

Compliance Classification Scheme (CCS)

Permit breaches – waste operations and installations

We regulate activities that impact the environment by issuing environmental permits. These permits have conditions specifying how those activities can be undertaken in order to minimise risk to people and the environment. We use the Compliance Classification Scheme (CCS) to record non-compliance with permit conditions. It allows us to:

- be consistent in our regulation, regardless of location or permitting regime;
- focus resources on activities that pose the greatest potential risk to people and the environment;
- ensure that our charges properly reflect the work we do with operators;
- produce a compliance rating for each site that reflects an operator's performance over the course of a year that is used for reporting purposes and to adjust the annual subsistence charge paid by operators. Less compliant sites will pay a surcharge on their annual charge, while operators with perfect compliance records can receive a discount. This reflects the additional time we spend regulating poorly performing sites.

Which activities do we use CCS for?

We use CCS for the following regulatory regimes:

- water discharges and groundwater permits
- industrial installations, including intensive farming
- waste operations
- radioactive substances permits
- abstraction and impoundment permits issued under the Water Resources Act

CCS only affects charges for those who operate installations and waste sites.

How are non-compliances rated?

We differentiate between non-compliances that have no impact on the environment and those that pose a greater threat. We do this by categorising them into 4 categories.

All non-compliances, except those relating to amenity (eg odour or noise), are categorised on their **reasonably foreseeable impact** on the environment and not their **actual** impact.

The table below describes the four categories:

Category	Definition
1	A non-compliance at a regulated site that could foreseeably result in a major, serious, persistent and/or extensive impact or effect on the environment, people and/or property.
2	A non-compliance at a regulated site that could foreseeably result in a significant impact or effect on the environment, people and/or property.
3	A non-compliance at a regulated site that could foreseeably result in a minor or minimal impact or effect on the environment, people and/or property.
4	Non-compliance at a regulated site that could not foreseeably result in an impact on the environment, people and/or property.

The data

The data is specifically for waste operations and installations and is provided in an Excel spreadsheet. The data fields include:

- Permit reference
- Operator name, site address and postcode
- Regulatory regime
- Industry sector
- EA area
- Permit condition breached
- Description of non-compliance
- Breach categorisation
- Date of breach

It will also include an explanation of some of the terms in the column headings.

This data is provided under an conditional licence, details of which can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/environment-agency-conditional-licence/environment-agency-conditional-licence#you-must-where-you-do-any-of-the-above>.

Where can I find further information?

For specific sites you can speak to the local officer for any site that we regulate. Telephone 03708 506 506 to be put through to the relevant local office or e-mail enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk

See <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/how-youll-be-regulated-environmental-permits#assessments-and-inspections> for general information about how permits are regulated.