Clarification of timescales for permitting Galvanisers

It has come to our attention that there has been some confusion among operators and local authorities about which part of the PPC Regulations operators carrying out galvanising operations should fall into. Processes which may have been classed as a Part B process under the 1990 Act may not necessarily remain as a Part B activity under PPC, and hence such operators may be operating without a permit.

We have spoken to the Galvanizers Association (GA) to provide clarification of this apparent misunderstanding of the Regulations.

The operation of a galvanising activity will be a **Part B activity only** if the activity does not fall under any of the following descriptions:

(a) Section 2.1 part A(2)(c) in Schedule 1 to the PPC Regulations,

> “applying protective fused metal coatings with an input of more than 2 tonnes of crude steel per hour”

**Date of Application 1st May – 31st July 2003**

(b) Section 2.2 part A(2)(a) in Schedule 1 to the PPC Regulations,

> “Melting, including making alloys, of non-ferrous metals, including recovered products (refining, foundry casting, etc.) where –
> i) the plant has a melting capacity of more than 4 tonnes per hour for lead or cadmium or 20 tonnes per day for all other metals; and
> ii) no furnace, bath or other holding vessel used in the plant for the melting has a design holding capacity of 5 tonnes or more.

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(c) Section 2.3 part A(2) in Schedule 1 to the PPC Regulations,
“Surface treating metals and plastic materials using an electrolytic or chemical process where the aggregated volume of the treatment vats is more than 30 m³ and where the activity is carried out at the same installation as one or more activities falling within

i) Part A(2) or B of Section 2.1 (Ferrous Metals)

ii) Part A(2) or B of Section 2.2 (Non-Ferrous Metals)

iii) Part A(2) or B of Section 6.4 (Coating Activities, Printing and Textile Treatments)

Date of Application for galvanisers with surface treatment vats with an aggregated volume in excess of 30 m³ depends on whether the accompanying 2.1, 2.2 or 6.4 activities are A2 or Part B. The table below clarifies the relevant periods for applications:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Installation with surface treatment activity (&gt;30m³ volume) associated with activity under section:</th>
<th>Relevant period</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2.1 A2 or 2.2 A2 or 6.4 A2</td>
<td>1 May to 31 July 2003</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.1 B or 2.2 B or 6.4 B</td>
<td>1 May to 31 July 2004</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

When determining the melting capacity under section 2.2 part A(2) (must be greater than 20 tonnes per day for melting zinc) local authorities are reminded of Defra’s views on capacity which are set out on page 155 of the Manual – available from [http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/ppc/](http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/ppc/)

At Defra’s request, GA has recently written to its members informing them that any existing operators falling under Part A(2) for sections 2.1 or 2.2 who had not submitted a duly made application by 31 July 2003 would be operating without a permit. Defra has asked GA to advise such members to contact their local authority and engage in the process of submitting an application as soon as possible.

Yours faithfully

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