

## MEDIUM COMBUSTION PLANT & SPECIFIED GENERATORS

### Understanding the requirements – October 2018 update

The Environmental Permitting Regulations (England and Wales) were amended in 2018 to implement the requirements of the ‘Medium Combustion Plant’ (MCP) Directive and additional controls on ‘Specified Generators’.

In short, the amendments require operators to obtain and comply with the conditions of an environmental permit if they operate an MCP or Specified Generator, with a small number of exemptions.

‘Medium Combustion Plant’ (MCPs) are defined as combustion plant with a thermal input rating between 1MWth and 50MWth.

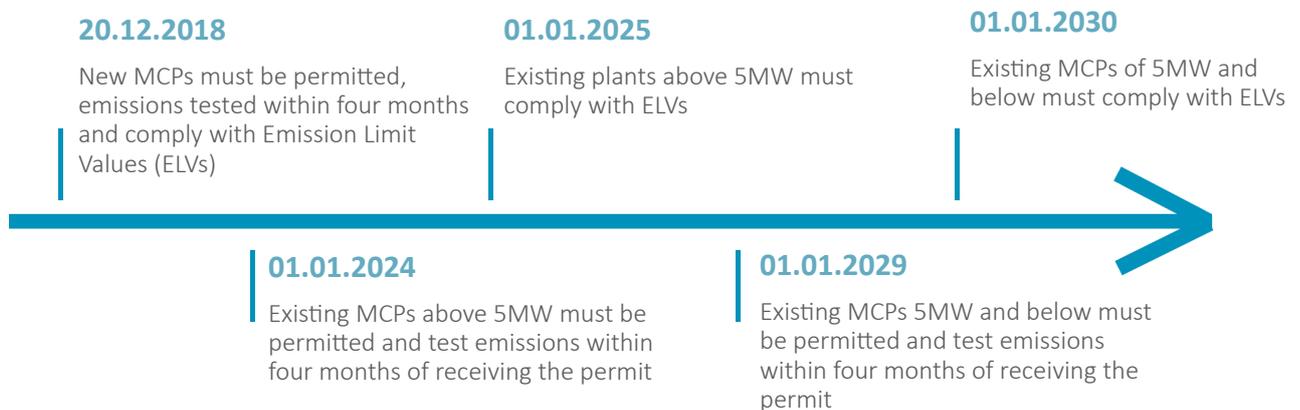
‘Specified Generators’ are those MCPs that generate electricity for >50hrs per annum (incl. testing) or export electricity to the grid.

#### Key Dates

The dates by which MCPs and Specified Generators are required to obtain an environmental permit by differ depending on whether they are MCPs or Specified Generators, age, thermal input, emissions and capacity market agreements.

#### Key dates for MCPs

Key dates for MCPs are as follows:

