

Environmental Authorisations (Scotland) Regulations 2018

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- The Environmental Authorisation (Scotland) Regulations 2018 (EASR 2018) came into force in September 2018.
- Integrates radioactive substances, water, waste management and industrial activities – the Integrated Authorisation Framework (IAF).
- Standardises, simplifies, and streamlines permitting processes.
- Provides an opportunity to overhaul waste permitting (exemptions & carriers)
- To extend the framework to the regulation of waste management, water and industrial activities, the Regulations need to be amended.

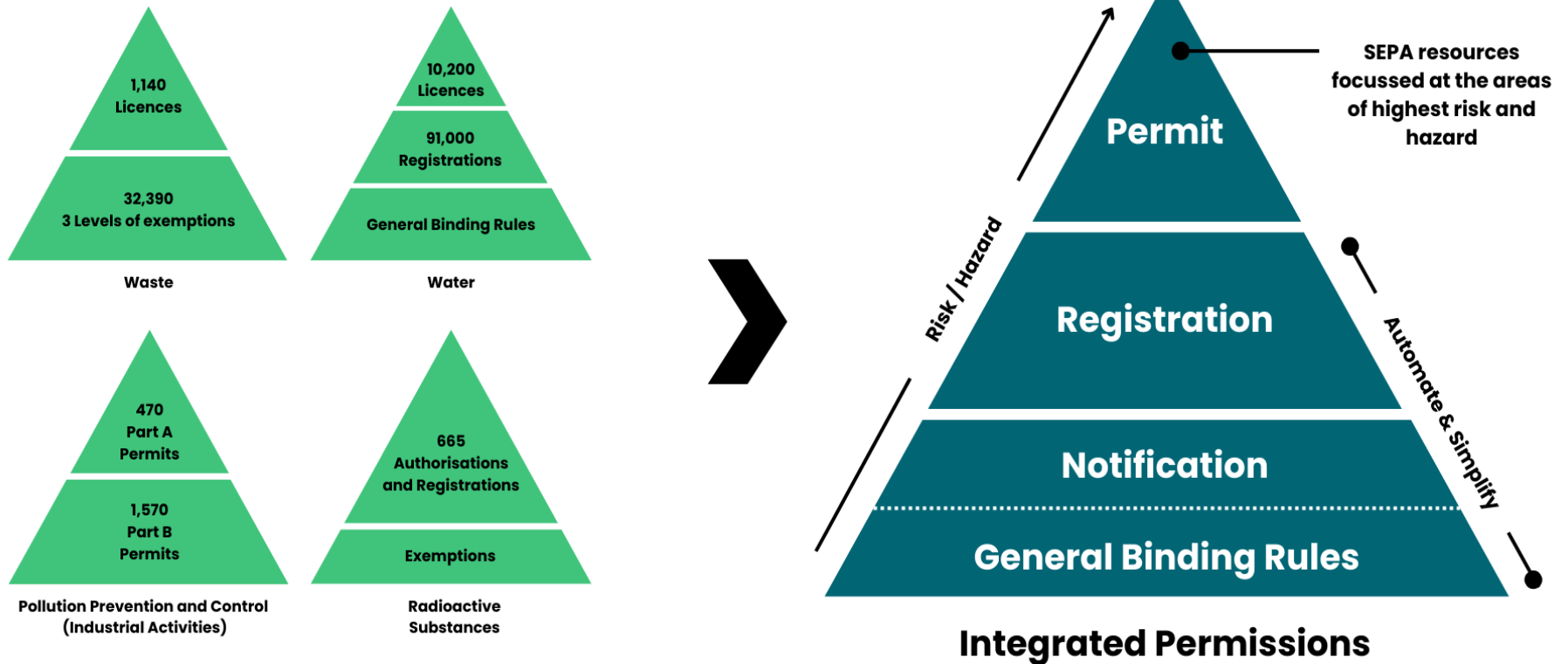
What does it cover?

