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Ref: SHE Circ005 – Flood Risk Management Issued by: Hannah Rose – Environmental Advisor Date: 18/04/2016

Subject: Flood Risk Management: Environmental permitting for flood risk activities

What is the danger/risk

On 6th April 2016, the introduction of The Environmental Permitting (as amended) Regulations 2016 came into force, introducing new controls for flood risk activities. We now require an environmental permit for flood risk activities, such as working in, around or near to Rivers.

Failure to comply with the conditions on a permit carry a fine in line with the environmental sentencing guidelines and a two year prison sentence for the person named on the permit. Due to this high degree of legislative protection, extreme caution should be taken when working in or around watercourses.

Incident Information

On 6th April 2016 Flood Risk Activities were brought under the Environmental Permitting Regime. Flood Defence Consents have now retired, and have been replaced by an Environmental Permit. We will now need to apply for an environmental permit or register an exemption, to carry out work in, over, under or within 8 metres of a main river, or in a flood plain or on or near a sea/flood defence. This is a requirement by law and may take up to eight weeks.

The new legislation changes include:

- Tightening of controls (and penalties), significant fines and prison sentences.
- Introduction of exempt activities.
- Three-fold increase in cost of application (increase from £50 to £170 per application; new charge for compliance check £70).

Action Required

It is vital that when working in, under, on or near a watercourse or flood plain, the environmental adviser for the contract is consulted prior to works commencing.

Following the tightening of legislation and the risk of penalties, <u>ALL</u> environmental permits (including the new flood risk activity permits) must be applied for by an Environmental Advisor.

Contacts for further advice

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We the undersigned have been made aware of the contents of this briefing. If we are unable to carry out the work safely or if the environment is at risk, we agree that we must immediately stop work and inform our manager/supervisor.

Date	Name	Signature

Manager/supervisor's signature:

Date:

Please continue on another copy for additional employees



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