

Environmental Aspect/Impact Review: WI 5

Complete the form as outlined below

1.0 Enter location details and date

2.0 Detail the activity that you are reviewing

3.0 Identify the aspects that are associated with the activity.

Environmental aspect is an organisation action, which cause some effect on the environment e.g.

i) The use of electricity is the aspect, and the impact is the use of fossil fuels, leading to the release of CO₂ which is a greenhouse gas

ii) The use of any raw material could be another example of an aspect, and the impact is would be the depletion of that particular resource, as well as the waste produced at the end of the product's life.

iii) Aspects to consider are:

Emissions to air

Releases to water

Production of waste

Contamination of land

Use of raw materials and natural resources

Noise, odour, dust, vibration

4.0 From the aspects that you have identified determine the impacts that they have on the environment. An impact is any positive or negative change to the environment (including land, air and water).

4.1 Considering Operational Conditions

When identifying the environmental impacts of Service's activities, a number of operating conditions must be considered:

i) **Normal operating conditions** - are those activities carried out under normal day to day operating conditions. They form the criteria to assess the obvious baseline situation for the Service against which environmental impacts would commonly be identified. Shut down and start up operating conditions should also be considered.

ii) **Abnormal operating conditions** - can result in impacts, which are not of significance under normal operation. Starting up or closing down a continuous process may create emissions not normally observed. Increased production can lead to new levels of transportation traffic in an area, which may be unacceptable. Working overtime may lead to increased local nuisance. Noise levels, which are acceptable during the day, are likely to be unacceptable during the night.

iii) **Past, current and planned activities:**

Past activities - may include liabilities for former activities, services and products. The consequences arising from the past operating practices may also have led to environmental impact; for example, ground contamination through storing waste drums which were allowed to corrode and leak.

Current activities - are those activities that the Service currently performs and consequently will have already been covered by considering normal activities.

Planned activities - for example, new developments, products, processes, services and technologies should also be evaluated for their environmental impacts.

iv) **Incident, accident, and potential emergency operating conditions** - are the more extreme forms of abnormal conditions, however, in many cases, the potential environmental impact can be identified. The basis for such identification can be provided through risk assessments, which are conducted with environmental risk in mind in addition to personal and property risk.

v) **Considering Direct and Indirect Environmental Impacts**

When identifying environmental impacts it is important to consider the Service's direct and indirect impacts and how these impinge on the environment. The degree of practical control held over the environmental impacts of the Service's activities must be taken in to account. Environmental impacts can be divided in to:

Direct environmental impact: those impacts, which are directly controllable by the Service. These can include policies and awareness raising as well as emissions to land, air, water and use of resources.

Indirect environmental impact: those impacts, which are outside Service control but could be influenced by the service, e.g. impacts of suppliers or contractors.

5.0 Example of Environmental Aspects and Impacts

Environmental Aspect	Environmental Impact
Use of energy from fossil fuels	Release of CO ₂ , use of non-renewable resource
Use of water	Depletion of natural resource
Discharge of effluent	Contamination of water resources and groundwater
Production of waste	Use of landfill, Release of Methane Potential pollution
Use of raw materials	Depletion of that resource
Tree planting Scheme (positive)	Absorption of CO ₂

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