



Guidance Note

Requirements for EIA, ER, IPPC and Seveso II

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Acronyms:

<i>EIA</i>	Environmental Impact Assessment
<i>EIS</i>	Environmental Impact Statement
<i>IPPC</i>	Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control
<i>CA</i>	Competent Authority, here the SEU
<i>SFZ</i>	Sohar Free Zone
<i>SIP</i>	Sohar Industrial Port
<i>ER</i>	Environmental Review
Seveso II	EU Directive (96/82/EC)
<i>MAPP</i>	Major Accident Prevention Plan
<i>SMS</i>	Safety Management System
<i>EMP</i>	Environmental Management Plan
<i>SR</i>	Safety Report required for upper tier Seveso II companies

When a company establishes a new industrial activity or will implement a major change in its facilities, the Competent Authority (CA) has to assess the requirements for the initial environmental permit. This process has the following phases:

1. **Initial Assessment** resulting in a **No Objection Letter**, a declaration of the CA that there are no fundamental objections to establish the proposed activity on the proposed site.
2. **Screening**,
 - a. assess the need for an EIA, (EIA company)
 - b. categorize a company as IPPC, (IPPC company)
 - c. categorize a company as increased safety risk, (Seveso II company)
3. **Scoping**, identifying the topics that need to be studied in the EIA (the Terms of Reference for the EIA) and identifying requirements for IPPC and Seveso II.
4. **Reviewing**, assessment of the EIA and identification of lack of information.
5. **Permitting**, setting the conditions for the initial environmental permit.

Notes:

- Phases 1 and 2 will in practice be combined.



- In Phase 2 needs to be established if the company is an IPPC company and has to comply with the EU IPPC directive and must use Best Available Techniques. Also is to be established if the company is a Seveso II company, based on its safety profile.
- When an EIA is **not** required, the CA can require the submission of an Environmental Review that provides details on relevant environmental topics.
- The Environmental Impact Statement is the executive summary of the EIA report.
- All required submissions are to be made by the foreseen permit holder.
- The EIA must describe all possible future expansion scenario's, however the permit will cover only the activities that will currently be implemented.
- For new companies in the SFZ, the EIA can reference to the Baseline Study that was made for the Phase I SFZ.

Legal framework

The documents related to EIA are:

- MINISTERIAL DECISION No. (187/2001); Organizing Issuance of Environmental. Approvals and Final Permits
- Guidelines on Environmental Impact Assessment
- Annex on Climate issues
- IPPC and Seveso II are currently applied for companies in the SIP and the SFZ only. Although not included in any RD or MD yet, MECA/SEU will use the IPPC and Seveso II framework in the permit application process.

No Objection criteria: a No Objection is given when the proposed activity fits in the concept of spatial planning or industrial estate and the foreseen environmental impacts are not long term, on a large scale or affect the community. For large projects like the establishments of industrial estates, large infrastructural works, large scale industrial activities or activities with an exceptional risk profile (airport, nuclear plant), a No Objection is given after consulting the relevant ministries on the appropriate level.

The No Objection is based on preliminary information that might not fully reflect the final size of activities. In the assessment, all the environmental compartments (air, waste, water, marine, safety, ..) are taken into account.

EIA Criteria

For the petro chemical and metal sector activities in the port an EIA is required since there is a considerable impact on the environment and industrial safety issues are involved. For logistic activities, the EIA requirement will be assessed on a case by case basis.

For the SFZ a framework EIA was made, that covers the whole concession area but was focused on the phase I of the SFZ development.

This means that the scope of an EIA for companies that are established on the SFZ, need to cover only the core environmental issues. For example habitat issues and impacts local community are already covered. However if the impact of the proposed activity is outside the SFZ area (e.g. hazard exposure, odour, noise etc) this issues need to be considered.

In the following table the EIA requirements for the SFZ are provided per industrial sector as guidance.

Proposed activity	EIA
Logistics involving non hazardous goods	no
Storage of fuels over 20 tons	EIA
Storage of chemicals > 20 tons	EIA



Waste Water treatment facility	EIA
Processing plants	EIA
Workshops metal/painting	no
Waste processing	EIA
Paper / pulp industry	EIA
Cement products	no
Metal casting > 10 ton/day	EIA

EIA Scoping

During the scoping phase of an EIA, the company will submit a scoping document that gives the content of the EIA to be made and any supporting studies. The CA can in this stage give directions for the EIA and has to approve the scoping document.

The scoping document contains:

1. Administrative information of the company
2. Information on the proposed activity
3. Information on the location
4. Identification of possible impacts
5. Proposed content of the EIA
6. Overview of supporting studies

Please note that the Environmental Management Plan (EMP) is required as a separate document and not as a chapter of the EIA.

IPPC Criteria

Not every industrial company is considered an IPPC company. The criteria for IPPC companies are provided by the EU IPPC directive.

Details to be found in annex 1 of Directive 2008/1/EC (IPPC directive).

Seveso II Criteria

The Seveso II companies are so called Tier 1 or Tier 2 companies, depending on the amount of particular substances a company has on-site. In the Tier 2 category, the companies are required to provide a Safety Report that describes the Safety Management System (SMS) and the Major Accident Prevention Plan (MAPP).

The Seveso II Directive (96/82/EC) will provide all the background information.

The practical implementation will be communicated in a separate Guidance Note.

Environmental Review (ER)

An Environmental Review is required for companies that do not need to make an EIA. The ER provides all technical details of the process, emissions and safety impacts.

Typical ER covers the following:

General issues

- Administrative details of the company
- Description of the activities and processes
- Description of the buildings, storage facilities
- Plot plan indicating dimensions



- Quantities of products, raw materials, process aid and other substances, used per year and stored.
- Inventory of boilers, process heaters etc
- Inventory of coolers, cooling principle and substance

Environmental management

- Energy situation, type of power source, used power, fuel storage
- Waste management
- Environmental Management Plan
- Monitoring and registrations of accidents and incidents
- Mitigation measures
- Reporting to the authorities

Environmental issues

- Waste produced, type and quantities, foreseen recycling and disposal
- Waste water produced, water quality, amounts, disposal
- Air emissions, SO₂, NO_X, PM and specific emission related to companies activities
- Nuisance, odour, noise

Safety issues

- Inventory of activities (processes, storage chemicals etc.) that increased the risk exposure outside the plot.
- Emergency Response Plan
- Fire protection, alarm and fire-procedures

