 20.0 MWth at the specified location which is in rural and urban areas where the NO₂ background has sufficient headroom. Includes secondary abatement on diesel engines or, where necessary, on gas engines.

Different requirements apply where the Generator includes combustion plant rated less than 1MWth that is brought into operation on or after 20/12/18 (New Medium Combustion Plant). In particular see Section 3.1 and 3.2.

These standard rules only cover the following activities;

Activities		
Activity reference	Description of specified activity	Limits of specified activity
Specified Generator Tranche B	Specified Generator burning only natural gas or ultra-low sulphur diesel (10 ppm sulphur)	Capacity - total rated thermal input MW of all engines less than or equal to 20 MWth Limited hours – maximum annual hourly operation of 1500 hours Minimum distance from any point source emission to a

Activities		
Activity reference	Description of specified activity	Limits of specified activity
		<p>sensitive human receptor is 150m</p> <p>Minimum distance from any point source emission to an SAC, SPA, Ramsar or SSSI is 600 m</p> <p>Stack height – minimum 3 m</p> <p>Background NO₂ concentration less than or equal to 31 µg/m³ at any human sensitive receptor.</p> <p>The Specified Generator shall not be located within an AQMA declared for NO₂</p>
New Medium Combustion Plant	New Medium Combustion Plant burning natural gas or ultra-low sulphur diesel (10 ppm sulphur) as a Specified Generator	<p>Rated thermal input of individual new combustion plant greater or equal to 1 MWth and less than 20 MWth</p> <p>(The limits listed above for Specified Generator also apply to MCP`s)</p>

End of introductory note

Record of changes

Version	Date	Change
1.0	April 2018	Published for SRP consultation May 2018
1.0	August 2018	Published for use August 2018
2.0	Spring 2019	Published for consultation incorporating requirements for New Medium Combustion Plant
2.0	July 2019	Published for use July 2019
2.1	January 2020	Replacement of the text “operated < 1500 hours a year” with “operated a maximum of 1500 hours a year” in the title and Introductory Note.

Rules

1 Management

1.1 General management

1.1.1 The operator shall manage and operate the activities:

- (a) in accordance with a written management system that identifies and minimises risks of pollution, so far as is reasonably practicable, including those risks arising from operations, maintenance, accidents, incidents, non-conformances and those drawn to the attention of the operator as a result of complaints; and
- (b) using sufficient competent persons and resources.

1.1.2 Records demonstrating compliance with rule 1.1.1 shall be maintained.

1.1.3 Any person having duties that are or may be affected by the matters set out in these standard rules shall have convenient access to a copy of the permit and rules.

2 Operations

2.1 Permitted activities

2.1.1 The only activities authorised by the permit are the activities specified in table 2.1 below.

Table 2.1 activities		
Activity reference	Description of specified activity	Limits of specified activity
Specified Generator Tranche B	Specified Generator burning only natural gas or ultra-low sulphur diesel (10 ppm sulphur)	Capacity - total rated thermal input MW of all engines less than or equal to 20.0 MWth Limited hours – maximum annual hourly operation of 1500 hours Minimum distance from any point source emission to a sensitive human receptor is 150m Minimum distance from any point source emission to an SAC, SPA, Ramsar or SSSI is 600 m Stack height – minimum 3 m Background NO ₂ concentration less than or equal to 31 µg/m ³ at any human sensitive receptor.

Table 2.1 activities		
Activity reference	Description of specified activity	Limits of specified activity
		The Specified Generator shall not be located within an AQMA declared for NO ₂
New Medium Combustion Plant	New Medium Combustion Plant burning natural gas or ultra-low sulphur diesel (10 ppm sulphur) as a Specified Generator	Rated thermal input of individual new combustion plant greater or equal to 1 MWth and less than 20 MWth (The limits listed above for Specified Generator also apply to MCP`s)

2.2 The site

- 2.2.1 The Specified Generator activities shall only be carried out at the address in this permit where the plant is located.
- 2.2.2 Where MCP`s are operated as part of the Specified Generator, only those MCPs listed in the permit can be operated at the site. No MCP shall be operated beyond the site of the grid reference specified for it in the permit.

2.3 Operating techniques

- 2.3.1 The activities shall be operated using the techniques and in the manner described in Table 2.3 below.

