

Current EIA Screening Thresholds

Part 2 of Schedule 5 of Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended)

PART 2

1. *Agriculture, Silviculture and Aquaculture*

(a) Projects for the restructuring of rural land holdings, undertaken as part of a wider proposed development, and not as an agricultural activity that must comply with the European Communities (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Agriculture) Regulations 2011, where the length of field boundary to be removed is above 4 kilometres, or where re-contouring is above 5 hectares, or where the area of lands to be restructured by removal of field boundaries is above 50 hectares.

(c) Development consisting of the carrying out of drainage and/or reclamation of wetlands where more than 2 hectares of wetlands would be affected.

(d) (ii) Replacement of broadleaf high forest by conifer species, where the area involved would be greater than 10 hectares.

(iii) Deforestation for the purpose of conversion to another type of land use, where the area to be deforested would be greater than 10 hectares of natural woodlands or 70 hectares of conifer forest.

(e) (i) Installations for intensive rearing of poultry not included in Part 1 of this Schedule which would have more than 40,000 places for poultry.

(ii) Installations for intensive rearing of pigs not included in Part 1 of this Schedule which would have more than 2,000 places for production pigs (over 30 kilograms) in a finishing unit, more than 400 places for sows in a breeding unit or more than 200 places for sows in an integrated unit.

(f) Seawater fish breeding installations with an output which would exceed 100 tonnes per annum; all fish breeding installations consisting of cage rearing in lakes; all fish breeding installations upstream of drinking water intakes; other freshwater fish breeding installations which would exceed 1 million smolts and with less than 1 cubic metre per second per 1 million smolts low flow diluting water.

(g) Reclamation of land from the sea, where the area of reclaimed land would be greater than 10 hectares.

2. *Extractive Industry*

- (a) Peat extraction which would involve a new or extended area of 30 hectares or more.
- (b) Extraction of stone, gravel, sand or clay, where the area of extraction would be greater than 5 hectares.
- (c) All extraction of minerals within the meaning of the Minerals Development Acts, 1940 to 1999.
- (d) Extraction of stone, gravel, sand or clay by marine dredging (other than maintenance dredging), where the area involved would be greater than 5 hectares or, in the case of fluvial dredging (other than maintenance dredging), where the length of river involved would be greater than 500 metres.
- (e) With the exception of drilling for investigating the stability of the soil, deep drilling, consisting of—
 - (i) geothermal drilling,
 - (ii) drilling for the storage of nuclear waste material,
 - (iii) drilling for water supplies, where the expected supply would exceed 2 million cubic metres per annum, or
 - (iv) any other deep drilling, except where, in considering whether or not an environmental impact assessment should be carried out—
 - (I) a planning authority or the Board—
 - (A) concludes, or
 - (B) having regard to the criteria set out in Schedule 7, determines, for the purposes of Part X of the Act, that the proposed drilling concerned would not have a significant effect on the environment,
 - (II) a local authority, in exercise of the powers conferred on it by regulation 120, concludes or determines that there is no real likelihood of significant effects on the environment arising from the proposed drilling concerned,
 - (III) a State authority, in exercise of the powers conferred on it by regulation 123A, concludes or determines that there is no real likelihood of significant effects on the environment arising from the proposed drilling concerned,
 - (IV) it is decided, in accordance with section 13A of the Foreshore Act 1933 (No. 12 of 1933) (in this subparagraph referred to as the “Act of 1933”), by the appropriate Minister (within the meaning of the Act of 1933)

that the drilling concerned would not have a significant effect on the environment,

(V) the appropriate Minister (within the meaning of the Act of 1933) confirms—

(A) in accordance with paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section 13B of the Act of 1933, that the authorisation of the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment records that a screening or assessment referred to in that paragraph has been carried out by the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment in respect of the underlying project to which the petroleum activity relates, or

(B) in accordance with paragraph (b) of the said subsection (2), that the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment will carry out such a screening or assessment in respect of that project, or

(VI) the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment—

(A) in accordance with section 8A of the Minerals Development Act 1940 (No. 31 of 1940), determines that a screening determination for environmental impact assessment is not required,

(B) when making a screening determination for environmental impact assessment in accordance with subsection (8) of the said section 8A of the Minerals Development Act 1940 (No. 31 of 1940), determines that the drilling concerned would not be likely to have significant effects on the environment.

