



Green Achiever Technical Newsletter March 2013

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Dear Deb,

Welcome to the Green Achiever Technical Newsletter. This month, we will touch on two hot environmental topics. Firstly, the arising issue of odour and how businesses can ensure their protection against more frequent claims. Also, the rollout of Smart Meters across the UK presents a major challenge to infrastructure; will it make energy use more sustainable and affordable? Jaguar Land Rover also features as they take steps to becoming environmentally friendly from production to product performance. Legislation updates and prosecutions from the past month round up the March newsletter.

Mandy Stoker



Odour Nuisance Claims

Odour is increasingly being reported as the reason for non-compliance with environmental permits and is the focus of more private nuisance claims.

The Environment Agency's H4 odour guide (published in 2011) details, amongst other things: *The foundations of odour control *Permit conditions *Control measures *The requirement for odour

management plans.

Private nuisance claims from local businesses and residents are more frequently concerning odour. This is thought to be because of the somewhat subjective nature of the issue. Where some may find the smell to be a nuisance, others may not agree. The EA guidance outlines the odour monitoring approach and the use of FIDOL parameters where odour is rated in terms of Frequency, Intensity,

Duration, Offensiveness and Location.

Although FIDOL provides some reasonable measurement by which permits can be granted, this still allows for differences of opinion and with more use of some "no-win, no-fee" law firms, claimants have little to lose but time. The individual payments from claims such as these tend to be relatively small, but cumulative and legal costs can add up and can prove costly and damaging to the firm's reputation.

The message from recent cases in 2012 is that in the event of fugitive odour emissions, operators need to be proactive in taking control of the situation, even if this involves a temporary cessation of operations. As industrial and agricultural activity increasingly affects residential locations, the importance of odour control is paramount.



Smart Meters

Work is continuing with the government programme to have smart meters installed in every house and small business by the end of 2019. After various trials in the North East and London, plans are progressing for installation to begin in late 2014. In the non-domestic sector alone this is estimated to mean 3.6 million meters to be replaced.

Smart meters record energy consumption in much more detail than conventional ones allowing consumers to monitor and control accurately their own energy use via a display unit in the building. smart meters will be distributed throughout the UK by 2019. The aim is that this will have a positive impact on consumption and therefore customer cost savings and because of how they work it will also mark an end to the estimated energy bill.

Although there are numerous challenges still faced by energy suppliers to accommodate the meters, the main obstacle will be drawing the UK's deregulated energy market together in a system that allows customers to switch supplier easily. There are also issues with compatibility, specification and manufacture that need to be addressed to enable the low-carbon initiative to reach the 2019 target.



Sustainability - a broad view

Jaguar Land Rover is a company with a broad view of sustainability that covers not only the end product (eg. achieving lower tailpipe CO2 emissions in new models) but their infrastructure also. Like many companies they have ambitious environmental targets (eg. to achieve a 25% reduction in carbon emissions across the EU fleet by 2015 and to reduce water use by 10%, against a 2007 baseline) but their sustainability extends beyond the product itself.

Alongside CO2 reductions in their fleet they also have targets for reductions in their logistical operation and in waste to landfill while looking to achieve increased %s of recycled or recoverable materials used in the cars. JLR look at sustainability as a long-term issue/investment and consider environmental performance in the early decision-making processes, in their specification for new plant and infrastructure (for example in specifying materials and BREEAM standards required of their new facility just off the M54) and in their supply chain. They are investing in future technologies

by having 150 research engineers based at the University of Warwick as well as in the finished product.

By taking a holistic and future view of sustainability JLR have achieved cost savings in how they produce their fleet and emissions reductions for customers once on the road. With other major actions being taken to cut their environmental impact, we wish Jaguar Land Rover all the best in achieving their ambitions for sustainability.



The Industrial Emissions Directive (IED)

The Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2013 were made on the 20 February and came into force on 27 February. These Regulations transpose the requirements of the Industrial Emissions Directive (IED). <http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/business/145770.aspx>

Legislation Updates



More than £100k fines for exporting contaminated waste to Brazil. Five defendants, including a father and son, were fined for illegally exporting 1500 tonnes of household waste in 2008 and 2009. The 89 40-foot containers full of prohibited waste were shipped to Brazil in breach of the Transfrontier Shipment of Waste Regulations 2007.

Andrew Higham, Head of the Environment Agency's National Environmental Crime Team, said: "Exporting poorly-sorted, contaminated waste is not only against the law - it's immoral. It's a crime that shows a blatant disregard for the safety and welfare of overseas communities and the environment.

'Today's result is testimony to the patience and professionalism of the Environment Agency.'



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