

Information sheet

Environmental Protection (Waste ERA Framework) Amendment Regulation 2018

Waste ERA framework ERA 61 – Thermal waste reprocessing and treatment

The purpose of this information sheet is to outline the introduction of an updated environmentally relevant activity (ERA) following the new waste ERA framework stage 2. This document is intended for guidance only and does not take the place of relevant legislation.

The Department of Environment and Science (the department) changed the waste-related environmentally relevant activities (ERAs) found in Schedule 2 of the Environmental Protection Regulation 2019 (EP Regulation)¹. The information sheet *Overview of the new waste ERA framework – Stage 2*² gives an overview of these changes.

On 4 February 2019, new risk-based categories were introduced into Schedule 9 of the EP Regulation³. Accordingly, the ERA 61 thresholds will align with these categories of waste and the scale of the activity. The aggregate environmental scores (AESs) will also align with the risk and scale of the activity and will determine the annual fee.

Description of ERA 61

From 1 July 2019, ERA 61 Thermal waste reprocessing and treatment requires an environmental authority for *operating a facility for thermally reprocessing or treating waste*.

Thermally reprocessing or treating waste is defined as reprocessing or treating the waste by applying heat to the waste to change its chemical composition. Examples include gasification, incineration, pyrolysis or use of a plasma arc.

ERA 61 thresholds will be divided across the following classifications of waste:

- general waste
- category 2 regulated waste;
- category 1 regulated waste; and
- clinical or biosecurity waste

Each classification (except clinical or biosecurity waste) has thresholds for:

- small-scale operations disposing of 5000t/year or less of waste;
- medium-scale operations disposing of more than 5000 to 10 000t/year of waste; and
- large-scale operations disposing of more than 10 000t/year of waste.

¹ The EP Regulation is available at <https://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/view/html/asmade/sl-2019-0155>.

² Available at www.qld.gov.au using the publication number "ESR/2019/4606 as a search term.

³ Information on the new regulated waste classifications can be found on the department's website <https://environment.des.qld.gov.au/waste/review-reg-waste.html>

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Note: Autoclaving is not captured by ERA 61 as the process does not alter the chemical composition of the material. Autoclaving is instead captured under ERA 55 – ‘Other waste reprocessing and treatment’.

Appendix 1 – ERA 61 thresholds shows the new ERA 61 thresholds that came into effect on 1 July 2019. The Environmental Protection Regulation 2019¹ details the new ERA 61 in its entirety, including description, exclusions, thresholds and definitions

Further information

Information regarding the waste ERA framework can be found on the department’s website <https://environment.des.qld.gov.au/waste/review-reg-waste.html>. This includes links to the relevant legislation and details about Stage 1 of the waste ERA framework, which commenced on 23 November 2018.

If you have any further questions, please contact the Permit and Licence Management on 1300 130 372 (option 4) or email palm@des.qld.gov.au.

Disclaimer:

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Version history

Version	Date published	Comments
1.00	12 April 2019	First published.
2.00	1 September 2019	Updated for the Environmental Protection and Other Legislation (Waste) Amendment Regulation 2019 and EP Regulation 2019.

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Appendix 1 – ERA 61 thresholds

61 Thermal waste reprocessing and treatment

- (1) Thermal waste reprocessing and treatment (the **relevant activity**) consists of operating a facility for thermally reprocessing or treating waste.
- (2) The relevant activity does not include burning waste under the *Fire and Emergency Services Act 1990*.
- (3) In the following table, the aggregate environmental score for the relevant activity is the score stated opposite the threshold within which the relevant activity is carried out.

New ERA	Threshold		AES
ERA 61 Thermal waste reprocessing and treatment	1(a)	thermally reprocessing or treating, in a year, the following quantity of general waste - not more than 5,000t	33
	1(b)	thermally reprocessing or treating, in a year, the following quantity of general waste - more than 5,000t but not more than 10,000t	39
	1(c)	thermally reprocessing or treating, in a year, the following quantity of general waste - more than 10,000t	45
	2(a)	thermally reprocessing or treating, in a year, the following quantity of category 2 regulated waste - not more than 5,000t	43
	2(b)	thermally reprocessing or treating, in a year, the following quantity of category 2 regulated waste - more than 5,000t but not more than 10,000t	57
	2(c)	thermally reprocessing or treating, in a year, the following quantity of category 2 regulated waste - more than 10,000t	70
	3(a)	thermally reprocessing or treating, in a year, the following quantity of category 1 regulated waste - not more than 5,000t	51
	3(b)	thermally reprocessing or treating, in a year, the following quantity of category 1 regulated waste - more than 5,000t but not more than 10,000t	69
	3(c)	thermally reprocessing or treating, in a year, the following quantity of category 1 regulated waste - more than 10,000t	87
	4	thermally reprocessing or treating clinical waste or biosecurity waste	51

- (4) In this section—
reprocessing includes recycling.

thermally reprocessing or treating, in relation to waste, means reprocessing or treating the waste by applying heat to the waste to change its chemical composition.

Examples—

gasification, incineration, pyrolysis or use of a plasma arc