



Environmental Protection Safe Working Practices

INTRODUCTION

The Environmental Protection Act makes sweeping changes in the way industrial pollution is controlled, monitored and enforced. For example:-

- There are new enforcement powers for local authorities and the Pollution Inspectorate with employers liable to fines and even imprisonment.
- Around 25,000 manufacturing operations will have to obtain local authority authorisation with the first phase of registration beginning in September 1991.
- Over 5,000 operators of highly polluting processes also have to obtain HMIP authorisation for new or substantially altered operations.
- Many industrial processes are now subject to Integrated Pollution Control (IPC) with legally binding emission limits and a duty to use the best practicable environmental options.
- BATNEEC (“Best Available Techniques Not Entailing Excessive Cost”) must be employed for prescribed processes. Technology, equipment, and the design, construction, maintenance and layout of buildings will all be included.
- A new regulatory framework will be established for air pollution.
- New duties will be imposed on the producers of waste to ensure its safe disposal.
- Local authorities and private companies alike will be subject to new responsibilities in respect of waste site management.
- New restrictions will be placed on the import, use, supply and storage of injurious substances and on the siting and storage of hazardous substances.
- Public registers of land which may be contaminated will have to be drawn up.
- In certain industries, all processes will have to be reconsidered from scratch, and companies will have to generate new data about these processes, some of which will have to be made available to the public.

This document will be expanded to include more specific guidance in those areas applicable to Local Authority responsibilities as Guidance Notes and Approved Codes of Practice

become available. In the meantime should further information be needed on a particular topic do consult the Environmental Health Division of the Local Authority or talk to your Health and Safety Adviser.