



Publication of Annual Audit Compliance Reports

Part V Environmental Protection Act 1986

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Accessibility

This document is available in alternative formats and languages on request.

Objective

To provide guidance on how the Department of Environment Regulation (DER) will provide greater public access to the information provided in the Annual Audit Compliance Reports (AACRs) submitted by licensees.

Background

DER grants licences to the occupiers of prescribed premises under Part V of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act). Licences are issued with a condition that requires the licensee to submit an AACR. The AACR relates to compliance reporting which enables the licensee to report on their compliance or non-compliance(s) with licence conditions.

The requirement for licensees to audit and report on their environmental compliance is an integral part of DER's wider compliance management framework.

The AACR requires licensees to report on the non-compliance(s), the details of the non-compliance and the management and mitigation measures implemented to address the non-compliance.

DER has revised and simplified the existing AACR form to enable more valuable reporting and to be consistent with reporting arrangements in other jurisdictions.

In order to increase transparency of licensees' environmental performance, in line with DER's [Regulatory Principles](#), the Department will provide greater public access to the information provided in AACRs submitted by licensees. In a change to its administrative procedures, DER intends to publish AACRs on its website.

DER has released the revised AACRs Guideline and an AACR form. The AACR Guideline provides assistance to licensees to complete the AACR form. The AACR form provides a format for licensees to report on compliance with licence conditions. The revised AACR form includes a declaration that the licensee consents to have their AACR published on DER's website.

Legislation

The EP Act provides for a licence to be granted subject to conditions relating to the prevention, control, abatement or mitigation of pollution or environmental harm. Reporting of environmental compliance through submission of an AACR forms part of the licence conditions.

62. Works approval and licence conditions

- (1) A works approval or licence may be granted subject to such conditions as the CEO considers to be necessary or convenient for the purposes of this Act relating to the prevention, control, abatement or mitigation of pollution or environmental harm.

Guidance Statement

1. In order to increase transparency in line with DER's *Guidance Statement: Regulatory principles*, AACRs once received and reviewed by DER will be published on DER's website.
2. Licensees are no longer required to obtain the approval of the Chief Executive Officer of DER in respect of persons authorised to sign AACRs.
3. AACRs can only be signed by the licensee or an authorised person with the legal authority to sign on behalf of the licensee.
4. Existing licenses granted under Part V of the EP Act include a condition referencing an AACR form attached to the licence. DER's preference is for licensees to use the revised template included in the AACR Guidelines accompanying this Guidance Statement. DER will accept AACRs submitted using the new template as fulfilling the requirement of the relevant licence condition.

Implementation

DER has prepared a revised AACR Guideline and a revised AACR Form, to assist with the implementation of this Guidance Statement.

This will be provided to all current licensees and accessible on the Department's website.

Commencement

This Guidance Statement is to take effect from 1 July 2016.

Review

This Guidance Statement is to be reviewed no later than as soon as practicable following the fifth year of its commencement.