

Case Study: Compliance Audit of a leading clinical waste incinerator operator located in the UK

WISenvironmental was asked to carry out yearly compliance audits of the operations of a clinical waste incinerator (CWI) in the Midlands. The operations manager was looking to apply an objective approach using external expertise. He called upon *WISenvironmental*'s recognised and qualified auditors to carry this task. The key objective was to determine the extent to which current activities and controls conform to the 'appropriate measures', as specified by the Environment Agency (EA) in guidance EPR 5.07. Those appropriate measures are considered by the EA to be necessary to achieve the objectives of an environmental permit condition.

Objectives and Benefits

- Identify the gaps and improve operations when dealing with receiving, handling, storing and tracking waste.
- Identify best practice and ensure legal compliance with regards to emissions & discharge
- The operator used the audit report to demonstrate to the Environment Agency a proactive approach towards operational best practice by implementing appropriate measures described in regulatory guidance published by the regulatory body
- increase efficiency and create opportunity to reduce operational costs in identified areas where the standard of operations can be improved



Audit Scope

The audit addressed 5 Focus Areas from Section 2. 'Operations' and Section 3. 'Emissions and Monitoring' from the guidance which are:

- Focus Area 1: Waste Pre-acceptance
- Focus Area 2: Waste Acceptance
- Focus Area 3: Waste Storage and Handling
- Focus Area 4: Cleaning of Storage Areas & Discharge to Sewer
- Focus Area 5: Measures to Manage Emissions

Outcome of the audit: List of Findings and Management Summary Report



The auditors have identified areas that fully conform to appropriate measures. Where the audit has found that there is non-conformity with the 'appropriate measures', these were identified as findings and classified into one of two categories: a major non-conformity; or a minor non-conformity. Non-conformities are applied to a finding if the auditor has demonstrated a clear need in respect of a particular measure, a failure to meet that need and evidence for the failure. Findings are given in the List of Findings report. The Management Summary report also presents the key 'positive indications' and the 'main areas for improvement' identified for each of the focus areas during the course of the audit.

Immediate delivery of the audit report

Following on-site work, immediately after the audit was completed, a draft report was presented to the facility management, giving the facility managers the opportunity to have an overview of the findings and to confirm the audit accuracy. Reporting comprises a List of Findings spreadsheet and an Audit Report that summarises the facility's compliance with the audit criteria.

The operations manager has given the following endorsement of our Clinical Waste and Waste Producer Audit Services:

"We are pleased to endorse *WISenvironmental*'s highly professional and constructive auditing services. These have helped us over successive years to ensure that our facility operational controls remain appropriate and in compliance with the new guidelines emerging from the sector regulators".

WISenvironmental's Team

Environmental Management & Compliance Division
Principal Environmental Consultant - Rob Holmes
Environmental Scientist - Jeremie Berthet

Process Engineer - Sam Oughton
Technical Consultant - Roberto Vogel
Environmental Associate - Richard King
Business Development Advisor - Robin Buller