

# Medium Combustion Plant Directive (MCPD) Factsheet



New MCP's			
	England / Wales	Scotland	Northern Ireland
Permit Application Date	Before it's commissioned		
Monitoring requirements	The first submission will be within 4 months of the permit being issued or the start of operation, whichever is the latest. Then at the following frequencies: <b>5 - 20MWth</b> Monitor once every 3 years <b>20 - 50MWth</b> Monitor Annually		
Monitoring Requirements for Limited Operating Hours	Operating less than 500 hours in a 3 year rolling average, not exceeding more than 750 operating hours in any single year or 1,500 hours over 3 years. <sup>1</sup> You must tell the regulator if any MCP exceeds the 500 hour annual operational limit in one 12 month period. <b>5 - 20MWth</b> Monitor once every 1500 hours with a minimum of once every 5 years. <b>20 - 50MWth</b> Monitor once every 500 hours with a minimum of once every 5 years.	Operating less than 500 hours in a 3 year rolling average. <sup>2</sup> <b>5 - 20MWth</b> Monitor once every 1500 hours with a minimum of once every 5 years. <b>20 - 50MWth</b> Monitor once every 500 hours with a minimum of once every 5 years.	No more than 250 operating hours per year. <sup>3</sup> A reduced monitoring frequency is allowed for plant operating under the limited hours exemption but monitoring will be required no less than once every 5 years. <sup>4</sup>
Permits in place by	Before it's commissioned		
ELV Compliance Date	Date of permit issue (effectively when monitoring is conducted in the following 4 months)		

Existing MCPs between 5-50 MWth			
	England / Wales	Scotland	Northern Ireland
Permit Application Date	<b>Permit Applications will open no later than 31st March 2023</b> <sup>4</sup> You will be notified if your application is 'duly made' within one month in England, 21 working days in Wales. Once duly made the regulator will proceed to determine the permit. This process usually takes a maximum of 4 months. <sup>5</sup> A total maximum of <b>5 months</b> from application to permit.	<b>Permit Applications must be received by 30th June 2023</b> You will be notified within 15 working days if your application is 'duly made'. Once duly made the regulator will proceed to determine the permit. The regulations allow SEPA four months to process an application. <sup>6</sup> A total maximum of <b>5 months</b> from application to permit. SEPA are updating their website shortly with details of the permitting process for Phase 2, Existing Plant.	All applicable MCP are required to obtain a permit either from their District Council or NIEA. Burning any fuels in a medium combustion plant with a net rated thermal input of 1– 50 MWth falls under Part C of the PPC Regulations and requires a part C permit. <sup>7</sup> Plant located on Part A and Part B sites will be dealt with by the NIEA, while plant not on already regulated sites will be dealt with by the District Council of the area in which the plant is located. <sup>8</sup> You will be notified within 15 working days if your application is 'duly made'. The Northern Ireland regulator may take up to 6 months to determine a permit. A total maximum of <b>6.5 months</b> from application to permit.
Monitoring requirements	The first submission will be allowed at the time of the application, the measurement must have been taken within the last 2 years. Then at the following frequencies: <b>5 - 20MWth</b> Monitor once every 3 years <b>20 - 50MWth</b> Monitor Annually		
Monitoring Requirements for Limited Operating Hours	Operating less than 500 hours in a 5 year rolling average, not exceeding more than 750 operating hours in any single year, 1,500 hours over 3 years or 2,500 hours over 5 years. You must tell the regulator if any MCP exceeds the 500 hour annual operational limit in one 12 month period. <b>5 - 20MWth</b> Monitor once every 1500 hours with a minimum of once every 5 years. <b>20 - 50MWth</b> Monitor once every 500 hours with a minimum of once every 5 years.	Operating less than 500 hours in a 5 year rolling average. <b>5 - 20MWth</b> Monitor once every 1500 hours with a minimum of once every 5 years. <b>20 - 50MWth</b> Monitor once every 500 hours with a minimum of once every 5 years.	No more than 500 operating hours per year. A reduced monitoring frequency is allowed for plant operating under the limited hours exemption but monitoring will be required no less than once every 5 years.
Permits in place by	1st January 2024		
ELV Compliance Date	1st January 2025		

# Medium Combustion Plant Directive (MCPD) Factsheet



# CEA

Combustion Engineering Association

Existing MCPs between 1-5 MWth			
	England / Wales	Scotland	Northern Ireland
Permit Application Date	Typically 6 months prior to permitting deadline	Permit Applications must be received by <b>30th June 2028</b>	Typically 6 months prior to permitting deadline
Permits in place by	1st January 2029		
ELV Compliance Date	1st January 2030		

## Definitions

**“New”** are defined as a combustion unit that was first fired with its design fuel up to its full load on or after 20th December 2018.

**“Existing”** are defined as a combustion unit that was first fired with its design fuel up to its full load prior to 20th December 2018.

**“Existing”** will become **“New”** if it is:

- Altered or repaired and this changes the ELV for the worse, that is pollution levels are increased; or,
- Substantially refurbished, where costs are more than 50% of a comparable new MCP replacement.

**Emissions** are defined as flow, particulates and gas concentrations of stack gas emissions. The **values** are the measurement of emissions at a fixed oxygen reference condition.

**ELVs - Emission Limit Values** are set concentration limits, expressed at a fixed oxygen reference condition in the dry flue gas at 273.15K and 101.3kPa. ELVs are defined for NO<sub>x</sub>, SO<sub>2</sub> and dust (depending on fuel type) and although ELVs are not set for CO this must also be monitored. Periodic monitoring results must be less than or equal to the ELV but the regulator will also take into account the measurement uncertainty when assessing compliance.

The ELVs can be found in the [Directive Annex II](#), there are separate tables for Existing MCPs between 1-5MWth, Existing MCPs between 5-50MWth and New MCPs.

## The Competent Authorities for MCPD:

England: Environment Agency (EA)  
 Scotland: Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA)  
 Northern Ireland: Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA)  
 Wales: Natural Resources Wales (NRW)

## All permits :

Once the regulator has the information to start assessing your application, they will notify you that your application is **‘duly made’**. You will be notified if your application is ‘duly made’ within one month in England, 21 working days in Wales, 15 working days within Northern Ireland and Scotland. <sup>2</sup>

The directive states that the regulator will start procedure for determining an application for the grant of an environmental permit within one month of a ‘duly made’ application. This process usually takes a maximum of 4 months except in northern Ireland where the regulator may take up to 6 months to determine a permit.

## Emissions Testing

From 1st January 2025 Portable Emissions Monitoring Systems must have MCERTS certification. The certified range must be no more than 6.5 times the ELV.

Until 1st January 2025 monitoring systems assessed against the requirements of EN 50379-2 may be used, the assessment must be made by an organization accredited for these performance requirements.

The organisation carrying out the monitoring must have procedures to match the requirements of the “Monitoring stack emissions: low risk MCPs and specified generators”. These procedures must be included in a management system, such as ISO 9001, this system must be certified by a UKAS Certification body.

## Ready Reckoner - To help identify the size of your plant in relation to thermal input

Courtesy of SAACKE

	Steam				Hot Water		
Approximate boiler output, for the net relevant heat input. Based on kg/h F&A 100°C & 85% net efficiency	<b>1 MW</b>	1,350 kg/h	2,974 lb/h	Approximate boiler output, for the net relevant heat input. Based on 85% net efficiency	<b>1 MW</b>	0.85 MW	850 kW
	<b>5 MW</b>	6,780 kg/h	14,934 lb/h		<b>5 MW</b>	4.25 MW	4,250 kW
	<b>20 MW</b>	27,125 kg/h	59,747 lb/h		<b>20 MW</b>	17 MW	17,000 kW
	<b>50 MW</b>	67,800 kg/h	149,339 lb/h		<b>50 MW</b>	42.5 MW	42,500 kW