



Sector compliance report

Chemical storage and warehousing

Chemical storage and warehousing

Facilities in South Australia



62 sites licenced by the EPA

37 licensees inspected (**29** metro, **8** regional)

25 recently inspected, inspection not required or not inspected due to location

What we found

415 total licence conditions assessed

15 breaches of total licence conditions

2 breaches of General Environmental Duty (GED)

9 facilities had non-compliances

Most common environmental issues:

- Stormwater management
- Bunding
- Poor housekeeping

96% compliance with all licence conditions

Compliance & enforcement outcomes



7

Direction letters



1

Non-compliance resolved during inspection



36

Licences require updated conditions

Introduction

This report presents the key findings of the EPA review of the compliance status of facilities licensed to store or warehouse chemicals.

Inspections were conducted on facilities undertaking 'Activity 1(1) Chemical Storage and Warehousing' in accordance with Schedule 1 of the *Environment Protection Act 1993* (EP Act).

Purpose of this report

This report can be used to understand the key compliance issues identified by the EPA and assist in improving the overall environmental performance of the sector.

Additionally, this report will provide the general community with information regarding the environmental compliance of businesses who are licensed to store or warehouse chemicals.

What is chemical storage and warehousing

The chemical storage and warehousing sector is diverse and facilities store a vast array of products. The risks associated with each product is different. Types of stored products include ethanol, fertilisers/agricultural products and caustic soda.

Given the sector is diverse; the licence conditions will vary depending on the product being manufactured. The storage of gas has a significantly different environmental risk as opposed to the storing of fuels and oils.

The key environmental risk associated with the storage and warehousing of chemicals is stormwater contamination. All chemicals need to be bunded appropriately to ensure no chemicals are able to cause contamination of soil, stormwater or groundwater. Other environmental concerns from the activity are noise and air quality impacts including dust and odour.

In accordance with Schedule 1 of the EP Act, chemical storage and warehousing is defined as:

The storage or warehousing of chemicals or chemical products that are, or are to be, stored or kept in bulk or in containers having a capacity exceeding 200 litres at facilities with a total storage capacity exceeding 1,000 cubic metres.

A number of facilities undertake multiple activities including [chemical works](#), chemical transport and production.

The EPA currently licences 62 facilities in South Australia for the activity of chemical storage and warehousing. These sites are located throughout the state with the majority in the metropolitan area.

Inspections were carried out at 37 licensed sites, to assess compliance against licence conditions. A total of 25 sites were not inspected as they had been inspected recently, did not require an inspection, or were not inspected due to location.

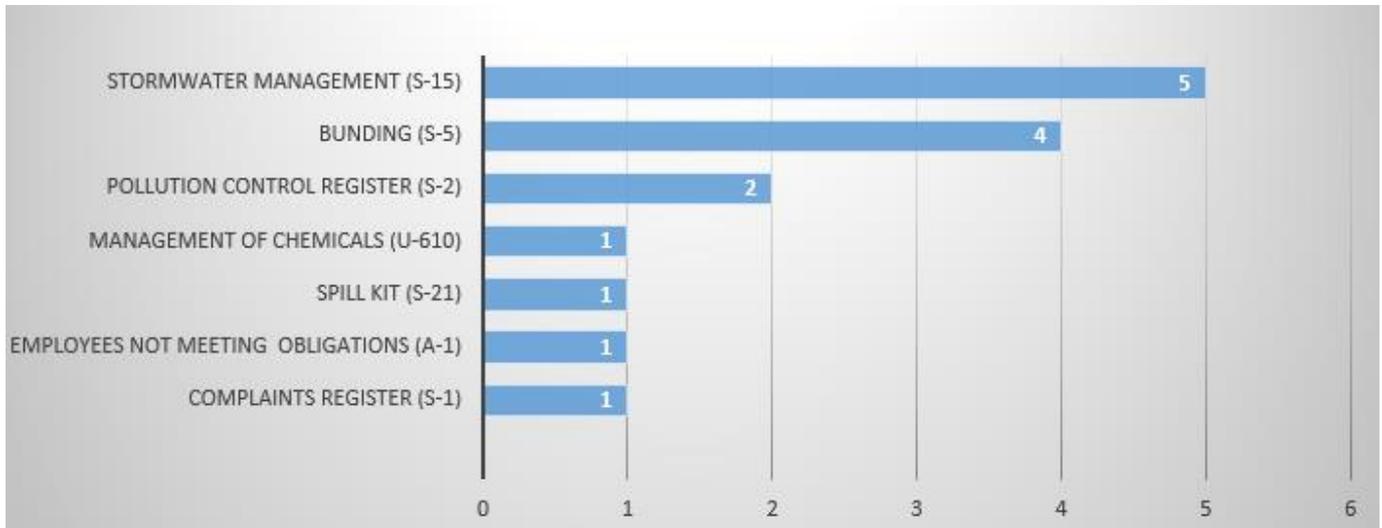
Compliance and enforcement outcomes

Environmental issues identified during the inspections were of minor environmental risk. Inspections identified that nine licensees had 15 non-compliances in relation to breaches of licence conditions.

In addition to breaches of licence conditions, two facilities were also non-compliant with the general environmental duty (GED) of the EP Act. The non-compliance with GED is an indicator that the licence for these facilities do not contain appropriate conditions.

EPA Authorised Officers inspected 37 licensed sites to assess compliance of their activities according to their licence conditions. In total, 415 licence conditions were assessed across the 37 inspected sites. This included eight sites which also undertake [chemical works](#).

The inspections identified 15 non-compliance issues in relation to current licence conditions.



The most common environmental issues found during the campaign were of minor environmental risk:

- Stormwater management: Non-compliance involved wastewater from a truck wash entering a stormwater catchment area.
- Inappropriate storage of liquid chemicals (bundling): Non-compliance involved small amounts of chemicals not being contained in an appropriate bund. If a container is spilled and chemicals are not contained, they may contaminate soil or possibly groundwater (for larger spills).
- Lack of knowledge regarding licence conditions: Breaches were of an administrative nature, such as registers not in place to capture complaints or maintenance of pollution control equipment. It is important for licensees to maintain registers to capture information over time in order to ensure they review the issues and make continuous improvements.

Following the inspections, seven facilities received letters from the EPA that identified the breach/s of licence condition and/or GED, outlining action list and timelines required for the licensee to undertake in order to become fully compliant with their requirements. It is expected that all of these licensees will take actions to comply, to avoid further regulatory action.

The EPA also identified that 36 licensees require alterations to conditions which will lead to robust licence conditions that are easier to understand, more appropriate to the activity, and are consistent across the sector.

Future actions

- All licensees are expected to undertake corrective action to ensure they comply with licence conditions.
 - The EPA will continue to monitor these actions and licensees and take further regulatory action for any ongoing non-compliance.
 - Conditions on 36 licences will be updated to assist to achieve greater consistency in regulation of chemical storage and warehousing.
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Further information

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