

# Waste Quality Protocols Review - Aggregates from inert waste Quality Protocol - Call for evidence

## Background

Quality Protocols (QPs) are end of waste frameworks that are used by Industry on a voluntary basis to identify the point at which waste, having been fully recovered, may be regarded as a non-waste product. This means the waste derived material can be used in specified markets without the need for waste regulation controls. The QPs are waste specific. We have started to review the Quality Protocol for aggregates from inert waste. We would like to hear Industry's views on how this QP is working and whether it meets Industry needs.

At this time we are purely gathering information and views which we will take into account when deciding whether to maintain or withdraw support, for the QP in its current form. If support is withdrawn OR it is deemed necessary to complete a revision of the QPs then further, more detailed, calls for evidence will take place at that time.

## What do we need?

We would like your views on the Aggregates from inert waste QP as follows:

- Issues of clarity - Is the text of the QP clear?
- Any abuse of the QP that you are aware of - Please specify what the abuse is and if possible provide evidence.
- Are there any aspects of the QP that you find onerous to meet and why?
- Are there any aspects of the QPs that you find too lenient and why?
- As it stands, do you think that even if the QP is followed it nevertheless creates a risk to the environment and/or human health, if so why? Can you provide any evidence?
- Are there developing or new waste processing technologies that could be included in the QP? These could be newly emerging technologies which have developed after the QP was published, or pre-existing technologies that were not included in the original QP design. Please provide evidence of their efficacy.
- In relation to the QP are there any uses and/or new end product markets that have developed since original publication which could be added now?
- In relation to the QP has there been any revision of or developments relating to the product standards set out in the QP relevant to the use(s)? Have there been any new product standards published since original publication of the QP which you believe should be included?
- Are there any other relevant issues you wish to raise in relation to the QP?

**customer service line**      **03706 506 506**

**floodline**      **03459 88 11 88**

**incident hotline**      **0800 80 70 60**

Page 1 of 2

At this point no decision has been made as to whether we will continue or withdraw our support for this QP. We would like your input so we can take this into account when we make that decision.

As well as the responses to the above questions, we would appreciate your views on the QP specific issues previously raised by Environment Agency staff below. Any evidence you can provide to support your views would also be welcomed.

### **Aggregates from inert waste QP:**

- Is the input waste material being properly classified and assessed? Are the right EWC code/s and descriptions being applied? If not please provide evidence.
- Are there issues with the availability of appropriate testing and analysis?
- Are receiving sites requesting/receiving the appropriate documentation? Is the documentation checked and the received material verified as being compliant with the QP? If not please provide evidence.
- Do you have evidence of receiving material that was advertised as QP compliant but was not of the required standard?
- Is it clear what waste types can be accepted into the QP process?
- Are the requirements within the QP regarding soils and fines clear? Especially with regard to incorporation into the output material?
- Have you ever turned away a delivery of QP aggregate? If so please provide evidence detailing why.

### **What happens next?**

At the end of the call for evidence period our subject matter experts will review all of the evidence gathered both internally, and from this call for evidence. From that review a decision will be made as to whether the QP needs to be revised before it can be published as a new Resources Framework. Where the outcome of a review determines that a QP requires revision the Environment Agency will no longer be able to maintain its ongoing support for that QP. We would therefore invite Industry to work with us at that time to produce a new RF by revising the QP to modern standards. If a revision is required we will give industry an initial 6 months to agree to fund the revision for a new RF. During that time period Industry may continue to use the QP in its present form. The Environment Agency will only continue with a revision process if suitable progress is being made. If no funding is agreed or the QP revision process concludes without agreement then support for the QP will be withdrawn.

### **How to contribute**

Please e-mail your comments/evidence to [resourcesframeworks@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:resourcesframeworks@environment-agency.gov.uk) with the title "Inert Aggregate QP Comments" in the title/subject box. Note - all comments and evidence provided will be kept in strict confidence and will only be used to inform the review process.

**The deadline for getting comments back to us is 31st January 2021**

**Issued - 25th November 2020**