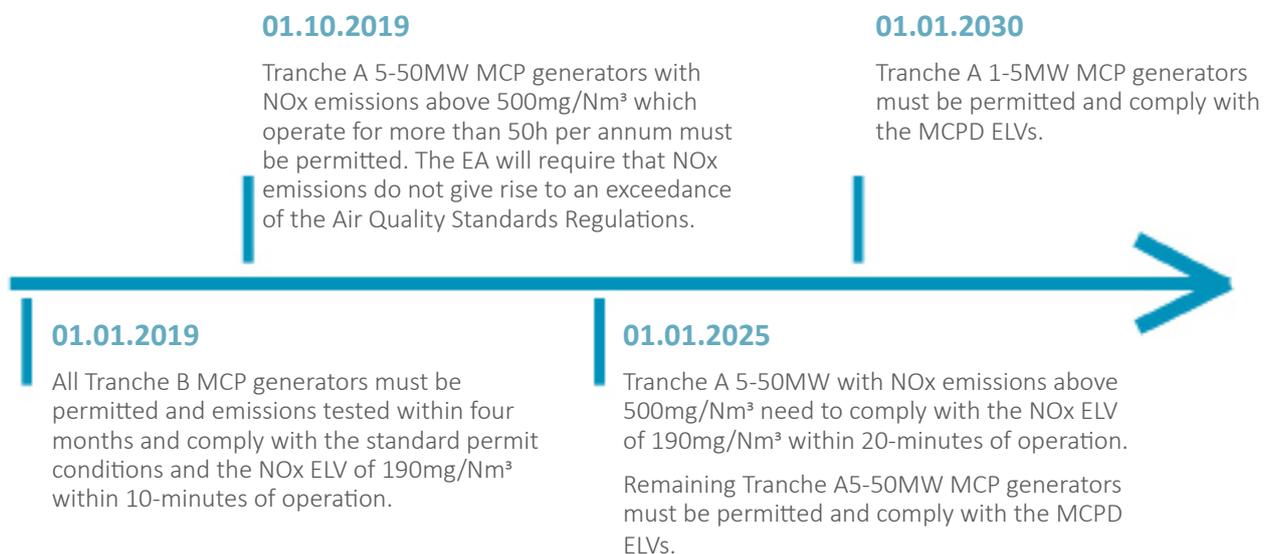


#### Where:

- ‘New’ means any plant commencing operation after 20th December 2018; and
- ‘Existing’ means any plant which commenced operation before 20th December 2018

#### Key dates for Specified Generators

Key dates for Specified Generators are as follows:



#### Where:

Tranche A generators are those which came into operation before 1st December 2016, or benefit from capacity agreements from the 2014 and 2015 capacity market auctions or generators <1MWth with capacity agreements from the 2016 capacity market auction.

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#### What do I need to do if my organisation operates MCPs or Specified Generators?

The general requirements of environmental permits for MCPs and Specified Generators are outlined below:

Requirement	Discussion
Obtain and maintain compliance with an environmental permit	<p>You will need to make an application to the Environment Agency (EA) to obtain a permit.</p> <p>The type of permit required will differ depending on the complexity of the site, with low risk plants benefiting from a simpler application process. Higher risk sites will be required to undertake detailed dispersion modelling.</p> <p>The EA will charge a fee for determining the application.</p>
Emission limits	<p>The environmental permit is likely to contain emission limits that must be complied with.</p> <p>Your plant may or may not be able to comply, requiring a technology switch, upgrade or abatement to be installed.</p>
Monitor emissions	<p>You are likely to be required to monitor emissions from the plant at regular frequencies in accordance with the EA's monitoring certification scheme, MCERTS.</p> <p>MCERTS has exacting standards to ensure the reliability of the results and the health and safety of contractors.</p> <p>To provide compliant sample facilities you may need to undertake improvement works to ducting, stacks and working platforms.</p>
Energy Efficiency	<p>Plant with a thermal input of greater than 20MW will be required to demonstrate compliance with the requirements of the Energy Efficiency Directive.</p> <p>This can include undertaking cost-benefit appraisals of combined heat and power operation.</p>
Record information regarding operation of the plant and any secondary abatement	<p>You will be required to record information on the operation of plant and submit it electronically to the EA on an annual basis.</p>
Regulator inspections	<p>The EA will visit sites on a random basis to check compliance with the conditions of the environmental permit.</p>

#### SLR can:

- Review existing and planned plant, and advise on the ability to comply with the forthcoming requirements;
- Undertake feasibility studies for the fitting of abatement, technology switches and provision of sampling facilities;
- Provide guidance on the need for, type of, and process for obtaining environmental permits;
- Advise on the emission limits and monitoring requirements for your plant;
- Prepare environmental permit applications;
- Undertake cost-benefit appraisals of combined heat and power operation; and
- Undertake air quality dispersion modelling.

**If you require further information or wish to discuss how SLR can support you, please contact Sue Swain (Industry Sector Leader - Europe) or Greg Altria (Associate - Environmental Management, Permitting and Compliance) at SLR Consulting:**

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