

Approval and operation of incineration plants which receive ABP

Contents

- Introduction
- Application for Approval to Incinerate Animal Carcasses/Parts of Carcasses or ABP
- Confirmation of operating conditions – manufacturer's declaration
- Location of Incinerator
- General Conditions
- Operation
- Additional Guidance for Low Capacity Incinerators
- Additional Guidance for High Capacity Incinerators
- Ash originating from pet animals

Introduction

The relevant EU ABP legislation is:

- Regulation **1069/2009** hereafter referred to as the “Control Regulation”.
- Implementing Regulation **142/2011** hereafter referred to as the “Implementing Regulation”.

Incineration of animal by-products must take place at an approved plant. This may need approval under the Directive 2010/75/EU on industrial emissions (integrated pollution prevention and control). If burning more than 1 ton per hour or in a plant burning less than 1 tons an hour but more than 10 tons a day, approval is through the Animal Health and Welfare Department. Products derived from animal by-products may be subject to the requirements of WID. For further clarification contact the Animal Health and Welfare Department tel. 22925372/76.

This guidance is based on the EU ABP Regulations and the corresponding enforcement legislation; it is specifically applicable to approval of incineration plants by the Animal Health and Welfare Department.

Please note, other regulatory compliance's may be required in addition to approval by the Animal Health and Welfare Department.

Application for Approval to Incinerate Animal Carcasses or Parts of Carcasses

Incineration of by-products cannot commence until approval has been issued by the Animal Health and Welfare Department.

In order to be approved, you should contact Animal Health and Welfare Department, Triq il-Biccerija, Albertown Marsa on 22925372/76, or email abpsection.mafa@gov.mt You can also obtain an application form for your business sending a request to the same email address.

Applications may be made for approval as Low Capacity (less than 50kg/hour) or High Capacity (more than 50kg/hour).

Note that the operation of more than one incinerator at the same premises providing for a potential throughput of greater than 50kg/hour will cause the plant to be considered High Capacity.

For approval to be granted it is necessary that both the incinerator and the premises on which it is located comply with the legislation.

An application will be reviewed by the Animal Health and Welfare Department's officer who will form an opinion as to whether the structure, operation and record keeping of the plant is likely to comply with the legislation. If no further information is required, an inspection will be carried out to witness compliant operation before an approval can be issued.

Confirmation of operating conditions – manufacturer's declaration

Annex III Section 2 of the Implementing Regulation 142/2011 states:

- Incineration or co-incineration plants shall be designed, equipped, built and operated in such a way that the gas resulting from the process is raised in a controlled and homogeneous fashion, even under the most unfavorable conditions, to a temperature of **850°C for at least two seconds** or to a temperature of **1100°C for 0.2 seconds**, as measured near the inner wall or at another representative point of the chamber where the incineration or the co-incineration is carried out, as authorized by the competent authority.

Operating conditions have previously been verified by the Animal Health and Welfare Department through a system of 'Type Approval'. However, this requirement has now been replaced by a declaration of compliance produced by incinerator manufacturers. The manufacturer must confirm by make and model that the incinerator will meet either the 850°C for two seconds or the new 1100°C for 0.2 seconds standard. Additionally, the declaration must state the operational settings that the incinerator must be operated at for compliance to be achieved.

The Animal Health and Welfare Department will not maintain a list of incinerators for which a declaration is available and it is the responsibility of the individual manufacturer to make the declaration available to the operator who will in turn make it available to the Animal Health and Welfare Department at the time of application for approval or subsequent inspection.

Location of Incinerator

If on a premises which has livestock and only by-products arising on that premises are incinerated there must be physical and operational separation such that the livestock cannot gain access to the incinerator and there is no risk of passive transfer of by-products to livestock by personnel or equipment. This will require dedicated equipment and clothing for use when operating the incinerator or cleansing and disinfection prior to use associated with stock.

If the incinerator will be used to incinerate by-products from other premises it must be located on a premise which has no livestock. For the location to be considered as a separate premise it must as a minimum have a defined secure boundary and dedicated entrance such that it does not form part of a livestock premises.