(f) All surface industrial installations for the extraction of coal, petroleum (excluding natural gas), ores or bituminous shale not included in Part 1 of this Schedule.

(g) All extraction of petroleum (excluding natural gas) not included in Part 1 of this Schedule.

(h) All onshore extraction of natural gas and offshore extraction of natural gas (where the extraction would take place within 10 kilometres of the shoreline) not included in Part 1 of this Schedule.

3. Energy Industry

(a) Industrial installations for the production of electricity, steam and hot water not included in Part 1 of this Schedule with a heat output of 300 megawatts or more.

(b) Industrial installations for carrying gas, steam and hot water with a potential heat output of 300 megawatts or more, or transmission of electrical energy by overhead cables not included in Part 1 of this Schedule, where the voltage would be 200 kilovolts or more.

(c) Installations for surface storage of natural gas, where the storage capacity would exceed 200 tonnes.

(d) Installations for underground storage of combustible gases, where the storage capacity would exceed 200 tonnes. (e) Installations for the surface storage of fossil fuels, where the storage capacity would exceed 100,000 tonnes.

(f) Installations for industrial briquetting of coal and lignite, where the production capacity would exceed 150 tonnes per day.

(g) Installations for the processing and storage of radioactive waste not included in Part 1 of this Schedule.

(h) Installations for hydroelectric energy production with an output of 20 megawatts or more, or where the new or extended superficial area of water impounded would be 30 hectares or more, or where there would be a 30 per cent change in the maximum, minimum or mean flows in the main river channel.

(i) Installations for the harnessing of wind power for energy production (wind farms) with more than 5 turbines or having a total output greater than 5 megawatts.

(j) Installations for the capture of CO₂ streams for the purposes of geological storage pursuant to Directive 2009/31/EC from installations not covered by Part 1 of this Schedule.

4. Production and processing of metals

(a) All installations for the production of pig iron or steel (primary or secondary fusion) including continuous casting.

(b) Installations for the processing of ferrous metals

(i) hot-rolling mills and smitheries with hammers, where the production area would be greater than 500 square metres,

(ii) application of protective fused metal coats, where the production area would be greater than 100 square metres.

(c) Ferrous metal foundries with a batch capacity of 5 tonnes or more or where the production area would be greater than 500 square metres.

(d) Installations for the smelting, including the alloyage, of non-ferrous metals, excluding precious metals, including recovered products (refining foundry casting etc.), where the melting capacity would exceed 0.5 tonnes or where the production area would be greater than 500 square metres.

(e) Installations for surface treatment of metals and plastic materials using an electrolytic or chemical process, where the production area would be greater than 100 square metres.

(f) All installations for manufacture and assembly of motor vehicles or manufacture of motor-vehicle engines.

(g) Shipyards, where the area would be 5 hectares or more, or with capacity for vessels of 10,000 tonnes or more (dead-weight).

(h) All installations for the construction of aircraft with a seating capacity exceeding 10 passengers.

(i) Manufacture of railway equipment, where the production area would be greater than 100 square metres.

(j) Swaging by explosives, where the floor area would be greater than 100 square metres.

(k) All installations for the roasting and sintering of metallic ores.

5. Mineral Industry

(a) All coke ovens (dry coal distillation).

(b) All installations for the manufacture of cement.

(c) All installations for the production of asbestos and the manufacture of asbestos based products not included in Part 1 of this Schedule.

(d) Installations for the manufacture of glass, including glass fibre, where the production capacity would exceed 5,000 tonnes per annum.

(e) All installations for smelting mineral substances including the production of mineral fibres.

