

National Compliance Assessment Database

Compliance assessments – 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 undertake compliance assessment activities on these permitted sites to ensure operators are complying with their permits and to address any action they may need to take to minimise environmental risk.

We use the National Compliance Assessment Database (NCAD) to record the results of our work.

Which activities do we record compliance assessments for?

We use NCAD for the following regulatory regimes:

- industrial installations, including intensive farming
- waste operations

Other regimes carry out compliance assessment activities but do not use this system to record their findings.

For each compliance assessment we complete a proforma called a Compliance Assessment Record or CAR form. The CAR form details what happened during the assessment, any non-compliances we found, any action we want the operator to take to mitigate these and if we intend to take any formal enforcement action.

What compliance activities do we carry out?

We record 5 distinct categories of compliance assessment. These are:

- site visits (inspections)
- site audits (more in-depth and complex inspections)
- check monitoring
- data reviews (reviewing monitoring submissions required by the permit)
- procedure reviews

We also may carry out other checks on permits that are not recorded in NCAD. These could include ensuring operators have paid us for the work we do.

How often do we carry out compliance assessments?

We use past environmental performance, operational intelligence and other data we collect to identify the sites that pose the greatest risk to people and the environment. This means that sites with more problems will receive a greater compliance effort.

The data and its use

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
- Type and date of assessment
- Regulatory sector and sub sector
- EA area

It will also include an explanation of some of the terms in the column headings. This data is provided under a [conditional](#) licence. Additional considerations also apply under the conditional licence:

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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.