Table 2.3 Operating techniques
<p>(a) The combustion plant must be operated in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and records must be made and retained to demonstrate this.</p> <p>(b) The operator must keep periods of start-up and shut down of the combustion plant as short as possible</p> <p>(c) There is no persistent emission of 'dark smoke' as defined in section 3(1) of the Clean Air Act 1993</p> <p>(d) Where secondary abatement is required to ensure compliance with the NO_x ELV it must be met within 10 minutes from when the combustion plant commences operation and 20 minutes when the generator was a Tranche A and is now a Tranche B</p> <p>(e) The stack must be vertical and unimpeded by cowls or caps</p>

3 Emissions and monitoring

3.1 Emissions to air,

- 3.1.1 There shall be no point source emissions to air except from the sources and emission points listed in tables 3.1 and 3.2.
- 3.1.2 The limits given in tables 3.1 and 3.2 shall not be exceeded

Table 3.1 Point source emissions to air – emission limits and monitoring requirements (applicable to each generator)				
Pollutant	Combustion Technology	Emission limit mg/Nm ³	Monitoring frequency	Monitoring standard or method
Oxides of Nitrogen (NO and NO ₂ expressed as NO ₂)	Abated Diesel engine	95	Every 3 years	Monitoring requirements are defined at a temperature of 273.15 K, a pressure of 101.3 kPa and after correction for the water vapour content of the waste gases at a standardised O ₂ content of 15% for engines
Oxides of Nitrogen (NO and NO ₂ expressed as NO ₂)	Gas engine	95	Every 3 years where abatement is fitted otherwise non specified	

Table 3.2 Point source emissions to air – emission limits and monitoring requirements (applicable to each generator that is also a medium combustion plant)				
Pollutant	Combustion Technology	Emission limit mg/Nm ³	Monitoring frequency	Monitoring standard or method
Oxides of Nitrogen (NO and NO ₂ expressed as NO ₂)	Diesel engine	95	Every 3 years	Monitoring requirements are defined at a temperature of 273.15 K, a pressure of 101.3 kPa and after correction for the water vapour content of the waste gases at a standardised O ₂ content of 15% for engines
Carbon Monoxide (CO)		No limit		
Oxides of Nitrogen (NO and NO ₂ expressed as NO ₂)	Gas engine	95	Every 3 years	Monitoring requirements are defined at a temperature of 273.15 K, a pressure of 101.3 kPa and after correction for the water vapour content of the waste gases at a standardised O ₂ content of 15% for engines

Carbon Monoxide (CO)		No limit		
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3.2 Monitoring

- 3.2.1 The operator shall, unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Environment Agency, undertake monitoring for the parameters, at the locations and at not less than the frequencies from the issue date of the permit, specified in the tables 3.1 and 3.2.
- 3.2.2 The operator shall, if notified in writing by the Environment Agency, undertake additional monitoring for the parameters and at the locations specified in tables 3.1 1 and 3.2.
- 3.2.3 In the case of New Medium Combustion Plant the first monitoring measurements shall be carried out within four months of the issue date of the permit or the date when the combustion plant is first put into operation, whichever is later.
- 3.2.4 The stack emissions monitoring programme shall be carried out according to EA TGN M5, unless otherwise agreed in writing with the Environment Agency
- 3.2.5 Monitoring shall not take place during periods of start up or shut down.
- 3.2.6 Where secondary abatement is required to ensure compliance with the NO_x ELV monitoring shall start 10 minutes from when the generator commences operation and 20 minutes when the generator was a Tranche A and is now a Tranche B.
- 3.2.7 The operator shall maintain records of all monitoring required by these standard rules including records of the taking and analysis of samples, instrument measurements (periodic and continual), calibrations, examinations, test and surveys and any assessment or evaluation made on the basis of such data.

4 Information

4.1 Records

- 4.1.1 All records required to be made by these standard rules shall:
- be legible;
 - be made as soon as reasonably practicable;
 - if amended, be amended in such a way that the original and any subsequent amendments remain legible, or are capable of retrieval; and
 - be retained, unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Environment Agency, for at least 6 years from the date when the records were made,
- 4.1.2 The operator shall maintain convenient access, in either electronic or hard copy, to the records, plans and management system required to be maintained by this permit.
- 4.1.3 The operator shall maintain a record of the type and quantity of fuel used and the total annual hours of operation for each Generator.
- 4.1.4 The operator shall maintain a record of any events of non-compliance and the measures taken to ensure compliance is restored in the shortest possible time

4.2 Reporting

- 4.2.1 The operator shall send all reports and notifications required by these standard rules to the Environment Agency using the contact details supplied in writing by the Environment Agency.
- 4.2.2 Where monitoring is undertaken in accordance with rule 3.2.1, 3.2.2 and/or 3.2.3 the operator shall submit to the Environment Agency within 28 days of undertaking the monitoring, using the form made available for the purpose, the information specified on the form relating to that monitoring.