(f) Manufacture of ceramic products by burning, in particular roofing tiles, bricks, refractory bricks, tiles, stoneware or porcelain, with a production capacity exceeding 75

tonnes per day, or with a kiln capacity exceeding 4 cubic metres and with a setting density per kiln exceeding 300 kilograms per cubic metre.

6. Chemical Industry (development not included in Part 1 of this Schedule)

(a) Installations for treatment of intermediate products and production of chemicals using a chemical or biological process.

(b) All installations for production of pesticides and pharmaceutical products, paint and varnishes, elastomers and peroxides using a chemical or biological process.

(c) Storage facilities for petroleum, where the storage capacity would exceed 50,000 tonnes.

(d) Storage facilities for petrochemical and chemical products, where such facilities are storage to which the provisions of Articles 9, 11 and 13 of Council Directive 96/82/EC1 apply.

7. Food Industry

(a) Installations for manufacture of vegetable and animal oils and fats, where the capacity for processing raw materials would exceed 40 tonnes per day.

(b) Installations for packing and canning of animal and vegetable products, where the capacity for processing raw materials would exceed 100 tonnes per day.

(c) Installations for manufacture of dairy products, where the processing capacity would exceed 50 million gallons of milk equivalent per annum.

(d) Installations for commercial brewing and distilling; installations for malting, where the production capacity would exceed 100,000 tonnes per annum.

(e) Installations for confectionery and syrup manufacture, where the production capacity would exceed 100,000 tonnes per annum.

(f) Installations for the slaughter of animals, where the daily capacity would exceed 1,500 units and where units have the following equivalents:- 1 sheep = 1 unit 1 pig = 2 units 1 head of cattle = 5 units

(g) All industrial starch manufacturing installations.

(h) All fish-meal and fish-oil factories.

(i) All sugar factories.

8. *Textile, leather, wood and paper industries*

- (a) All installations for the production of paper and board not included in Part 1 of this Schedule.
- (b) Plants for the pre-treatment (operations such as washing, bleaching, mercerisation or dyeing of fibres or textiles), where the treatment capacity would exceed 10 tonnes per day.
- (c) Plants for the tanning of hides and skins, where the treatment capacity would exceed 100 skins per day.
- (d) Cellulose-processing and production installations, where the production capacity would exceed 10,000 tonnes per annum.

9. *Rubber Industry*

Installations for manufacture and treatment of elastomer based products, where the production capacity would exceed 10,000 tonnes per annum.

10. *Infrastructure projects*

- (a) Industrial estate development projects, where the area would exceed 15 hectares.
- (b)
 - (i) Construction of more than 500 dwelling units.
 - (ii) Construction of a car-park providing more than 400 spaces, other than a car-park provided as part of, and incidental to the primary purpose of, a development.
 - (iii) Construction of a shopping centre with a gross floor space exceeding 10,000 square metres.
 - (iv) Urban development which would involve an area greater than 2 hectares in the case of a business district, 10 hectares in the case of other parts of a built-up area and 20 hectares elsewhere. (In this paragraph, “business district” means a district within a city or town in which the predominant land use is retail or commercial use.)
- (c) All construction of railways and of intermodal transshipment facilities and of intermodal terminals not included in Part 1 of this Schedule which would exceed 15 hectares in area.

(d) All airfields not included in Part 1 of this Schedule with paved runways which would exceed 800 metres in length.

(dd) All private roads which would exceed 2000 metres in length. (e) New or extended harbours and port installations, including fishing harbours, not included in Part 1 of this Schedule, where the area, or additional area, of water enclosed would be 20 hectares or more, or which would involve the reclamation of 5 hectares or more of land, or which would involve the construction of additional quays exceeding 500 metres in length.

(f) (i) Inland waterway construction not included in Part 1 of this Schedule which would extend over a length exceeding 2 kilometres.

(ii) Canalisation and flood relief works, where the immediate contributing sub-catchment of the proposed works (i.e. the difference between the contributing catchments at the upper and lower extent of the works) would exceed 100 hectares or where more than 2 hectares of wetland would be affected or where the length of river channel on which works are proposed would be greater than 2 kilometres.

