

IPPC Frequently Asked Questions

These questions have been organised into the following categories:

General – questions about the regulatory framework

Application Procedures – Existing farms

Application Procedures – New Farms

Charging – questions about application and subsistence fees

After your permit is issued – questions about what we will do, what you need to do

General

What regulations bring PPC Pig & Poultry into force?

The Pollution Prevention and Control (England and Wales) Regulations 2000, and they can be viewed here: <http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2000/20001973.htm>

What is the difference between IPPC and PPC?

IPPC (Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control) is the name of the European Directive 96/61/EC, which was transposed into England and Wales legislation as the Pollution Prevention and Control Regulations (PPC) in August 2000.

Who has to make an application?

Anyone operating an 'installation' with capacity for more than 40,000 poultry, 2000 finishing pigs or 750 sows, needs to apply to the Environment Agency for a permit to operate.

What is counted as poultry rearing?

Poultry rearing includes: production of broiler meat chickens, turkeys, ducks, or quails, and laying hens pullet rearing. Hatcheries are not included due to their minimal emissions.

Does the issued permit state a number of animal places?

The permit will state the **Capacity available**, rather than the number of animals. You should state the maximum number of animal places you have capacity for in your application.

What is a directly associated activity?

Directly associated activities include all other activities carried out on site that are needed for the site to function and could have an effect on the environment e.g.; Oil tanks, slurry store.

What happens if my permit is refused?

You may appeal against the decision to the Secretary of State, and may continue to operate pending the outcome of your appeal. You will have to stop farming above the PPC thresholds.

What do you do with my application?

- We will establish that the application is complete (all sections completed, form signed, and application fee included). If anything is missing, we will ask you to provide it before processing it;
- We will ask you to advertise the application in the London Gazette and a local paper using a standard template;
- We will log the application on our computer systems and send copies to Statutory Consultees;
- We will lodge a copy of your application on our Public Register;
- We will consider any comments from consultees and the public and identify whether any of the responses affect the permit being issued;

- We will then go through the application and decide which permit conditions are relevant and draw up details of any improvements that may be required.
- We will assess the impact of your farm on the environment and identify if there are any additional measures required to protect sensitive wildlife habitats – for more information see briefing on [Habitats Regulations](#)
- We will share a draft permit and any improvement conditions with you, which you will have the opportunity to comment upon before the permit is issued.
- Once your permit is issued, we will lodge a copy of it on our Public Register.

Why does my application have to be advertised? I am worried that animal rights activists may get hold of details of my farm.

There is a move across Europe to involve the public more in decision making, including permitting. The PPC Regulations require information to be lodged on the Public Register including copies of the application and the permit. The application must be advertised and the Regulations specify that the name of the operator and the address where the activity takes place must be included in the advert.

Farming industry representatives have lobbied Defra and Ministers to relax this requirement for this sector, but the requests have been rejected.

We make such information available through Public Registers based in each of our eight regions. In addition, our web-site ([What's in my backyard](#)) allows people to identify sites on a local basis, although at the current time it is not easy for anyone to obtain a list of farms (or any other type of site) to target.

Will I be able to get any permit conditions changed if I don't agree with them?

Permit conditions for all sectors including the intensive livestock are fixed and cannot be modified. However, your permit will include improvement conditions that will be site specific. There is potentially some flexibility in what you do and by when.

You have a right to appeal to the Secretary of State if you are aggrieved by the conditions in your permit, and may continue to operate pending the outcome of your appeal.

Is free-range rearing covered?

Yes, free-range poultry are covered as these are still intensive rearing systems if the bird threshold is exceeded; No, free-range (outdoor) pigs are not covered, as this rearing system is considered extensive.

Why is an 'installation' permitted rather than a farm?

PPC covers a wide range of industries and the term for the place that is permitted is 'installation'. Further guidance on what we have interpreted to be an installation is provided in our ['Interpretation of Installation'](#) document.

My business operates across a number of units with shared facilities – is that one 'installation'?

Further guidance on what we have interpreted to be an installation is provided in our ['Interpretation of Installation'](#) document. You can also discuss your set up with one of our local Environment Agency officers, who may visit your farm if your set-up is complex. It will be helpful to any discussion to have the different parts of your business drawn out on a map or plan.

If you have a site with 40,000+poultry places and 1500 finishing pigs for example, will the pig operation be included within the poultry permit?

Only the poultry rearing activity requires a permit as the pig rearing is below the relevant threshold.

What if you had both a chicken and pig unit on the same site, both over the threshold - would you need to apply twice / pay twice?

It is a fixed charge per permit application. If separate permits are needed for the different activities (because they are run by different farm managers) then separate fees would be required.

If a pig unit is rented out but part of a larger farm which part would be permitted and who would have to apply for a permit?

