

Updated EAD Guidance Documents

What's the update?

In April 2010, the Environment Agency—Abu Dhabi (EAD) released a suite of revised Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for the permitting of projects and facilities, and Technical Guidance documents for the preparation and submission of environmental studies. The SOPs and Technical Guidance documents have been updated and developed to reflect international best practices and procedures, and supersede previously published EAD guidelines.

The release was marked by an official launch ceremony attended by environmental consultants, proponents, sector regulatory authorities, EAD staff, and the public. The full suite of revised documents is now publically available on the EAD Web site. The documents will be reviewed and updated every 2 to 3 years.

The SOPs and Technical Guidance documents comply with Federal Law No.24 of 1999 for the Protection and Development of the Environment, and they support and complement the Abu Dhabi Environment, Health and Safety Management System Framework, which is scheduled for implementation in 2011.

What are SOPs?

SOPs are documents that set out the standard environmental permitting process for industrial facilities and development projects within Abu Dhabi Emirate. The documents include information about submitting an environmental permit application, performing and submitting an environmental assessment, and obtaining a No Objection Certification for construction or an environmental permit for construction/operation. There is also an SOP for the registration of environmental consultancy offices working in the Emirate.

The revised suite of SOPs includes the following documents:

- SOP for Permitting of Development and Infrastructure Projects in Abu Dhabi
- SOP for Permitting of Industrial, Commercial, and Light Industrial Projects in Abu Dhabi
- SOP for Permitting of Chemicals and Hazardous Materials in Abu Dhabi
- SOP for Registration of Environmental Consultancy Offices in Abu Dhabi

What are Technical Guidance Documents?

Technical Guidance documents outline the requirements for the preparation and submission of environmental studies and environmental management plans to EAD. The documents provide guidance on the required format and content of environmental studies and plans on a chapter by chapter basis. There is also a Technical Guidance document which details the specific submission requirements for environmental permit applications and environmental studies.

The revised suite of Technical Guidance documents includes the following:

- Technical Guidance Document for Preliminary Environmental Review (PER)
- Technical Guidance Document for Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)
- Technical Guidance Document for Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)
- Technical Guidance Document for Terms of Reference (TOR)
- Technical Guidance Document for Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP)
- Technical Guidance Document for Operation Environmental Management Plan (OEMP)
- Technical Guidance Document for Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (DEMP)
- Technical Guidance Document for Environmental Action Plan (EAP)
- Technical Guidance Document for Submission of Environmental Permit Applications and Environmental Studies

Further information?

For further information, visit the EAD Web site or contact EAD Customer Service.