(g) Dams and other installations not included in Part 1 of this Schedule which are designed to hold water or store it on a long-term basis, where the new or extended area of water impounded would be 30 hectares or more.

(h) All tramways, elevated and underground railways, suspended lines or similar lines of a particular type, used exclusively or mainly for passenger transport.

(i) Oil and gas pipeline installations and pipelines for the transport of CO₂ streams for the purposes of geological storage (projects not included in Part 1 of this Schedule).

(j) Installation of overground aqueducts which would have a diameter of 1,000 millimetres or more and a length of 500 metres or more.

(k) Coastal work to combat erosion and maritime works capable of altering the coast through the construction, for example, of dikes, moles, jetties and other sea defence works, where the length of coastline on which works would take place would exceed 1 kilometre, but excluding the maintenance and reconstruction of such works or works required for emergency purposes.

(l) Groundwater abstraction and artificial groundwater recharge schemes not included in Part 1 of this Schedule where the average annual volume of water abstracted or recharged would exceed 2 million cubic metres.

(m) Works for the transfer of water resources between river basins not included in Part 1 of this Schedule where the annual volume of water abstracted or recharged would exceed 2 million cubic metres.

11. *Other projects*

- (a) All permanent racing and test tracks for motorised vehicles.
- (b) Installations for the disposal of waste with an annual intake greater than 25,000 tonnes not included in Part 1 of this Schedule.
- (c) Waste water treatment plants with a capacity greater than 10,000 population equivalent as defined in Article 2, point (6), of Directive 91/271/EEC not included in Part 1 of this Schedule.
- (d) Sludge-deposition sites where the expected annual deposition is 5,000 tonnes of sludge (wet).
- (e) Storage of scrap metal, including scrap vehicles where the site area would be greater than 5 hectares.
- (f) Test benches for engines, turbines or reactors where the floor area would exceed 500 square metres.
- (g) All installations for the manufacture of artificial mineral fibres.
- (h) All installations for the manufacture, packing, loading or placing in cartridges of gunpowder and explosives or for the recovery or destruction of explosive substances.
- (i) All knackers' yards in built-up areas.

12. *Tourism and leisure*

- (a) Ski-runs, ski-lifts and cable-cars where the length would exceed 500 metres and associated developments.
- (b) Sea water marinas where the number of berths would exceed 300 and fresh water marinas where the number of berths would exceed 100.
- (c) Holiday villages which would consist of more than 100 holiday homes outside built-up areas; hotel complexes outside built-up areas which would have an area of 20 hectares or more or an accommodation capacity exceeding 300 bedrooms.
- (d) Permanent camp sites and caravan sites where the number of pitches would be greater than 100.
- (e) Theme parks occupying an area greater than 5 hectares.

13. *Changes, extensions, development and testing*

(a) Any change or extension of development already authorised, executed or in the process of being executed (not being a change or extension referred to in Part 1) which would:-

(i) result in the development being of a class listed in Part 1 or paragraphs 1 to 12 of Part 2 of this Schedule, and

(ii) result in an increase in size greater than –

- 25 per cent, or

- an amount equal to 50 per cent of the appropriate threshold, whichever is the greater.

(b) Projects in Part 1 undertaken exclusively or mainly for the development and testing of new methods or products and not used for more than 2 years.

(In this paragraph, an increase in size is calculated in terms of the unit of measure of the appropriate threshold.)

(c) Any change or extension of development being of a class listed in Part 1 or paragraphs 1 to 12 of Part 2 of this Schedule, which would result in the demolition of structures, the demolition of which had not previously been authorised, and where such demolition would be likely to have significant effects on the environment, having regard to the criteria set out under Schedule 7.

14. *Works of Demolition*

Works of demolition carried out in order to facilitate a project listed in Part 1 or Part 2 of this Schedule where such works would be likely to have significant effects on the environment, having regard to the criteria set out in Schedule 7.

15. Any project listed in this Part which does not exceed a quantity, area or other limit specified in this Part in respect of the relevant class of development but which would be likely to have significant effects on the environment, having regard to the criteria set out in Schedule 7.