

ENVIROMAGAZÍN

Special edition 2/ 2005

The special edition focuses on integrated prevention and pollution control (IPPC).

From the Table of Contents

4	Act on IPPC and its amendments
6	Position of SIE as the permission authority
8	Implementation of the best available techniques
10	Landfilling – still the most frequently used method of waste disposal
12	Environmental Inspectorate in Bratislava
13	Detached office in Nitra
14	Environmental Inspectorate in Banská Bystrica
16	Environmental Inspectorate in Žilina
19	Environmental Inspectorate in Košice
20	Assistance to the Slovak Republic in the implementation of EU Directive on IPPC
22	SEA's activities in the field of IPPC
24	Problems were caused mainly by oil substances
26	At the beginning there was the „chimney law“
28	Hazardous waste under „magnifying glass“
30	The biggest trespasses are at tree felling
32	GMO yes, but under control
34	SIE represents our republic in the IMPEL network
35	SIE's organisational chart

We build on confidence

Oto Hornák, general director of the Slovak Inspectorate of the Environment (SIE)

Slovak Inspectorate of the Environment (SIE) is an expert inspection authority performing the state supervision in matters concerning the environment. As SIE's general director stresses in the foreword, the main objective of SIE is raising environmental awareness of population as this is a decisive condition of a positive and responsible relation to the environment. For this reason SIE intensified recently the communication with public through mass media. The author of the article characterizes the SIE's development and activities, focusing mainly on the system of integrated permits granting and brings also the statistics of inspections carried out by inspectors in 2004.

(page 1)

Act on IPPC and its amendments

Silvia Uličná, MoE SR

IPPC represents a set of measures focusing on the prevention of environmental pollution, reduction of air, water and soil emissions, reduction of waste production and on waste recovery and disposal with the objective to ensure a high quality of environment. IPPC issues were included in the Slovak legislation and implemented through the Act No. 245/2003 Coll. On integrated prevention and pollution control of the environment and on the amendment of some acts. The author of the article analyses the IPPC Act, its amendments and the latest amendment that is under preparation. The article deals also with the implementing regulation and the Integrated Register of Information System.

(page 4-5)

Position of SIE as the permission authority
Helena Nitschneiderová, SIE

SIE is from 31 July 2003 the permission authority in the field of integrated prevention and pollution control. According to IPPC Act, SIE is the administrative body in integrated permission, in consultations and preliminary negotiation of applications, it provides for standpoints of affected authorities and their participation in the permitting procedure, executes the state supervision and implies penalties.
(page 6-7)

Implementation of the best available techniques
Bohuslav Bezúch and Zuzana Lacová, SIE

The objective of integrated permission is implementation of cleaner technologies, substitution of hazardous substances by less hazardous ones and, especially, reduction of emissions. The main instrument for the achievement of this objective is the use of best available techniques (BAT). They include use of low-waste technologies, less quantity of hazardous substances and support of recovery and recycling of substances originating or used in technological processes. In the interest of equal conditions in economic competition, it is necessary all EU member countries have uniform criteria for BAT assessment.
(page 8-9)

Landfilling – still the most frequently used method of waste disposal
František Šopinec, SIE

The new Waste Act, regulating, besides others, also waste landfilling, is in force since 2001. According to it, operated landfills had to be re-classified and a plan of measures up to 2008 had to be developed so that they complied with the criteria of the EU Directive No. 1999/31/EC On landfills. At present, 161 landfills have been operated in Slovakia. Those, that after 2008 will not comply with the criteria of legal regulations for waste management will be closed, recovered and further monitored. Pursuant to IPPC Act, since August 2003 SIE's departments of integrated permission and control (IPC) carry out, alongside the inspection activity, also the permission activity and fulfil the tasks of a building authority. According to the Act, such landfills are permitted, in which more than 10 tonnes of waste can be land filled per day or their total capacity is more than 25,000 tonnes, with the exception of inert waste.
(page 10-11)

Environmental Inspectorate in Bratislava
Andrej Verčimák, head of the department

In 2004, the Environmental Inspectorate in Bratislava sent 156 calls to operators to submit the application for integrated permit. Altogether 40 applications were received, in 19 cases the procedure was interrupted and in 11 cases stopped. By the end of February 2005, 35 integrated permits were granted, 31 of them came into force.
(page 12-13)

