



2 February 2005

The British Cement Association Welcomes Revised Substitute Fuels Protocol

The British Cement Association (BCA) today welcomed the publication and implementation of the Environment Agency's revised Substitute Fuels Protocol (SFP). Introduced in the mid-1990s as a permitting procedure for cement and lime manufacturers, the SFP sets out the principles and practices for the use of substitute fuels, including the consultation procedure and trials that should be undertaken to demonstrate their suitability.

Speaking after the announcement, Mike Gilbert, Chief Executive of the BCA said:

“This is a positive change to the SFP. We are pleased that as a result of its extensive consultations, the Environment Agency has again recognised that the cement industry has a positive role to play as part of the solution to the challenges of dealing with the country's waste problem. In addition, the use of wastes as fuels improves environmental performance, in some cases achieving substantial reductions in emissions¹.

“It will enable the cement industry to deliver even greater environmental benefits by reducing its impacts and reliance on fossil fuels. It will also help to move the industry a little closer to the regulatory regimes of their European counterparts and help to improve its competitiveness.”

Since the Protocol was introduced, the cement industry has demonstrated the significant environmental benefits achieved and the savings of finite fossil fuel made through the use of alternatives that include substitute liquid fuels, produced from the recycling of waste solvents; scrap tyres that cannot be used for other purposes;

¹ The use of substitute fuel has been shown to reduce NOx emissions by 30-40% in some cases (source: Health Protection Agency)

packaging, paper and plastic wastes and processed sewage pellets. Trials are also currently underway using meat and bone meal and paper ash.

The Environment Agency Board has approved a number of key changes with the revised SFP. Under the Protocol kiln operators using substitute fuels will:

- Demonstrate the environmental benefits of the fuels they propose to substitute for conventional fossil fuels
- Identify the components of the fuels they propose to use, and make this and other relevant information available to the public
- Engage in open consultation with local communities about proposals to use substitute fuels
- Meet revised emissions monitoring and reporting requirements designed to reflect the materials in the fuels being used.

The revised Protocol will reinforce the framework for controlling the practice of substituting waste streams for fossil fuels, thereby providing robust protection of public health and the environment.

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Notes for Editors:

The Restrictions of the SFP for use of wastes as fuels apply only to cement and lime kilns. Other industry sectors burn substantial quantities of wastes as fuels without having to comply with the Protocol.

The British Cement Association (BCA) is the trade and research organisation that represents the interests of the United Kingdom's cement industry in its relations with Her Majesty's Government, the European Union and relevant organisations in the United Kingdom. The members of the BCA (Buxton Lime Industries, Castle Cement, Lafarge Cement UK and Rugby Cement) are the major domestic manufacturers of Portland Cement producing over 90% of the cement sold in the UK.

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