

Dear CLP Member,
The following query was raised with Covanta:

I would like their assurances that ISO14001 would be fully complied with and that they will make all requirements of that regulation would be available to the general public I am concerned that this strict regulatory requirement has not been handled correctly within the US but would like proper assurances should the plant be built here."

Here is Covanta's reply:

ISO14001 is not a regulation, it is a voluntary international standard which provides a framework for the development of an environmental management system. Covanta Energy has ISO14001 for its current operations. This scope will be extended to the Energy from Waste Operations at Rookery Pit.

Covanta will implement an Integrated Management System (IMS) certified to ISO9001 : 2000 (International Quality Management System QMS Standard) , ISO 14001:2004 (International Environmental Management System Standard) and OHSAS 18001 (Health and Safety Management System Standard) at the proposed facility. Covanta operates a range of worldwide waste management facilities and has implemented a formal IMS at each of its plants in accordance with similar US standards. These certified management systems will provide the framework for facility compliance management.

Such systems have been shown to be successful for the management of operations at other Covanta facilities and are considered to represent Best Available Techniques (BAT) for safety, environment and quality management. It is therefore Covanta's intention that a similar management system will be established at the Rookery Facility which will ensure the operational compliance with permits and other statutory requirements.

The key elements of the management of the Facility will be established in advance of the plant becoming operational. However, in order to certify the system, the Facility will need to be operational. Therefore the target for certification of the IMS will be within approximately 12 months of plant commissioning being completed, and will be performed by an Independent UKAS Accredited Certification Body.

The Facility will adopt Covanta's Group health and safety, environmental and quality policies. These policies will form the framework for setting health and safety, environmental and quality objectives and targets. They will also provide a commitment to continuous improvement, compliance with all relevant health and safety and environmental legislation as a minimum.

A system will be developed within the IMS to ensure that the relevant operational legislation applicable to activities at the Facility are identified, with appropriate measures put in place to enable the site to be fully compliant with its responsibilities. A regular review of new and forthcoming legislation will be undertaken to enable the site management to plan and implement appropriate systems/measures to achieve compliance with new requirements as they arise.

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