Detached office in Nitra
Karol Raffaj, head of the office

By the end of February 2005, the office in Nitra, consisting of 4 employees, issued 13 integrated permits, of which 11 came into force. From the experience of this office it comes out that operators rarely use the possibility of preliminary negotiation of the application for permit granting according to IPPC Act before its submission to the permission authority and therefore in many cases applications are incomplete.
(page 13)

Environmental Inspectorate (EI) in Banská Bystrica
Katarína Raučinová, head of the department

Activities of EI in Banská Bystrica by the end of February 2005 include: 5 integrated permits for new industrial installation and 13 permits for existing ones. Also in this Inspectorate they encountered several shortages, such as applications filled up improperly, absence of documents about the permission for the installation operation (in existing installations) and also wilful or unintentional concealment of some facts, inaccurate data, differences and contradictions between the actual state of the installation, etc.

(page 14-15)

Novácke chemické závody, a.s. Nováky
Mária Danišová

The article brings a concrete example of IPPC Act application in practice. The chemical company Novácke chemické závody, a.s. Nováky has the first experiences with the Act implementation. It has obtained the first integrated permit for its installation Production of ethylenchlorhydrine and its processing into the Novamal product. It is one of the newest installations of the chemical company.

(page 15)

Environmental Inspectorate in Žilina
Mariana Martinková, head of the department

The Environmental Inspectorate in Žilina received by the end of February 37 applications for the permit, granted 21 permits, 4 permitting procedures were stopped and 4 applications relate to the building permission. Most of submitted applications concern landfills (13).

(page 16-17)

Elektrovod Žilina a.s.
Jozef Mano and Dionýz Lazar

The authors of the article inform about activities carried out before the company Elektrovod a.s. obtained the integrated permit in January 2005. The permit does not mean for them bringing the given task to an end but, vice versa, the beginning of implementation of long-term and short-term measures ensuing from the permit.

(page 17 – 18)

Environmental Inspectorate in Košice
Marián Volovár, head of the department

The Environmental Inspectorate in Košice granted by the end of February 19 integrated permits for 21 out of 102 registered installations coming under the IPPC regime at the territory of the Košice and Prešov regions. They included mainly landfills (15). Before the end of this year the Inspectorate plans to grant 32 permits for existing registered installations unless the permitting procedure is interrupted.

(page 19)

U.S. Steel Košice
Marko Vida

Hazardous waste landfill of U.S. Steel was, in compliance with the Act, classified as a new installation that had to submit by 31 October 2003 an application for the permission of the operation. Based on the agreement with SIE, for other installations a schedule of applications submitting by the end of 2006 was developed. Integrated permits have been granted up till now for the landfill and the hot-rolling

mill, the permitting procedure for agglomeration and pickling line goes on and in January 2005 an application for dynamo line was submitted.
(page 19)

Assistance to the Slovak Republic in the implementation of the EU Directive on IPPC
Stanislav Košina and Vladimír Galbavý

The project of IPPC implementation started in November 2002 and ended in December 2004. The implementation team consisted of experts from the Danish consulting companies Ramboll and Planmiljoe and of Slovak experts. The project started in the time when the IPPC Act did not exist yet and so there was no permission authority. Envisaged outputs of the project focused on two spheres – direct assistance to integrated permission process and assistance in the BAT centre establishment. The authors of the article define here the content of the direct assistance and the assistance in BAT centre establishment that had two outputs – workshops (10 in different parts of Slovakia) and the work on two new model installations (landfill and chemical installation).
(page 20-21)

VOLKSWAGEN SLOVAKIA
Katarína Miklešová

The article brings practical experience of the joint stock company VOLKSWAGEN Slovakia with installations permitting. The author describes the whole process of permitting the installation and appreciates the active cooperation with the Environmental Inspectorate in Bratislava.
(page 21)

SEA 's activities in the field of IPPC
Blanka Kapustová, SEA

Slovak Environmental Agency (SEA), as the scientific organisation of the Ministry of Environment provides, in the field of integration prevention and pollution control, consultations to the state administration, information to the public and to the European Commission, builds and operates IPPC system and provides for trainings for the employees of MoE SR and its organisations in the field of IPPC. SEA provides also consultations in the working out of applications for the integrated permit granting or it can even work out the application. The central IPPC office has been established in SEA Banská Bystrica, regional ones are in Bratislava, Žilina and Košice. The internet web page of SEA's IPPC office is in the testing operation since January. The author of the article presents also the twinning project of the Slovak Republic and Greece „Implementation of EU Directive on IPPC“ and informs about the IPPC information system building.
(page 22-23)

