

Appendix 4: Case Studies of LPHA inspection work

PHES Committee Case Study 1 – Environmental Protection

Certain activities undertaken within the LPHA area are regulated under either the Local Authority Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control (LA-IPPC) applies an integrated environmental approach to the regulation of certain industrial activities (known as “A2” or “Part A2” installations).

While others are not within the scope of the scope of the IPPC Directive and are under the LAPPC regime regulating air emissions. The permitting arrangements are essentially the same as for LA-IPPC.

It involves determining the appropriate controls for industry to protect the environment through a single permitting process. This means that emissions to air, water (including discharges to sewer) and land, plus a range of other activities must be considered together. It also means that local authorities, if they approve an application for an environmental permit, must set permit conditions so as to achieve a high level of protection for the environment as a whole.

The LPHA performs annual checks, risk assessments and issues new permits or variations to existing permits as required and investigates any breaches of permit conditions.

The docks within the LPHA control have a number of such premises including a large cement grinding plant in Tilbury dock, nominally producing 1 million tonnes of cement per year from clinker, which is classed as an A2 premises, and a number of cement batching installations at Sheerness classified as B2 premises.



Photograph 1 : Cemex site at Tilbury



Photograph 2 : Inspecting Vesper Floating cement installation at Tilbury.



Photograph 3 : Silos at Sheerness



Photograph 4: Checking operation systems at Sheerness

PHES Committee Case Study 2 - Food and Feed import Inspections

Port Health conduct daily inspections of feed and food cargo which can lead to the discovery of imports which are intentionally trying to evade controls. A recently qualified Port Health Officer started a routine inspection of mixed food from Nigeria at our port in Tilbury. She was looking for the soft drink Fanta as it has been known to contain illegal colours however, during the search she came across some suspicious cartons. Port Health work requires intuition as well as fact-based checks and, in this case, intuition caused the officer to open cartons labelled as “Yam Flour”. Inside the cardboard carton, foil wrapped parcels were found to contain dried animal hide and meat (see attached photograph).

The hide and meat were determined to be bovine origin and Nigeria was known for an outbreak of foot and mouth disease so measures were put in place to secure the entire import container while veterinary colleagues checked sanitization requirements. Ultimately the goods were formally rejected by our veterinary officers and removed from the import container for controlled incineration.

The officer also rejected 50 cartons, the original reason for entering the container, after they were found to contain illegal food colourings. Port Health randomly check around 2% of imports which are not subject to formal controls. We use risk criteria to identify likely imports as it would be impractical to inspect every arrival however, large numbers of imports still enter Britain without any checks.



Photograph 5: 'Ponmo' found during a routine imported food inspection.