The pig unit and any directly associated activities would be the installation covered by the permit. The applicant must be the person who has control over its operation. Refer to [Interpretation of "Installation"](#) and understanding the meaning of "operator" in the PPC Regulations.

I understand a minority of dairy farmers keep their cows housed all year round – would IPPC apply to them?

No, IPPC does not apply to dairy cows at present. The European Commission are reviewing this position currently.

Application Procedures – Existing Farms

When do I have to make an application?

Anyone wishing to expand their numbers over the thresholds, making a substantial change to their operation or planning to start a new farm needs a permit in place before livestock are placed.

Any farm that was already in existence in 2000 and wishing to continue beyond January 2007 must apply for a permit between November 1st 2006 and 31st January 2007.

How do I make an application?

We have a package of information to help you apply – An [Application package](#), and a set of [Model Applications](#).

Please contact the National Customer Contact Centre (NCCC) on 08708 506506 (Mon to Fri 8am - 6pm) or email enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk for further information about permit applications.

I have reduced the capacity on my farm, so I no longer come under IPPC Pig and Poultry

You would need to prove from your livestock records that you no longer have the capacity in the buildings by removing drinkers, feeders/tracks or closing a building etc. and show that the infrastructure is not available.

If you decide to do this, a written declaration will be needed in 2006/07 and some sort of proof i.e. numbers on herd charts, numbers going to factories etc. that you have not exceeded the threshold.

I have heard that the Regulations are likely to be delayed for three years – does that mean I don't need to do anything?

The Regulations have been in place since August 2000, and permits have already been issued for new farms. The UK would be in breach of the IPPC Directive if it failed to issue permits to all installations' by 30th October 2007, so there is no scope for delay. The sector was given time to prepare by scheduling the application window as late as possible. You should not delay your application.

What happens if I fail to apply by end January 2007?

If you fail to apply for a permit, and continue farming beyond January 2007, you are committing an offence. You risk being prosecuted by the Environment Agency if we find out.

Why is the window for application so short?

The Environment Agency has to permit a wide range of industries including power industries, chemical works, landfill sites, food processing sites and livestock farms before 30th October 2007. By giving each industry sector a window for application, we can phase our work and ensure we are meeting the requirements put upon us. The intensive livestock sector is the last sector to be permitted to give you plenty of time to prepare.

Do I have to wait for my permit to continue farming?

No. Provided you have made your application and we have confirmed receipt and that it is complete (duly made), you have met your obligation. We will then process your application and send you a permit in due course.

How long will it take to get my permit?

We estimate that it will take 4 months for us to issue your permit. You will see a draft before it is issued.

I've heard that the fees are going to be dropped for 3 years – is this true?

The poultry trade groups (British Poultry Council, British Egg Industry Council and National Farmers Union) proposed this to Ministers last year. However, the Minister did not support the proposal, and the fees must be submitted with an application.

Will there be inspections before the permit is issued?

No, we will not inspect your farm before we permit it. We may however need to discuss some aspects of the running of your farm, which may mean we come and see the site. This is likely in only a small number of cases.

Could an established farm be shut down?

We are not looking to close farms down through the permitting process. There would need to be robust grounds for a refusal. For example, if we did not believe the applicant could meet the conditions of the permit, or if the farm was causing damage to a sensitive habitat that could not be reduced to an acceptable level with a programme of improvements.

Please see our Briefing note on [Habitats Regulations](#)

Application Procedures – New Farms

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Charging

Why do I have to pay a fee?

The Environment Agency is required to recover the costs of permitting from applicants under Treasury Rules. We do not make a profit on the charge made, which mostly pays for the staff who write the permit. The charge also covers the costs of providing support to those permitting staff, and also covers the cost of preparing all of the guidance for farmers.

How much does an application cost?

The charge per site to make an Application for a Pig and Poultry Rearing Permit is £3,441. The Charges are listed on the [Pig & Poultry Application CD](#), In the document [Annex 1 to the pig and poultry application forms containing charges and emission factors for 2007/2008](#)

Does this include VAT and will I receive an invoice?

There is no VAT to be paid for the intensive farming applications. You will receive a letter stating that your application has been 'Duly Made', and this details what payment you made, and when we received it.

Will there be anything else to pay after the initial fee?

Yes, you will be required to pay an annual subsistence charge

The subsistence fee's are set at: £2303 for a small standard farm; £2886 for a large standard farm.

What is a small / large standard farm?

A **small** standard farm is between 750 – 7500 Sows; between 2000 – 20,000 Production pigs; between 40,000 – 400,000 Poultry.

A **large** standard farm is 7500 or more Sows; 20,000 or more Production pigs; 400,000 or more Poultry

Who do I make the cheque payable to?

