

Guidance on when a plant is a Co-Incineration Plant

Document author: National Services/ Knowledge, Strategy & Planning (KSP)

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Natural Resources Wales

Cambria House

29 Newport Road

Cardiff

CF24 0TP

0300 065 3000 (Mon-Fri, 8am - 6pm)

enquiries@naturalresourceswales.gov.uk

www.naturalresourceswales.gov.uk

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Guidance on when a plant is a Co-Incineration Plant – v 3

Purpose

To provide guidance for Natural Resources Wales staff to use in reaching a decision on when a plant, within the scope of the Waste Incineration Directive (WID), should be classified as a co-incineration plant.

Using this document

The WID applies to incineration plants and co-incineration plants. Co-incineration plants constitute a particular form of incineration plant and this document provides a set of criteria to help decide when a plant should be considered a co-incineration plant (i.e. a plant having as its primary purpose the production of material products or generation of energy).

The table poses typical scenarios which should be assessed sequentially as shown in the flow chart attached. For each scenario select which of the two descriptions **most aptly** describes the plant under consideration. Where a conclusion can be drawn from a particular scenario, it is not necessary to consider the succeeding scenarios.

Assessment of the primary purpose of a plant is made on the basis of the facts existing at the time at which the assessment is carried out. The primary purpose of the plant can therefore be re-assessed at a later date should the facts change.

Should you be unclear on any element of the assessment, or should the scenarios posed below not produce a clear answer, contact a technical advisor.

1. Does the plant produce Material Outputs?

No

Or Yes

The plant only produces energy (electricity and / or heat).

e.g. the plant produces a fuel product¹ from waste or uses the fuel energy from the waste directly in making a product. (e.g. Cement plants).

Proceed to Question 2

The Plant is a Co-Incineration Plant – end of assessment.

¹ The gas/liquid/solid produced by a gasification or pyrolysis plant is only considered a product where it has passed an [end of waste test](#) and is no longer considered a waste

2. Is energy recovered from the waste burning plant?

No Or Yes

There is a net export of energy (as electricity or heat) to other plant in the installation or users outside the installation.

The Plant is an Incineration Plant –
end of assessment.

Proceed to Question 3

3. Is the waste the principal source of fuel?

Yes Or No

Waste is burnt as the principal source of fuel. (i.e. the plant operates on non-waste fuels only occasionally, or not at all) The waste is a supplementary fuel in a plant of designed to burn fuels which are not waste.

Proceed to Question 4

The Plant is a Co-Incineration Plant –
end of assessment.

4. Is the waste being burnt mixed waste comprising different materials?

Yes Or No

The waste being burnt comprises different materials (e.g. mixed municipal waste, RDF). The waste has consistent characteristics different and can be compared to a virgin fuel (e.g. waste wood)

Proceed to Question 5

Proceed to Question 6

5. Has the waste been treated to improve its fuel quality?

No Or Yes

The waste being burnt does not undergo any significant pre-treatment performance as a fuel. All the waste has been treated (on or off site) to a relevant standard to enhance its performance as a fuel (e.g. SRF has CEN TS 15359)

The Plant is an Incineration Plant –
end of assessment.

Proceed to Question 7

6. What level of Energy Recovery is achieved?

Energy recovery is below 0.8 MWh_e/tonne waste

Or Energy recovery is at least 0.8 MWh_e/tonne² waste or the plant achieves good quality CHP status³.

The Plant is an Incineration Plant –
end end of assessment of assessment.

The Plant is a Co-Incineration Plant –

7. How is the plant operation managed?

The plant operation is not linked to a particular energy-consuming facility (e.g. industrial site, and is normally limited only by the business park) in terms of capacity and availability of waste feed (e.g. The operability. When the consuming facility is principal output is electricity which is not operating (other than short-duration mainly supplied to the national grid). maintenance), the producing plant stops operating.

The Plant is an Incineration Plant –
end end of assessment. of assessment.

The Plant is a Co-Incineration Plant –

² This figure has been derived from the BREF (BAT point 66). It is only relevant to this assessment and does not define an acceptable level of energy recovery. Energy recovery and energy efficiency are to be assessed in detail during permit determination.

³ See 'The CHPQA Standard' for details about good quality CHP status

