

AIBOLG
Agencies' and Industry Batteries Operational Liaison Group
25th May 2010
Hosted by Environment Agency
Quadrant 2, Sheffield

Attendees

Industry: R Chaddock, S Clarke, M Green, G Parkin, M Walle.

EA: S Stocks, B Mead, C Chambers, J Ashcroft

SEPA: N Chalamanda

1. Introductions

2. Terms of Reference

Action: Updated version of the terms of reference to include comments from the group to be produced for sign off at the next meeting. **J Ashcroft**

2.1 Future Meetings

Tuesday 20 July 2010 – G&P Batteries, Wednesbury

Wednesday 6 October 2010 – Environment Agency, Solihull

Wednesday 19 January 2011 – Environment Agency, Sheffield

3. Metrics and Regulators Activity

3.1 UK Data and Data SLA (Data as at 25/05/10)

The Data SLA was proposed and agreed, prior to publication on NPWD.

Action: Updated version of the Batteries SLA be posted on NPWD **J Ashcroft**

Large Producers

- Large Producers – 397 large producers registered with Schemes, placing 47,000 tonnes on the market in 2009.
- This is higher than previously published due to new members and resubmissions.
- This may rise further as we know of 10 producers yet to provide data.
- Producer Responsibility Regulatory Services (PRRS) will publish revised data on 01/06/2010.

Small Producers

- There are 693 small producers registered for 2010, up from 666 in 2009.
- These 666 producers placed a total of 121 tonnes on the market in 2009, but 34 hadn't submitted data.
- The 121 tonnes is considerably less than the 605 tonnes previously published. This difference is due to a number of reasons including producers reporting in Kg instead of tonnes and data provided by non UK based companies being mistranslated in NPWD. Manual fix applied.
- PRRS will be publishing revised data on 01/06/2010.

Reprocessors and Exporters

- At present PRRS have approved 7 Battery Treatment Operators with a total of 12 sites and 10 Battery Exporters.
- These facilities have reported that they have accepted 560 tonnes, as opposed to the 456 tonnes reported by schemes.

Data Observations

- There are currently a number of anomalies which attribute to a 18% error.
- The data will be published once all of these are resolved and this maybe after the SLA date of 01/06/2010.
- UK obligation for 2010 is 4700 tonnes with only 849 tonnes collected in Q1. This is not unexpected due to the regulations being relatively new and the Distributor Scheme not starting until February.

3.2 EA Activity & Forward look

- PRRS will be looking at Large producers around the 1 tonne threshold and will monitor through the year with the schemes.
- Q1 data shows that there has been 9,172 tonnes placed on the market, which equates to 36,688 tonnes pro rata. This means 10,500 tonnes less than 2009 data. We are aware of a number of zero and estimated returns which may affect the data in the future. This decrease could be due to the economic downturn or possible seasonal fluctuations. EA doesn't have any historic data to analyse trend at this point in time.
- Future activity with schemes will be around Operational Plan review and will include the comparison of the Q1 data to the existing operational plan, a decision can then be made as to whether we will require an updated Operational Plan.
- PRRS will also be setting up the Quarterly desktop monitoring including the comparison of the ABTO and ABE data with scheme data.
- We will be preparing for the Q2 2010 data submission and we would hope by the end of Q2 batteries collected would have grown and by Q3 it would be on target. Once this is in we will be starting on the scheme audits and intend to audit all schemes by the end of 2010.
- Preparing for 2011,12 and 13 Operational plan submission on the 31/08/2010.

3.3 SEPA Activity & Forward look

- SEPA do not have any Schemes registered with them so their work is focused on Producer monitoring.
- SEPA also have 1 ABTO to monitor.
- SEPA will carry out desktop monitoring of small producers to verify their tonnage and intend to visit 30% of large producers.

4. Industry Feedback on Regulatory Activity, Process and Guidance

A number of points of discussion were raised from the ABTO and ABE representatives around the subject of when evidence should be issued.

- When a volume of material is received and then passed onto another ABTO/ABE, who issues the evidence.
- What happens to batteries that haven't been collected on behalf of a scheme.

Action: When do ABTO/ABEs report batteries they have received/collected not on behalf of a Scheme. **B Mead**

- What happens when evidence is issued, then when the batteries are treated it comes to light that actual treated weight of batteries is different to that which was received.
- Would the EA use Waste Batteries treated data or the Evidence Data.
- Do they issue evidence on net or gross weight – if it is net weight then this again presents a problem in when the evidence should be issued.

Action: Investigate how PRRS can improve guidance on data reporting and issuing of evidence including issues around resubmissions, chemistry types and net weights. Send communication to all relevant parties to clarify.

C Chambers

There were also points of concern around communication.

- What do PRRS do with Data Returns from ABTO's and ABE's.
- When queries come in, would it be possible to feedback the outcome to all concerned.

Action: Send communication to ABTO/ABEs about Data returns and explain to all ABTO/ABEs what we do with the data. **C Chambers**

Action: Send out update of all technical queries to all relevant parties. **J Ashcroft**

The following feedback was received from the Battery Compliance Schemes

- They felt the Waste Batteries Regulations had been received relatively well by producers, as they were well aware of them before implementation.
- In their opinion NPWD was working well and was a useful tool. However could they be kept informed of any further developments so they could develop their systems around these developments.
- When receiving invoices it was important that the invoices contained the compliance year in the description.

Action: Ensure all invoices contain the Compliance Year in the description **J Ashcroft**

- Question over why do we have NPWD code and Batteries registration number.

Action: PRRS to seek clarification **J Ashcroft**

- There were questions about the Placing on the Market definitions, around the subject of Netting off of batteries placed on the market and subsequently exported. It was explained that these figures are being looked at, but at the moment the Agency didn't see this as a major problem as it only accounted

for 3% of total weight of batteries placed on the market. If this is still an issue, Schemes to raise with DEFRA Stakeholder Group.

- Discussion around “Site Specific Protocol” for the purpose of estimation of the consistency of waste battery loads. Protocols should be submitted to PRRS for approval, and it is our recommendation that there would need to be individual protocols for each scheme in order to represent their collection differences.
- Question over whether Industrial & Automotive data reporting could be brought inline with Portable data reporting. There is nothing to stop schemes reporting Automotive and Industrial early if they already have the data, this would mean they could report with the portables. This should be taken up at BIS stakeholder meeting.
- There were a couple of questions around retail takeback scheme. This is not within the Agencies remit so should be discussed with VCA directly or raised at the DEFRA stakeholder meeting.
- Issue was raised about discrepancies between the EA and SEPA position around consignment notes – Schemes advised to take this up with SEPA directly.
- It was raised that there is still a worry that the awareness of the general public about the Waste Batteries Regulations is still very low – the schemes were reminded that all publicity around this sits within their remit.

Action: PRRS to monitor Scheme’s Information Campaign as part of compliance monitoring of Operation Plan and ask for updates as required.

J Ashcroft