In Scope	Out of Scope
Part II of the Environmental Protection Act 1990	Duty of Care
Waste Management Licensing Regulations 2011 (inc exemptions)	Waste Classification
PPC (Scotland) Regulations 2012	Special Waste Regulations 1996
Waste Carriers Regulations	Producer Responsibility
ELV, WEEE, Batteries and MRF COP Regulations	Transfrontier Shipment (TFS)
Landfill and Incineration Regulations	By-Products & End-of-Waste
Sludge (Use in Agriculture) Regulations 1989	

Key Features of the Regulations

- New definition of 'Waste Management'
- New authorisations – GBRs, Notifications, Registrations & Permits
- Definition of Authorised Person – Regulation 5 & [Guidance](#)
- Enhanced Fit and Proper Person test – Regulation 68 & [Guidance](#)
- Public Participation arrangements – Regulation 67 & [Guidance](#)
- Regulatory Notices – Part 9
- Technical Schedules – One each for Hazardous Waste, ELVs, WEEE, Batteries, MRF CoP, Waste to Land, Incineration & Landfill

Authorisation Types



Technical Standards

- Schedule 11 – Waste Management Activities
- Schedule 12 – Hazardous Waste & Waste Oil
- Schedule 13 – Landfill
- Schedule 14 – Materials Recovery Code
- Schedule 15 – Waste Motor Vehicles
- Schedule 16 – Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment
- Schedule 17 – Management of Waste Batteries
- Schedule 18 – Waste to Land for Soil Improvement
- Schedule 22 – Waste Incineration & Co-Incineration

Low Risk Activities

- SEPA will not require an authorisation for a range of low risk activities
- For example – burning plant cuttings on a farm, composting at a golf course or school.
- SEPA reserve the right to act in cases where there is environmental harm.
- Limited to activities outside the waste management industry
- Less time spent on low risk activities.

Collection GBRs

- Clearer approach to storage as part of collection (esp Para 40)
- Three GBRs for different collection models
- Adaptable to CE innovation – easy to get materials into the system
- Similar to EA approach
- No application and not entered onto a database
- Important to align with Digital Waste Tracking development.

Storage & Treatment of Waste

- Review of activities from across the exemption list.
- Operating a waste management 'site' is Registration at minimum – no longer possible to get authorised for a site with a click of a mouse.
- Subject to FPP test
- Subject to Standard Rules
- Includes a charge
- Registrations for lower risk activities – e.g. aggregates, metal, wood etc
- Permits for mixed waste and higher risk wastes.

Storage & Treatment of Waste

- Highlighting 3 main areas of change (though there are more)
- Recovery of waste on land for the purpose of soil improvement (including sewage sludge)
- Use of waste in Construction, Restoration, Reclamation and Improvement of Land
- Soil Wash Plants

Waste to Land to for soil improvement

- Delivers recommendations of SG Sludge Review
- New legislation to drive standards / transpose the sludge Directive
- Waste and sludge regulation to be integrated
- New prohibition on spreading untreated sewage sludge
- Soil protection standards tightened
- Operator based permitting will be the majority – covering a whole landbank (tiered at 1500 hectares but no size limit)
- Standard rules for registrations available

Use of Waste in Construction, Restoration, Reclamation and Improvement of Land

- Paragraph 9 & 19 cover a large spread of risk
- Registration for the main activities – subject to recovery justification – charges scaled by project size as today. Waste Recovery Plan guidance (WAS-G-EASR-11) is available on website
- Remove the reference to ‘relevant works’ – project to be justified on their own merits
- FPP enabled at Registration level – also compliance notices
- Permits for long term / large projects – large quarry backfill (>100,000 tonnes)/ OCC Restoration

Soil Wash Plants

- Currently mix of para 13 (manufacture of goods from specified wastes), para 24 (size reduction of bricks tiles and concrete) and WMLs.
- Registration under EASR will not apply to wash plants.
- Activity of concern particularly due to waste acceptance, large tonnages and pollution potential so will be a Permit level activity
- Full FPP assessment
- Permit template currently being developed to aid consistency

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Timeline	
June 2025	Application window opens for Schedule 18 activities (recovery of waste on land for soil improvement)
5 August 2025	Guidance and forms go live on SEPA website
31 October 2025	Last day to register under WMX or apply under current legislation
1 November 2025	Amendments to EASR 2018 come into effect. Current WMLs and PPC permits are deemed to be authorisations.
	Activities currently covered by complex exemptions will need to apply under EASR before their renewal date to continue the activity while simple exemptions which need registrations or permits can apply at any time.
31 October 2026	No simple and complex exemptions under WML will exist after this date. All activities must be appropriately authorised to continue.
April 27, April 28 and Jan 29	Amendments take effect for new industrial activities – April 28 for non-waste AD

Thank you

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