

# R1 recovery operations

## Data on incinerators granted R1 recovery operation status

An incinerator that can generate energy with high efficiency can qualify as a waste recovery operation. Incinerator performance is measured using the R1 Energy Efficiency formula in Annex II of the [Waste Framework Directive 2008/98/EC \(WfD\)](#).

The formula calculates energy efficiency as a factor i.e. it is not the same as percentage efficiency.

To qualify the incinerator must be:

- regulated by the Environment Agency and
- dedicated to municipal waste (MWI) or automotive shredder residues (ASR)

This approach applies only to incineration plant as defined by the [Environmental Permitting \(England and Wales\) Regulations 2010](#) (EPR). In the future other types of incinerator may be included - the Environment Agency will consider proposals from industry.

## The application process

Operators who want their incinerator to be classed as an energy recovery plant under the [Waste \(England and Wales\) Regulations](#) must apply to the Environment Agency and justify that it is an R1 recovery operation, otherwise by default, it is a disposal activity (D10).

To qualify operators need to use an energy efficiency formula. The WfD sets a performance threshold of equal to or greater than:

- 0.60 for MWI permitted and in operation before 1 January 2009
- 0.65 for those after 31 December 2008

We have set our own performance threshold of 0.60 for ASR, in consultation with business.

There are no charges for an application for R1 status when submitted at the same time as a new EPR permit application, but there is a charge where the application is made separately. In both cases there is an annual charge for validation after commissioning.

Further information on how to apply, the calculation and the detailed costs can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/applying-to-qualify-as-a-recovery-operation-municipal-waste-incinerators>

## The data

The information we are providing is about the initial applications we have received and whether we have granted R1 status. It will be updated every quarter with new applications. The data fields include:

- Permit reference (EPR)
- Operator name, site name and address
- Permit application status
- Waste input (000s tonnes per annum)
- Waste type
- The calculated R1 value
- Whether application R1 status has been granted
- Whether the calculation is based on design or operational data
- Date application R1 status granted

An explanation of some of these data fields is also provided.

Although operators have to provide ongoing evidence to show that their R1 status is still valid, we will not be updating this information with those results.

## More information

You can access further guidance on R1 status and the application process at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/applying-to-qualify-as-a-recovery-operation-municipal-waste-incinerators>

If you want to find out more information about specific installations please contact the local Environment Agency office of where the site is located or contact our customer enquiry centre:

☎ 03708 506 506

✉ [enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk)

