

Waste Quality Protocols Review - Anaerobic Digestion Quality Protocol Compost Quality Protocol Poultry Litter Ash Quality Protocol - Call for evidence

Background

Quality Protocols (QPs) are end of waste frameworks that are used by Industry on a voluntary basis to identify the point at which waste, having been fully recovered, may be regarded as a non-waste product. This means the waste derived material can be used in specified markets without the need for waste regulation controls. The QPs are waste specific. We have started to review the QPs for Anaerobic Digestion, Compost and Poultry Litter Ash. We would like to hear Industry's views on how these QPs are working and whether they meet Industry needs.

At this time we are purely gathering information and views which we will take into account when deciding whether to maintain or withdraw support, for the QPs in their current form. If support is withdrawn OR it is deemed necessary to complete a revision of the QPs then further, more detailed, calls for evidence will take place at that time.

What do we need?

We would like your views on these 3 current QPs as follows:

- Issues of clarity - Is the text of the QP clear?
- Any abuse of the QP that you are aware of - Please specify what the abuse is and if possible provide evidence.
- Are there any aspects of the QP that you find onerous to meet and why?
- Are there any aspects of the QPs that you find too lenient and why?
- As it stands, do you think that even if the QP is followed it nevertheless creates a risk to the environment and/or human health, if so why? Can you provide any evidence?
- Are there developing or new waste processing technologies that could be included in the QP? These could be newly emerging technologies which have developed after the QP was published, or pre-existing technologies that were not included in the original QP design. Please provide evidence of their efficacy.
- In relation to the QP are there any uses and/or new end product markets that have developed since original publication which could be added now?

- In relation to the QP has there been any revision of or developments relating to the product standards set out in the QP relevant to the use(s)? Have there been any new product standards published since original publication of the QP which you believe should be included?
- Are there any other relevant issues you wish to raise in relation to the QP?

At this point no decision has been made as to whether we will continue or withdraw our support for these QPs. We would like your input so we can take this into account when we make that decision.

As well as the responses to the above questions, we would appreciate your views on the QP specific issues previously raised by Environment Agency staff below. Any evidence you can provide to support your views would also be welcomed.

Anaerobic Digestion QP:

Do you think there is a market for the digestate that meets the QP requirements and if so what is it?

Do you think that QP compliant digestate has more potential to pollute than the comparator substance (i.e. pig slurry) and why? Do you think the QP compliant product is as stable in storage as that of the non-waste comparator?

Compost QP:

Do you think that QP compliant compost contains the same contaminants e.g. plastic, organic contaminants including POPs (Persistent Organic Pollutants), as equivalent non-waste manufactured fertilisers? If so, why?

Poultry Litter Ash QP:

Does the lack of a specification for the end use affect the market for this material?

Are you a new PLA producer or a new PLA producer who was not involved in the design of the original QP e.g. on farm producers? If so how are they/you using the QP?

How to contribute

Please e-mail your comments/evidence to resourcesframeworks@environment-agency.gov.uk with the title "Waste to Land QP Comments" in the title/subject box.

The deadline for getting comments back to us is Friday 31st January 2020

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