

The GeoEnviron Environmental Permits Module

The Environmental Permitting Regulations have increased the onus upon Local Authorities to demonstrate that they are implementing LAPPC in the most cost-effective and efficient manner possible. The GeoEnviron Environmental Permits module allows Inspectors to keep a good overview of the installations and activities within their districts and helps to ensure that the limited resources available are focussed on medium and high-risk operations whilst continuing to protect the environment and human health.

What are the major challenges?

Risk based inspections? – DEFRA still expects all authorities to use the risk-based method for the regulation of activities and installations. It is now even more important to ensure that you are able to demonstrate that you are undertaking your inspections in a risk based manner.

Annual Statistical Return- The statistical return (LPCSS) required by DEFRA and the Welsh Government Assembly are still very complex. The onus is on local authorities to ensure that they manage Permits data adequately so that they can complete the returns accurately and timely.

Maintaining a transparent Cost Accounting System – Local Authorities are under increasing pressure to show that the application and subsistence fees they receive reflect the amount that they spend on enforcing the regulations.

Ensuring Public Access to Permits Information – Increasingly local authorities are delivering information on permitted processes electronically via their websites. This allows for better public participation in the permitting process.

Ensuring Procedural Propriety - The administrative procedures associated with environmental permitting system are some of the most complex within the field of environmental health. Keeping on top of these is essential to ensure that you are acting in line with guidance and procedures.

What is GeoEnviron?

GeoEnviron is a proactive suite of regulatory compliance software applications developed specifically for Local Authorities. The system has a comprehensive suite of facilities that enables Officers to easily implement risk based inspection programmes as well as maintain action audit trails and document tracking, resulting in increased efficiency, responsiveness and accountability. The system includes a Quality Management System (QMS) that ensures that you meet your statutory deadlines and improve your performance.

Benefits

A few of the potential benefits that you will realise from implementing the GeoEnviron Environmental Permits Module are:

- Improved efficiency in management of permits
- Significant time savings
- Easy and accurate completion of statistical returns
- Improved risk assessment and quicker identification of potential problem installations
- Improved cost accounting and management of staff resources
- Increased Transparency

Find out more about the system and its functionality over-leaf...

Some of the facilities available in the GeoEnviron Environmental Permits module are described below.

Data Management

The system allows for comprehensive management of data on installations, activities and fees

- Management of data on permits issued, refused, lapsed or withdrawn. transferred etc.
- Management of data on the types of installation and their associated activities and their relevant process guidance notes and provisions
- Easy look up of process and sector guidance notes and provisions for any installation
- Management of data on fees and inspection rates to enable cost accounting
- Registration of installation operational details including operating times, raw and risk phrase materials used, products and waste produced
- Registration of details of plant and equipment involved in the operation
- Management of contact details of relevant persons
- Management of air, noise and other emission monitoring data
- Management of Reduction Scheme solvent mass balance data from SED installations

Risk Assessment

- Facilities for risk assessing installations using DEFRA's methodology
- Ability to automatically create inspection plans based on the the outcome of risk assessments

Easy Management of both Proactive and Reactive Workflows

- Registration of incidents, enquiries or complaints and monitoring and reporting on subsequent actions taken
- Decision support in the form of a built in **Quality Management System (QMS)** that allows you to create standard procedures that officers can follow when dealing with applications and complaints
- A built-in officer diary to help you stay on top of your applications and inspection schedules.
- Integration to Outlook and other email calendars
- Mail merge facilities for standard letter writing
- Monitoring of notices served and prosecutions undertaken

Reporting

- Inspection reports that allow you to get an overview of planned and executed inspections as well as to track inspection actions and results for individual installations.
- A selection of standard reports that allow you to monitor your performance and easily produce BVPI and DEFRA statistical returns

GIS

- Easy visualisation of the location of an installation using the built-in GIS facilities or the integration to an external GIS. We currently support ESRI/ArcView, MapInfo, Cadcorp and GGP.

Automated completion of Statistical Returns

- The GeoEnviron Statistical Return Generator takes all of the effort out of completing the DEFRA statistical returns. Provided that you have entered the required data into the system correctly during the course of the year, then the answers necessary to complete your statistical return will be just a few button clicks away.

Web Solutions

- The system is web-enabled giving you the ability to share data contained within the system with colleagues and the public via the intranet/internet. Our web solutions are ideal for use as a Permits Public Register.

Training and Support

We provide top quality training and support services to make sure you get the most out of the system. There is also a lively User Group and on-line discussion forum.

We recognize that environmental health professionals work in an industry where change occurs frequently and consequently we try to design our systems such that they are able to rapidly adapt to these changes. To this end we are continuously developing our systems to ensure that they remain in line with the latest legislative and technological developments.

Testimonials

Below are some quotes from some of our users:

"I've always seen DEFRA's Annual Statistical Return as an opportunity to review and report on the considerable amount of work undertaken by the team during the year. Now, this software will help us do that work more efficiently and in a more transparent manner."

Tracy Hilton, Principal Officer, Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council

"...After last year when we spent meeting after meeting trying to derive the data.... we are now so relieved that the new stats generator does just what we need in order to report effectively."

Gary Park, Pollution Officer, Northumberland County Council