4.3 Notifications

4.3.1 In the event:

- (a) of a breach of any of the standard rules the operator must immediately—
- (i) inform the Environment Agency, and
 - (ii) take the measures necessary to ensure that compliance is restored within the shortest possible time;
- (b) of a breach of any of the standard rules which causes a significant degradation of local air quality, the operator must immediately suspend the operation of the activities or the relevant part of them until compliance with the rules has been restored.

4.3.2 Any information provided under standard rule 4.3.1 shall be confirmed in writing within 24 hours.

4.3.3 Where the operator is notified by the Environment Agency under rule 3.2.2, to undertake monitoring at frequencies not otherwise specified in Tables 3.1 and 3.2, the operator shall provide, at least 14 days prior to the monitoring being carried out, details of when the monitoring is to take place.

4.3.4 The Environment Agency shall be notified within 14 days of the occurrence of the following matters, except where such disclosure is prohibited by Stock Exchange rules:

Where the operator is a registered company:

- (a) any change in the operator's trading name, registered name or registered office address; and
- (b) any steps taken with a view to the operator going into administration, entering into a company voluntary arrangement or being wound up.

Where the operator is a corporate body other than a registered company:

- (a) any change in the operator's name or address; and
- (b) any steps taken with a view to the dissolution of the operator.

In any other case:

- (c) the death of any of the named operators (where the operator consists of more than one named individual);
- (d) any change in the operator's name(s) or address(es); and
- (e) any steps taken with a view to the operator, or any one of them, going into bankruptcy, entering into a composition or arrangement with creditors, or, in the case of them being in a partnership, dissolving the partnership.

4.3.5 The operator shall notify the Environment Agency, as soon as is practicable, in writing of any change of new medium combustion plant Annex I information.

4.4 Interpretation

4.4.1 In these standard rules the expressions listed below shall have the meaning given in that table.

4.4.2 In these standard rules references to reports and notifications mean written reports and notifications, except where reference is made to notification being made immediately, in which case it may be provided by telephone.

Term	Means
“accident”	an accident that may result in pollution
Annex I	Annex I of EU Directive 2015/2193 on Medium Combustion Plant
AQMA	Air quality management area – is that defined in the Environment Act 1995, Part VI, 83.(1) as amended.
Background NO ₂ concentration	A representative value for the background concentration for NO ₂ at your location, calculated from Local Authority ambient monitoring or background maps produced by Defra: https://laqm.defra.gov.uk/review-and-assessment/tools/background-maps.html
Combined Heat & Power (CHP)	Combined Heat & Power (CHP) or Cogeneration means the simultaneous generation in one process of thermal energy and electrical or mechanical energy
EA TGN M5	Technical Guidance Note (Monitoring) M5 - Monitoring of Stack Emissions from Medium Combustion Plant and Specified Generators
“EP Regulations”	The Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016 and words and expressions used in this permit which are also used in the Regulations have the same meanings as in those Regulations.
New Medium Combustion Plant	Any single combustion plant with a thermal input rated equal to or greater than 1 MWth and brought into operation on or after 20/12/18
Nearby buildings	Any buildings that are both: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • within 5L of the stack, where L is the lowest of either the height of the building or the maximum projected width; and, have a building height that is more than 40% of the stack height.
“quarter”	means a calendar year quarter commencing on 1 January, 1 April, 1 July or 1 October.
SAC, SPA, Ramsar or SSSI	Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas, Ramsar Sites and Sites of Special Scientific Interest
Sensitive human receptors	Locations where there is relevant public exposure. Relevant public exposure is where members of the public have access, are regularly present and can be exposed for a significant portion of the averaging time of the standard. The standards do not apply where health and safety at work provisions exist and where members of the public do not have access.
“year”	calendar year ending 31 December.

End of standard rules