Problems were caused mainly by oil substances
Daniel Geisbacher, SIE

Slovak Inspectorate of the Environment (SIE) originated in 1991 by merging of the Slovak Water Management Inspection and the State Inspection of Air Protection. Five SIE's departments carry out inspections of water protection, air protection, waste management, nature and landscape protection and biological safety. In the first of the series of contributions the author focuses on the inspection of water protection. Last year, SIE's water inspectors carried out 135 inspections focused on hazardous substances handling. They inspected 994 storage tanks and operation reservoirs bigger than 1 m³ (only 569 complied with the requirements), 457 stockyards (128 inconvenient) and 301 operating instructions - majority of them complied with requirements.
From the total number of 1,111 inspections carried out in the last year, the law was violated in 207 cases, 197 first-stage decisions were issued on imposing fines in the total amount of 9,021,481 Sk.
(page 24-25)

At the beginning there was the „Chimney law“
Karol Višacký, SIE

Inspection activity in the field of air protection has a long tradition. The first legislation standard was the so called „Chimney law“ (Law No. 35/1967 Coll.) by which the State Technical Inspectorate of Air Protection was established at the Ministry of Forest and Water Management in 1967 as an inspection authority with the whole-Slovak operation. In 1991, it became one of two organisational parts of SIE as the inspection body of air protection. Last year they carried out 439 inspections. In 258 cases (about 53%) they discovered the violation of legal regulations. They imposed 155 fines in the total amount of 3,290,000 Sk and 212 corrective measures.
(page 26-27)

Hazardous waste under „magnifying glass“
Jarmila Ďurdovičová, SIE

The Waste Management Inspectorate originated in 1992 on the basis of the first Act on Waste as the state supervising authority in waste management. It inspects the observance of legal regulations in waste management. Last year they carried out 609 inspections focused on the Act on Waste (582), Act on Packaging (16) and Act on Fees (11). They uncovered violation of legal regulations in 314 cases and issued 249 decisions on imposing fines in the total amount of 6,193,300 Sk.
(page 28-29)

The biggest trespasses are at tree felling
Beata Múčková, SIE

The Inspectorate of Nature and Landscape Protection exercises the state supervision in the field of nature and landscape protection and protection of endangered species of wild fauna and flora including regulation of trade with them (CITES). The Inspectorate of Nature and Landscape Protection carried out last year 443 inspections focused on law observance. Law violation was discovered in 223 cases. Inspectors imposed fines for law violations in the total amount of 1,058,300 Sk. Most frequently the law was violated in the field of wood plants. Other shortages concern use of chemical substances and fertilisers.
(page 30-31)

GMO yes, but under control
Tatiana Horecká, SIE

Inspectorate of Biological Safety provides for the state supervision of the observance of the Act On genetic technologies and genetically modified organisms (Act on GMO) and Act On environmental labelling. The main objective of the Act on GMO is to ensure that genetic technologies and genetically modified organisms are used in compliance with the precautionary principle. The Act On environmental labelling supports products that do not harm the environment. The Inspectorate of Biological Safety inspected last year 120 installations, 109 of which have been registered in the risk category 1 and 11 in the risk category 2. Law violation was discovered in 15 cases.
(page 32-33)

SIE represents our republic in the IMPEL network
Michal Štefánek

An interview with the national coordinator of the European Union Network for the Implementation and Enforcement of Environmental Law (IMPEL) in Slovakia Ing. Daniel Geisbacher, CS., the chief inspector of the Division of Water Protection Inspection of SIE. He explains the origination of the IMPEL network, projects and Slovakia's participation in the projects. 30 countries now participate in the network and Slovakia became its full-fledged member in January 2003.
(page 34)

Slovak Inspectorate of the Environment

SIE's organisational chart

(page 35)

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The journal dealing with the environmental protection and improvement.

The 10th volume, the 2nd special edition, June 2005, published by the Ministry of the Environment of the Slovak Republic and the Slovak Environmental Agency, www.enviromagazin.sk.

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Editor in Chief: Miroslav Tončík

Editor: Alena Kostúriková

Publisher: EM DESIGN, Zvolen

Orders to be sent to the Editor's Office.

Registration: MK SR, No. 1459/96, ISSN 1335-1877