

Tuesday, 28 April 2020

SA surface coating sector compliance results

The vast majority of surface coating operators in South Australia have been found to be placing the environment first, with 95% of compliance with all licence conditions.

EPA Manager for South East and Campaigns Naomi Grey said it was pleasing to see the greater majority of operators doing the right thing.

“The compliance of almost all of the surface coating sector shows that the industry is taking its responsibilities to protect the environment seriously,” Ms Grey said.

Surface coating, which includes metal finishing, hot-dip galvanising and spray painting or powder coating, are covered under Schedule 1 of the *Environment Protection Act 1993* (EP Act).

The primary risk to the environment from surface coating is the lack of appropriate bunding of chemicals and liquid waste, potentially resulting in soil and ground or stormwater contamination.

There is also a minor risk of noise and air pollution.

A total of 40 South Australian surface coating operators were inspected by the EPA in late 2019.

Of the 520 total licence conditions carried across the sites, 28 breaches of licence conditions were found, with 13 facilities committing multiple breaches.

Of the identified breaches found, almost half were due to the improper storage of liquid waste, with 50% of those due to a lack of appropriate bunding.

“We will continue to monitor and work with operators who were found to have breached the regulations to ensure that they can operate effectively within the EP Act regulations, noting that these are difficult times for the industry during COVID-19 restrictions,” Ms Grey said.

Read the full Surface Coating Sector Compliance results at
https://www.epa.sa.gov.au/business_and_industry/industry-updates