It may also be possible to approve the use of a mobile incinerator at specified locations which otherwise meet the regulatory requirements of approval for a static incinerator. In such cases an agreed procedure for the cleansing and disinfection of all mobile equipment prior to movement to a new location will be a condition of any approval issued.

General Conditions

If incineration is not undertaken immediately upon receipt of animal by-products at the plant, they must be stored in **identified leak proof, covered containers**.

After arrival at the plant, animal by-products must be disposed of without undue delay. No timescale is specified within the legislation and factors such as quantity and weather conditions may be relevant in determining this period however it is expected that they would not be stored for longer than 7 days.

The incinerator must be placed on a hard standing which may be bunded or sloped to drains. In a bunded area fluid may be absorbed and incinerated. The drained area must provide sufficient space for the cleansing and disinfection of containers or vehicles as appropriate to the plant in question.

Wastewater arising at a plant which handles category 1 specified risk material must pass preliminary treatment through a 6mm trap before leaving the site. Solid material recovered from the trap must be incinerated.

Cleaning and pest control procedures must be in place and documented.

Staff must have access to a washbasin, toilet and changing area.

Incompletely incinerated by-products must be re-incinerated or otherwise disposed of in accordance with Regulations.

Completely incinerated by-products of which only ash remains may be disposed of to landfill.

Operation of the plant must mitigate any risk to animal or public health.

A contingency plan must be in place for disposal of by-products in the event of breakdown.

Operation

Approval is subject to condition that operation is at all times in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions, a copy of which must be available at the plant.

Incineration of by-products must not take place if the exhaust gas is not held at a minimum of 850°C for two seconds or 1100°C for 0.2 seconds. With 850°C/2 seconds incinerators this is normally achieved using a secondary chamber to retain the gas for the requisite 2 seconds. It is therefore necessary that the gas in this chamber is at the required temperature before incineration of by-products begins.

Where the function of the primary incineration chamber and secondary chamber are operationally linked, such that the primary does not ignite until the secondary has reached 850°C, then the primary chamber can be loaded cold however if the function of the two chambers is not linked the primary chamber must be loaded hot.

Hot loading may pose health and safety risks, but the Animal Health and Welfare Department cannot approve a plant if incineration of by-products gives rise to exhaust gas at less than 850°C. Applicants should refer to the manufacturer for definitive guidance on the safe operation of the incinerator.

During operation the chamber temperatures (either single chamber or secondary chamber) must be recorded either automatically throughout the burn cycle or manually every 2 hours for 10% of incinerations.

The incinerator must be serviced annually by the manufacturer, or other competent person, who can provide written confirmation that it continues to operate in accordance with the manufacturer's standards.

Additional Guidance for Low Capacity Incinerators

When used to incinerate category 1 specified risk material a low capacity incinerator must be equipped with a secondary chamber. When used to incinerate other by-products a secondary chamber is not required, however a manufacturer's declaration must be available to ensure the time and temperature requirements are being achieved.

Carcasses containing specified risk material must be incinerated whole unless cutting up has taken place at a plant approved for that purpose.

Additional Guidance for High Capacity Incinerators

The applicant must produce independent verification of the required exhaust gas temperature and retention time. All high capacity incinerators must be equipped with a secondary chamber which switches on automatically if the temperature of the gas falls below 850°C or 1100°C as appropriate. There must be an automatic system which prevents introduction of material to be incinerated into the primary chamber at any time that the secondary temperature is below 850°C or 1100°C as appropriate. Slag and bottom ash must have less than 3% Total Organic Carbon or less than 5% loss on ignition. Either one of these tests must be completed annually with compliant outcome. Control measures must ensure that contaminated fluid cannot run off the plant and storage capacity must be available to retain any such fluid prior to safe disposal.

Ash originating from pet animals

Ash originating from incineration of pets (e.g. at pet crematoria), may be returned to the pet owner. The ABP Implementing Regulation states that animals must not have access to ash resulting from the incineration or co-incineration of ABPs. Therefore, it is important that pet owners choosing to scatter ashes should do so in such a way that other animals cannot get access to it i.e.: not on pastureland.