



Ympäristöministeriö
Miljöministeriet
Ministry of the Environment

Registration replaces environmental permitting for certain activities in Finland

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Background for the registration in Finland

- Before 2010 around 21 000 activities or installations were subject to environmental permits according to the Environmental Protection Act (86/2000)
 - The same integrated permitting process is applied from small to large installations
 - 7 000 installation are permitted by state permit authority
 - 14 000 installations are permitted by the municipal permit authority
 - Only less than 10 % on the installations need permits on the basis of EU legislation
- Development projects were started in 2005
 - Objective was to lighten and simplify permitting process
 - Reduce the administrative burden
 - Harmonize the environmental requirements if possible

Background for the registration in Finland

- The development project concluded in 2007 that a “lighter” registration process could be introduced for certain activities by issuing them harmonized environmental protection requirements as general binding rules
- The registration could be applied to sector if
 - There is large volume of plants (in number)
 - 2 000 fuel distribution stations, 900 small combustion plants
 - Environmental impacts are minor
 - The permit requirements are similar within the sector
 - Standardised techniques are used or implemented
- It was estimated that the registration with general binding rules would not weaken the level of environmental protection

Implementation of the registration

- Registration was adopted as part of Environmental Protection Act in 2010
 - First it was a derogation from a permit but since 2014 it has been independent process for certain named activities
- These activities are
 - Combustion plants with rated thermal input of at least 5 but less than 50 megawatts
 - Fuel distribution stations with total fuel tank volume of at least 10 m³
 - Asphalt mixing plants
 - Solvent using activities where the solvent consumption is at most 10 tonnes per year
- These all fall under the permitting competence of municipal authorities

Implementation of the registration

- Registration is a pure notification
 - The operator submits notification to the municipal environmental protection authority for registration into the environmental protection database
 - It shall be submitted no later than 90 days before the operation begins
 - The starting point is that the activity complies with the general binding rules of that sector
- The municipal authority
 - checks the conditions for registration,
 - registers the activity in the database and informs the operator
 - A registration fee is charged
- No decision is made and no additional provisions can be given
- No public participation in registration process

Implementation of the registration

- Applied for new activities since June 2010
- A transition period has been adopted for existing activities to comply with requirements of general binding rules and make the notification
- Combustion plants until 1 January 2018
- Fuel distribution stations until 1 January 2020
- Solvent using activities
 - Registration has been applied since 2001

Implementation of the registration

- There are certain situations when the activity cannot be registered
- An environmental permit is required
 - if the operation is to be situated in a groundwater area that is important or otherwise suitable for water supply use or
 - if the operation may place an unreasonable burden e.g. in the form of noise or dust, in the surroundings
- The number of permits will be reduced by around 3 000 due to registration of
 - fuel distribution stations
 - combustion plants (5-50 MW)
 - asphalt mixing plants
 - solvent using activities

Implementation of the registration

- The environmental requirements are issued in the general binding rules
 - Depending on the sector they cover
 - Measures
 - To reduce emissions to air,
 - To protect soil,
 - To abate noise,
 - Implement technical requirements and
 - To deal with fuel storages, waste and waste waters
 - Requirements
 - To monitor emissions and operation
 - To report annually on operation and emissions
 - To take action when closing down

Impacts of the registration

- The total emissions of the activities covered by the registration are small compared to total annual emissions in Finland and the impacts are often local
- Positive environmental impacts can be seen
 - In combustion plants
 - Reduction of SO₂, NO_x ja PM emissions, improved local air quality
 - In fuel distribution stations
 - Reduction of VOC emissions, risks to water and soil pollution minimized
 - In solvent using activities
 - Reduction of VOC emissions, improved air quality
 - In asphalt mixing stations
 - Reduction of PM emissions, improved air quality and reduced noise nuisance

Some concluding remarks of the registration

- Administrative burden has been reduced
 - Less time needed for registration than for permit
 - Operator submits the notification 90 days before starting
 - No decision is made by the authority
 - No additional requirements possible
 - The work of supervisory authority might to be increasing
- Harmonized environmental requirements as general binding rules for 4 sectors
 - The operator knows in advance what requirements it has comply with
 - Equal treatment of operators
 - Operation can be started after this 90 days period of notification
- A pure notification
 - No public participation in registration process
 - But participation included when the general binding rules prepared



Thank you for your
attention!

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