

Medium Combustion Plant Directive (MCPD)

Implemented by the Environmental Permitting Regulations SI 2018/10 is legislation to improve air quality and was introduced because of EU targets to monitor equipment between 1MW - 50MW. This fills the unregulated gap that currently exists at the EU level between smaller appliances (<1MW) and large combustion plants (>50MW). This directive regulates each piece of medium-sized equipment which 'oxidises a fuel source to generate heat' i.e. carries out the process of combustion. Typically, medium-sized equipment is found in an energy network that supplies large buildings such as offices, hotels, hospitals and industrial processes including power generation. The guidelines of 1MW - 50MW refers to each independent piece of equipment rather than an energy centre's combined thermal input.

Eligibility

The MCPD applies to the UK from 1st January 2018 and will have to be applied to new qualifying equipment from 20th December 2018. For existing equipment above 5MW the compliance date is 2025, extending to 2030 for existing plants between 1MW and 5MW.



Applies to virtually all combustion plants falling into the net thermal input (i.e. gross fuel input) range of 1MW to 50MW.



The rare exceptions include plants that are only used occasionally such as standby generators.



Relevant Deadlines

By	What
For Schedule 25A – Medium Combustion Plant Directive (MCPD): All New Plants:	
20/12/2018	All new energy plants must be registered and comply with Emissions Limit Values (ELVs)
For Schedule 25A – Medium Combustion Plant Directive (MCPD): Existing Plants (rated thermal input above 5MW)	
01/01/2024	Must be registered or obtain a permit to operate
01/01/2025	Must comply with the proposed ELVs and full implementation of the MCPD will be achieved
For Schedule 25A – Medium Combustion Plant Directive (MCPD) Existing Plants (between 1MW & 5MW)	
01/01/2029	Must be registered or obtain a permit to operate
01/01/2030	Comply with the proposed ELVs and full implementation of the MCPD will be achieved
01/01/2019	For Schedule 25B – specified generators – deadline dates for environmental permits Tranche B generators must be registered/obtain a permit to operate
For Schedule 25B – Specified generators – deadline dates for environmental permits. Tranche A* generators (with a rated thermal input above 5MW)	
01/10/2019	Depending on NOx emissions and operating hours of more than 50 hours per year must be registered/obtain a permit to operate
01/01/2025	Depending on NOx emissions or operates for less than 50 hours per year must be registered/obtain a permit to operate
01/01/2030	Tranche A generators (with a rated thermal input equal or less than 5MW) must be registered/obtain a permit to operate

Requirements

- **A formal process of registering all combustion plants will have to be completed. It is irrelevant what fuel is used or how often it is used. Everyone will be required to complete some form of registration. Refer to dates above to see when this deadline is.**
- **Larger plants will have to measure NOx, SOx, dust and CO2 every year. Smaller plants will have to measure the same but every three years.**
- **Infrequently used plants will not have to measure emissions unless they run for more than 500 hours.**
- **A generator ceases to be a Tranche A generator if it is the subject of a capacity agreement or an agreement for provision of balancing services entered into after 31st October 2017 and remains in force after 31st December 2018.**

Further Notes

- **In terms of plant definitions, each item, such as a boiler, is classified as an item of a plant. This means that cascades of smaller boilers that have a combined rating of over 1MW do not comply. However, if several plant items over 1MW share a common flue, these will be aggregated and treated as a single item of plant (e.g. 6 x 1MW boilers with a common flue are treated as >5MW).**
- **As the initial deadline is pre-Brexit and the UK is likely to retain environmental regulations originally introduced through the EU, it is reasonable to assume that UK plant owners will continue to comply.**
- **There are currently no agreed upon penalties for non-compliance, but these will be confirmed.**