

EU Industrial Emissions Directive 2008/1/EC which Revises the Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control Directive

Cost to the energy industry - £2.8bn ([The Association of Electricity Producers/Independent](#))

Talking Points

A recipe for power blackouts

The IED removes all flexibility for power plants to comply with other environmental legislation. They either have to fit expensive filters or close in conjunction with the large combustion plant directive. Fears were spelled out in 2008 that this will lead to power blackouts in 2015 with both the LCPD and IED come into force.

Higher energy costs

Similarly, if energy providers fit expensive filters and comply with the Directive, their running costs will increase and as such so will energy prices.

Alternative energy is not sustainable

Restricting production of energy from fossil fuels will create more pressure on renewables, such as wind, which work least when energy is needed most.

What is it?

[A directive to revise the Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control Directive.](#)

The IPPCD gives governments and regulatory authorities the power to issue permits to industrial installations in order to control and harmonise pollution reduction practices across the EU.

Under the IPPCD all industrial and agricultural activities with a high pollution potential must have a permit. This permit can only be issued if certain environmental conditions are met, so that the companies themselves bear responsibility for preventing and reducing any pollution they may cause.

In order to get a permit, plants must:

- use all appropriate pollution-prevention measures, namely the best available techniques (which produce the least waste, use less hazardous substances, enable the substances generated to be recovered and recycled, etc.);
- prevent all large-scale pollution;
- prevent, recycle or dispose of waste in the least polluting way possible;
- use energy efficiently;
- ensure accident prevention and damage limitation;
- return sites to their original state when the activity is over.

In addition, the decision to issue a permit must contain a number of specific requirements, including:

- emission limit values for polluting substances (with the exception of greenhouse gases if the emission trading scheme applies);
- any soil, water and air protection measures required;
- waste management measures;
- measures to be taken in exceptional circumstances (leaks, malfunctions, temporary or permanent stoppages, etc.);
- minimisation of long-distance or cross-border/boundary pollution;
- release monitoring;
- all other appropriate measures.

In the UK, permits do not come with a blanket emissions limit as the UK has cap and trade emissions trading in place under regulations transposing the EU directive into UK law.

The Industrial Emissions Directive tightens the limits on industrial emissions.

It also plans to remove the flexibility of the Large Combustion Plant Directive where plants can be gradually phased out until 2015. Either companies install the kit to reduce emissions or they will be refused a permit and shut down on 1 January 2016.

Third Party Opinions:

“There is a risk that the UK will not be able to build other low-carbon energy sources in time to replace lost capacity. A phased introduction for this directive would allow the UK to make a smoother transition to a more balanced energy mix.” [CBI](#).

