

Environment Agency– Abu Dhabi



Update of Environmental Permitting Procedures and Guidelines

Environmental Permitting Procedures
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Launch Ceremony
Monday, 26 April 2010



Overview

- Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) have been updated for the environmental permitting of the following:
 - Development Projects
 - Industrial Facilities
 - Hazardous Materials

- The new SOPs outline the requirements for environmental permitting of projects within the Abu Dhabi Emirate and provide step-by-step instructions for obtaining a permit

What is an Environmental Permit?

- EAD issues environmental permits or No Objection Certificates (NOCs) for the following types of projects and facilities:
 - Development and Infrastructure Projects
 - Industrial, Commercial or Light Industrial Facilities
 - Facilities that import, export, produce, store or manage chemicals or hazardous materials

- Environmental Permits and NOCs are designed to ensure that the necessary measures to minimise and mitigate potential environmental impacts are implemented during the construction, operation and decommissioning phases of the project or facility.

When is an Environmental Permit required?

- There are two types of Environmental Permits:
 - Construction Permits (or NOCs in the case of development projects)
 - Operating Permits

- Construction Permits (or NOCs) must be obtained prior to:
 - Construction of a new project/facility
 - Additions or modifications to an existing project/facility
 - Decommissioning of an existing project/facility

When is an Environmental Permit required?

- Operating Permits must be obtained prior to commencing operation of a project or facility
 - Applicable to industrial projects
 - Applicable to development projects such as major ports, airports, sewage treatment plants, power stations, etc
 - Projects without an operational component may not require a permit after construction has been completed

- Permits (and NOCs) are renewed annually to ensure:
 - The project or facility is complying with the permit conditions
 - The permit is updated to reflect current operations

Why is an Environmental Permit required?

- Federal Law No.24 of 1999 for the Protection and Development of the Environment requires that all projects or establishments obtain a license (i.e. environmental permit or NOC) prior to starting an activity.

- As the competent authority for the implementation of Federal Law No. 24 within the Abu Dhabi Emirate, EAD is responsible for the environmental permitting of:
 - Development and infrastructure projects
 - Facilities with commercial licenses or light industrial facilities
 - Chemical or hazardous materials facilities.

- ZonesCorp is the designated authority for permitting of facilities with an industrial license

Who applies for an Environmental Permit?

- ❑ An Environmental Permit application should be completed by the proponent or an EAD-approved consultant who is engaged by the proponent
- ❑ For Hazardous Materials facilities, a permit application for Trading in Chemical and Hazardous Materials is required
- ❑ The application must be submitted to either:
 - EAD Customer Service
 - Or through the ZonesCorp One-Stop-Shop (OSS) Website for industrial facilities
- ❑ The application should be submitted during the preliminary design phase of the project to ensure alternatives can be considered and all required environmental studies can be completed and approved

What happens next?

- EAD will review the application and notify the proponent if an environmental assessment is required
- Depending on the type and scale of project, requested studies may include:
 - Preliminary Environmental Review (PER)
 - Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)
 - Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)
 - Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP)
 - Operating Environmental Management Plan (OEMP)
 - Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (DEMP)

What happens next?

- ❑ The environmental study must be completed by an EAD-approved consultant and submitted to EAD (or the designated authority) for review
- ❑ Once the study is approved, a permit (or NOC) for the appropriate phase of the project will be issued
- ❑ The proponent may commence activities on site, subject to the conditions stipulated in the permit

Renewing an Environmental Permit

- Environmental Permits and NOCs must be renewed annually
- Submit a **Request for Renewal** to EAD (or ZonesCorp in the case of industrial facilities)
- If the proponent has provided any requested environmental reports and no violations have been recorded during site inspections, the renewal is usually granted without further action on the part of the proponent
- Otherwise, EAD may contact the proponent for more information or conduct an inspection prior to issuing the permit renewal
- If inadequate or no action has been taken to correct violations, the NOC or permit may be revoked or may be conditionally approved pending further corrective action

Further Information

- Refer to the following documents:
 - *Standard Operating Procedures for Permitting of Development and Infrastructure Projects in Abu Dhabi (April 2010)*
 - *Standard Operating Procedures for Permitting of Industrial, Commercial and Light Industrial Projects in Abu Dhabi (April 2010)*
 - *Standard Operating Procedures for Permitting of Chemicals and Hazardous Materials in Abu Dhabi (April 2010)*

- Visit the EAD website www.ead.ae
- Contact EAD Customer Service
 - Phone +971 02 695 6505 (*temporary – check website for updates*)
 - Email customerservice@ead.ae