

Frequently Asked Questions

What is my new reporting date?

If your licence has been identified to be amended for reduced reporting, please check the schedule attached to your email for your new requirements. If you did not receive an email, the reporting dates on your licence remain unchanged.

How did the department categorise licences?

To identify the appropriate level of reduced reporting requirements for each licence, the department applied a risk-based approach. The assessment was based on recent compliance performance as well as monitoring requirements and the following classifications were applied:

- Licences typically assessed as low risk – no monitoring is required by licence conditions.
- Licences typically assessed as medium risk – limited monitoring is required by licence conditions, including:
 - monitoring associated with one environmental receptor (e.g. groundwater) or very simple monitoring across multiple receptors
 - a small number of monitoring points
 - simple monitoring suites
 - low frequency of monitoring.
- Licences typically assessed as higher risk – comprehensive monitoring is required by licence conditions, including:
 - monitoring associated with several environmental receptors (e.g. groundwater and air quality)
 - multiple monitoring points
 - complex monitoring suites
 - high-frequency monitoring.

Why were the reporting requirements amended?

The Reduced Reporting Burden initiative of Streamline WA aims to reduce the administrative burden on licence holders, and regulators, for routine or lower risk matters. The initiative encourages proponents to achieve good performance and provides regulators with more time to focus on higher risk matters.

You can read more about [Streamline WA initiatives](#).

When did the new amendment come into effect?

Monday, 16 May 2022.

How will I know if my licence is affected?

The department wrote to you directly if your licence has been identified as being eligible for reduced reporting. The email will include a schedule, which you can review to see how your licence is affected and which reporting dates will apply to your licence in the future. If you think you are eligible and have not received an email, please contact betterregulatorypractice@dwer.wa.gov.au.

What did you change on my licence?

If your licence is eligible for reduced reporting, we amended the condition on the licence relating to annual environmental reports. You will either be required to no longer submit an environmental report, or only submit these reports every two years.

There is no proposed change to what must be monitored, just that the environmental report no longer needs to be submitted annually.

For example, if your licence is eligible for biennial reports (every two years), information and monitoring data as prescribed in the licence shall relate to the two previous annual periods. Please check the schedule for details.

You will still be required to submit an Annual Audit Compliance Report.

Why are you amending my licence?

As part of the State Government's Streamline WA initiative, the department is reducing the reporting requirements on about two-thirds of all prescribed premises licences. We are either removing the requirement to submit an annual environmental report where reports do not contain any monitoring data or reducing the frequency of reporting.

The benefits of this are:

1. Regulators can direct resources to where they are most needed, managing high-risk prescribed premises. The proposed changes ensure regulators are taking a sensible, risk-based approach to reviewing environmental reports.
2. It removes unnecessary reporting for low-risk licences and reducing the frequency of reporting for medium-risk licences, which relieves the reporting burden on industry while providing sufficient information and data for the regulator to ensure appropriate environmental outcomes.

What does section 62A of the Environmental Protection Act cover?

Section 62A of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* EP Act prescribes the types of conditions that can be imposed on a licence. Conditions can require the licence holder to

provide audit compliance reports, reports on monitoring data, the analysis of the data, reports on audits and studies of specified kinds, and provide information on the nature and quantity of wastes and on materials leading to the generation of those wastes.

What types of reports are usually required with industry licences?

Existing industry licences generally require the submission of:

- an Annual Environmental Report (AER) or a similar report containing information on the environmental performance of the premises and/or monitoring data collected during the reporting period
- an Annual Audit Compliance Report (AACR) containing the results of the licence holder's self-audit of compliance with the licence conditions.

Changes are only being applied to reporting requirements of environmental performance, information which has been captured within AERs. The requirement for submission of an AACR remains on all licences and will be published in accordance with department policy.

What matters were considered before applying the amendment notice?

1. The level of reporting requirements are to be proportionate to the level of environmental monitoring required by the licence, which is intrinsically linked to the risk profile of the prescribed premises.
2. Risk-based reviews for the assessment of licensed prescribed premises will be undertaken in accordance with the department's regulatory framework and may result in a reclassification of the type of licensed premises.
3. Licensed prescribed premises will be subject to ongoing compliance inspections and investigations following incidences and complaints, in accordance with the EP Act and the department's compliance inspection program.
4. In the event that risk issues arise in relation to licensed prescribed premises, the CEO may, depending on the circumstances:
 - require licence holders to provide monitoring data or additional information at any time
 - amend the conditions of licence at any time
 - in the event of an alleged offence, exercise enforcement powers under the EP Act, including an environmental protection notice
 - in the event of breach of licence conditions, revoke the licence.
5. In accordance with the department's Regulatory Best Practice Principles, this amendment notice will allow us to target our resources to the greatest risks to public health and the environment.
6. The simplification of reporting requirements will enable us to effectively fulfil compliance obligations relating to the review of environmental reports and addressing environmental risks. This amendment does not reduce existing monitoring requirements under the licence.