

The Pollution Inventory

Data about industrial emissions and releases

The Pollution Inventory (PI) provides information about the releases and transfers of substances from industrial activities we regulate including the annual emission of certain substances to air, controlled waters and land, and off-site transfer in wastewater and waste.

This helps:

- provide the public with easy access to environmental information from industrial activities in their locality.
- protect the environment by providing information to assist us in developing regulation.
- government to meet its national and international environmental reporting commitments, such as the European Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (E-PRTR).

Who uses the data?

The data is used:

- In Environment Agency reports and summaries
- By government to inform policies on the regulation of facilities we permit
- In the National Atmospheric Emissions Inventory (NAEI) and the Greenhouse Gas Inventory which are widely used by national policy makers and local government.
- In International reporting including the National Emissions Ceiling Directive, (NECD), United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and Convention on Long Range Transboundary Air Pollution (CLRTAP).
- The E-PRTR to directly compare emissions across European countries.

Who needs to report?

You must report to the PI if you:

- operate an industrial activity under Part A (1) of the Environmental Permitting Regulations 2010 (EPR) e.g. a power station, chemical works, intensive farm, non-inert operational landfill, large waste treatment facility.
- operate a sewage treatment works with a capacity that serves > 100,000 population
- dispose of radioactive waste to air, water or sewers covered by a permit issued under the EPR

- run an opencast mine or quarry with a surface area over 25 hectares, or an underground mine and related operation

The data required covers a calendar year. Returns must be submitted by 28 February of the following calendar year.

Collection and collation

Verification is carried out with operators and Environment Agency site officers followed by targeted quality assurance dependent on the environmental risks. The dataset is signed off by the end of May.

The data

The data is provided in 3 excel spreadsheets entitled substances, waste transfers and radioactive wastes. It does not contain records which have been deemed commercially confidential or that have national security considerations. The data fields include:

- Permit reference or authorisation id
- Operator name, site name and address
- Name of substance or waste code
- EA area
- Quantity released
- How the substance has been emitted e.g. to air, controlled waters, as waste
- For waste only – what happened to it e.g. Landfilled, incinerated, recovered

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

Answers to common questions

What does the Environment Agency do to ensure the public and the environment are kept safe?

We check the sites we regulate to ensure that operators are carrying out activities as they are set out in their permit. Operators also have to submit information to us routinely about their emissions. If operators have breached environmental limits we can take action against them.

Where can I find further information about specific sites?

You can get or request further information from our public register. You can speak to the local officer for any site that we regulate or an industry sector lead. Telephone 03708 506 506 to be put through to the relevant local office or e-mail enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk

