

Factsheet 2.05 - Relationship permitting and inspection

The following issues could be helpful while establishing and encouraging a good level of cooperation between permit writers and inspectors:

- Inspection reports, documents and risk priorities can be used in the application phase;
- Complaints received by the inspector about existing installation can be reported to the permit writer and be taken into account while defining the conditions;
- In case of a new installation the involvement of the inspector could be common site visit by the inspector and the permitting officer;
- A shared databases for permitting and inspections where information and inspection history can be found would be helpful;
- The enforceability check of the permit conditions by the inspectors should be mandatory action. This could also be done by other authorities. A library of standard set of conditions (standard requirements) would be very helpful in this;
- Inspectors can be the eyes and ears of the permit officers;
- Inspectors can use the information from the permitting officers to shift their priorities or focus of their inspection work.

Although we believe that all actions above will have a positive influence in the relationship and the work, for some of them it will mean additional work. The lack of resources could form a risk in this cooperation.

Sharing the same objectives, targets and priorities will not always be easy or possible. However knowing these objectives, targets and priorities from each other could be very useful especially for the work of the inspector.

Involvement and good communication between inspection and permitting is very important and this can have different forms and structures. In general it's not good practice to have the same person for permitting and inspection. Although this might be seen as a very effective way of working, it can also be seen as a potential cause of loss of sight, since details non addressed in the permitting procedure could also be undervalued in the inspection.

A rotation system in where the roles (permitting officer or inspector) change at a certain moment could also help in the understanding of each others work. Of course this can only be done if both persons work for the same organisations and there are no legal constrains.