

MCERTS Bulletin 13 Re-Certification Rules

The Environment Agency has issued the following guidance:

Re-certification Rules: the 'MOT' Approach

Introduction

At many sites there is a regulatory requirement for flow monitoring to be undertaken and for the site to be certified under the MCERTS scheme. This involves a site inspection by an MCERTS Inspector, an audit of the management system and the subsequent issue of an MCERTS Site Conformity Inspection Certificate by Sira.

Site Conformity Inspection Certificates are dated from the date of the Site Inspection and run for 5 years from the Site inspection date.

For sites approaching their 5-yearly certificate renewal, a flexible approach is permitted, to enable sites to be inspected and have any remedial work undertaken in advance of the renewal date.

The 'MOT' Approach

The approach to be adopted will be along the lines of the MOT procedure for motor vehicles – namely that site inspections can be undertaken in advance of the certificate renewal date, and if the site passes, then the new certificate will run for 5 years from the renewal date of the old certificate.

Re-Certification Rules

Operators have an obligation to ensure that their site has an MCERTS certificate at all times. The procedures outlined below will encourage re-inspection of flow monitoring sites in sufficient time to undertake any required remedial work without penalty.

- Sites can be re-inspected up to 12 months in advance of the certificate renewal date.
- If the site passes the re-inspection, then a new Site Conformity Inspection Certificate can be issued to run for 5 years from the renewal date of the old certificate.
- If the site fails the re-inspection, then the Agency would expect to see the required remedial work to be completed as quickly as reasonably practicable (even if this is significantly earlier than the expiry date of the existing certificate). The site must be successfully inspected before the renewal date of the current certificate. A new Site Conformity Inspection Certificate can then be issued from the renewal date of the old certificate. The Site Conformity Inspection Certificate will run from the date of the successful re-inspection, or from the date of expiry of the existing certificate, whichever is the later.