Please make it payable to the Environment Agency

Can I pay by BACS?

Yes, both the application fee & annual subsistence can be paid in this way. Alternatively if you are applying for several permits at one time you can write one cheque for them all.

Can I pay the subsistence fee in stages?

Yes, this can be arranged. The subsistence fee is due, pro rata, once the permit is issued.

My farm has a road running through it. Does this mean I will have to pay twice?

Not necessarily, it could be classed as one installation depending on the distance and the way it is operated. Please refer to the [‘Interpretation of an Installation’](#) for guidance and illustrations.

The subsistence fee will really eat into my profitability, how can it be justified?

We have to assess that you are complying with your permit conditions, which will require us to visit your farm on occasion and to review your records. We will provide advice and support to make improvements, and will respond to any complaints. Our inspectors will be supported by technical staff, who advise on Best Available Techniques. We will maintain and update the guidance we provide to you. All of this work costs money, which under Treasury Rules we must recover from you. We do not make a profit on the charge made.

After your permit is issued

We are reviewed by our Assurance Schemes auditors -why can’t they cover PPC?

None of the Assurance Schemes have indicated that they wish to include all of the requirements of PPC in their schemes, so there will always be aspects that are only covered by PPC. The PPC Regulations require the Environment Agency to carry out Enforcement, and at the present time we are unable to pass that duty to other bodies. However, we are discussing with assurance scheme managers ways in which we could develop a PPC module that auditors could check against that would enable us to reduce our inspection frequency on compliant farms.

Many conditions have timetables for reviews to be submitted. Will farmers be given reminders about when to submit various reviews, plans etc before the deadline?

No, it will be up to the farmer to submit these to schedule. We will chase for those not submitted. We will discuss these reviews when we carry out a site inspection and will provide assistance and advice in completing them.

If I have roof vents with no treatment for rainwater running off how long would I have to sort it out?

How quickly we expect you to put in treatment will depend on factors such as what happens to the drainage now and what else needs to be improved on your site. We will consider the risks from your sites and prioritise work with you. We suggest you do not rush into anything as there are a number of research projects currently underway that will help us identify the main risks and some options for solution.

The 2 biggest issues for us are Insulation 0.4 U value and damp proofing which some of our sites would not comply with. We would hardly begin ‘ripping’ off roofs or digging up concrete floors, as those types of costs are well outside the industry’s capability. Since the introduction of Climate Change Agreements, this has encouraged a greater focus on energy efficiency, as far as damp proof is concerned.

We recognise that ‘retrofitting’ floors and insulation is not necessarily cost effective. These issues, in many cases, are better addressed when the buildings are replaced. However, where impermeable floors are incomplete or missing and cleaning effluents may seep through to the ground beneath, we will expect improvements to remove this risk. In this case, it may then be appropriate to ensure that the floor is damp-proof. All would be subject to an improvement plan agreed by Agency Area staff. They will use a risk-based approach to polluting the environment on a site-specific basis.

Please can you advise me if there any BAT standards likely to be produced for dust emissions, odour and noise, either as set levels, best practice or equipment that should be installed.

Some measures for management of dust, odour and noise are included within '[How to Comply](#)', however we recognise that these are limited. At a European level, most interest has been focused on managing ammonia emissions. Whilst some of these techniques will help reduce odour, we agree that more is needed on managing dust and noise. The BAT Reference documents are due to be reviewed in the next few years and we expect future drafts to include these emissions. We will input examples of Best Available Techniques from the UK based on our experience of visiting PPC permitted farms and observing the techniques used. Emission Limit Values (ELVs) are unlikely to be used for pig and poultry installations since that would require monitoring to be carried out. "Technical measures" are used rather than ELVs.

I don't need my permit anymore – what do I do about the permit?

You need to apply to surrender your permit, and complete a [surrender](#) application form. If you are closing the farm, you will need to satisfy us that any pollution that occurred whilst you had the permit has been cleaned up, and that you leave the site in a satisfactory and usable condition. If you are reducing your livestock numbers below the thresholds for PPC, you will need to permanently reduce the capacity in your buildings by removing drinkers, feeders/tracks or closing a building etc. and show that the infrastructure will not be available.

I have sold my farm to another operator – can he take on my permit?

We will need to be satisfied that the new owner can meet the requirements of PPC. You will need to complete a [transfer](#) application form before the new operator becomes responsible. You are responsible for compliance with the permit conditions until that transfer is completed.

I have made some changes to my farm – do I need a new permit?

You should discuss your changes with us before you put them in place. We can advise if you need to apply for a [variation](#) to your permit. Replacing a slurry store is unlikely to require a variation, but increasing your capacity to rear more livestock is likely to require a variation.