



IPPC permit

The name IPPC comes from the title of Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control Directive 96/61/EC of 24 September 1996.

The idea of developing a mechanism of IPPC permits was to create effective legal mechanisms enforcing prevention of emissions, limitation of installations' impact on the environment and establishment of uniform environmental protection requirements across the EU. The requirements aim at limitation of business inequality on the international market.

IPPC permit is required for running an installation, the functioning of which, due to the type and scale of activities, can cause significant pollution of particular elements of the environment or the environment as a whole. Installations covered by the requirement of an IPPC permit have been defined in the Regulation of the Minister of the Environment of 26 July 2002 on installations that can cause significant pollution of particular components of the environment or the environment as a whole.

The IPPC permit is an administrative decision regulating the terms for introducing substances or energy causing pollution to all components of the environment from some types of installations. Obtaining of the permit practically conditions the possibility of operating such installation types, at the same time replacing previous forms of permits for environmental impact.

The basis for introduction of an obligation to obtain an IPPC permit is the Council Directive 96/61/EC of 24 September 1996 concerning integrated pollution prevention and control. In Poland, the Directive has been transposed by the Act on Environment Protection of 27 April 2001 (Polish Journal of Acts 2001.62.627 as amended).

1. The scope of the IPPC permit

The idea behind creating an IPPC permit was to



establish a general decision covering all aspects of installation's environmental impact. Such a solution is entirely compatible with the sustainable development policy of the EU, which assumes that all elements of the environment are interrelated and directly or indirectly impact one another.

The IPPC permit as a permit for operation of an installation replaces previous decisions defining:

- volume of gas emissions or dust from the installation introduced into the air,
- permissible noise level,
- terms for waste production and methods of dealing with waste,
- requirements to be met by waste discharged to sewage network,
- terms for water consumption,
- permissible electromagnetic field.

At least once every 5 years, relevant environmental authorities analyse the issued IPPC permit.

In order to implement common environment protection standards in the EU and to gradually raise the standards and decrease industry's environmental impact, IPPC permit imposes on the operator the necessity to apply in the installations the Best Available Techniques – BAT.

Best Available Technique (BAT) defines practical applicability of particular techniques in relation to particular types of activities (installations). It defines the most effective and advanced solutions and methods for their introduction in order to eliminate or limit installation's environmental impact. „Techniques“ cover both technological

solutions, and the method of installation's design, construction, maintenance, operation and withdrawal of operation. „Available“ techniques means techniques developed on a scale that allows for their implementation in a particular industry sector, in economically and technically justified conditions, considering cost and benefit analysis. It is not significant whether particular techniques are available in a particular Member State of the operator, as it is a solution covering the industry across the EU. „Best“ means the technique which is the most effective in achieving the highest level of environmental protection as a whole.

Limit emission values and technological solutions that meet the requirements of the IPPC permit should be based on BAT proposals. The proposals, however, do not impose any particular solution for all installations of a particular type, but consider a number of factors such as geographical location of the installation and local environmental conditions. The volumes of emis-





sion limits specified in the permit must principally refer to such pollution which will probably be discharged in large quantities, and particularly priority pollutants enlisted in Annex III to the Directive.

Guidelines – the so-called BREFs (BAT Reference Notes) are prepared by the European IPPC Bureau in Seville. Some of them have already been prepared for cement industry; it is assumed that the remaining guidelines will be completed in 2005- 2006. BREFs do not have the status of legal acts, yet are fundamental guidelines on issuance of IPPC permits.

2. Cement industry

All cement plants in Poland (except one, which has officially delayed deadline for obtaining permit) have already obtained IPPC permits. It is important that this sector is one of the few industries in Europe which has so effectively imple-

mented IPPC requirements. BREF for industry has been prepared in 2003. Guidelines of BAT Reference Notes will, however, have to be verified in the future. One of the first revisions of BREF documents will be prepared for the cement and lime industry. This will most probably mean stricter requirements for IPPC permits for industry, and thus the necessity of further modernisations. It is important that the requirements, in reference to the requirements of emission trading system (the program aiming at performance of tasks imposed by the Kyoto Protocol) are not too restrictive. It must be remembered that both these systems operate only in the European Union, so imposing too strict restrictions could as a consequence lead to significant downsizing of industry in the EU, and thus to shifting production outside the Member States.

