

Company Environmental Awareness Briefing



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Readypower Engineering Ltd and the Environment

How do we damage the environment?

We can damage in many ways and they may not all be obvious. Examples include:

- Littering (on site, in yards, lay-bys etc.)
- Keeping our engines idling when they are not needed
- Throwing waste oil onto the ground rather than taking it back to the depot
- Using spill kits then throwing them into the normal rubbish skips, not disposing of them properly
- Keeping office or portacabin heating on full when there is no-one there
- Throwing mis-printed plain paper into the bin rather than re-using the paper for notes

These show that there are always ways to conserve, re-use and preserve and the only limit is our imagination.

Why should we bother doing anything about it?

Environmental protection is now a very hot topic on everyone's mind, countries are now striving towards global environmental goals. The local result of this to you means that agencies like the **Environment Agency** will enforce any legal infringements more rigorously than ever.

Legal Requirements and the Environment Agency

The Environment Agency (EA) are the ultimate enforcing power in the land when it comes to environmental damage.

If necessary for a serious transgression the EA can take the case to the High court where the fines are unlimited and jail sentences can be imposed.

The construction industry features regularly in the news for breaching environmental legislation, as a direct result of this the EA are very diligent when it comes to all aspects of construction including hiring plant and equipment.



With the laws in place now, the individual can be prosecuted as well as the company.

It is for this reason that we have an Environmental Management System with policies and procedures, the following pages will act as a guide to the processes to follow and who to contact

Waste

What types of waste do we generate as a business?

We generate:

- Used engine oil
- Used hydraulic oil
- Used filters – oil, fuel & hydraulic
- Used spill kits/granules
- Plastic and general packaging waste
- Paper and cardboard
- Food and packaging waste
- Scrap metal
- Used road tyres
- Used batteries
- Other workshop waste e.g. paints, solvents



As you can see above there are about 12 waste streams coming out of the day to day running of Readypower. These are a mixture of hazardous and non-hazardous wastes.

What is waste segregation?

The Hazardous Waste Regs say that we cannot dispose of both hazardous and non-hazardous waste in the same bin, so we have to have a system that separates or segregates the waste at the point which it is generated. This is why we have waste oil filter bins and waste oil IBCs at the depots. Waste batteries must also be kept separate.

How can we stop generating so much waste in the first place?

REMEMBER!

Reduce → Reuse → Recycle → Dispose

Water Pollution

What sorts of substances can pollute the water environment?

We handle many chemicals and fluids within the company that could have a drastic effect on watercourses (drains, rivers, streams, culverts, lakes).

You must take care when handling any of the following:

- Solvents i.e. degreaser or paint stripper
- Detergents such as traffic film remover or pressure washing detergent
- Battery acid
- Food liquids such as milk
- Mineral oils, both engine, hydraulic or transmission
- Antifreeze
- Brake fluid

The above list does not cover all liquids but gives you an idea. If in doubt whether or not something is a marine pollutant look for these COSHH symbols:



OR



Yard Drainage

Drains in the yard are classed as watercourses and you must be equally careful what is poured down these as you would a lake or river. The water authority and the EA can trace sources of pollution to individual premises.

Should any hazardous liquid be discharged accidentally down the drain you must carry out the steps shown over the page.

Spill Response

What do I do if there is a spill on site or on company property?

In the event of a spillage we have a procedure below that must be followed. This is also displayed near areas where oils and fluids are handled at all Readypower depots.

1. Observe Safety Precautions (e.g. no smoking)
2. Stop spillage if safe, i.e. close valve, upright barrel or plug leak
3. Contain spill with sand, earth or spill granules to stop leakage into drains
4. Let Depot Manager know, or Site Manager if on a customer's worksite
5. All contaminated material and ground to be disposed of as hazardous waste

**REMEMBER PREVENTION IS BETTER THAN CURE,
TAKE CARE WHEN HANDLING OIL, DIESEL AND
OTHER POLLUTING SUBSTANCES**

Disposal of used spill granules or pads

Make sure that these are placed into the blue wheelie bins marked "oil contaminated waste" that are located in our yards. DO NOT throw them into the yard skips with the non-hazardous waste



Air Pollution

How does Readypower pollute the air?

With over 180 diesel engines in our fleet of lorries, plant and vehicles, Readypower has an impact on the total atmospheric pollution produced each year in the UK.



How can we help to minimise this pollution?

We can start by only running our engines when needed and not leaving plant, low loaders or other vehicles ticking over when not necessary.



This is Readypower's No Idling Policy

Other company strategies include:

- ✓ Ensuring that manufacturer's servicing schedules are strictly adhered to to ensure efficient, clean engines
- ✓ Purchasing new plant that conforms to the latest European emissions standards

Things you can do:

- ✓ Car share to and from sites where possible
- ✓ Always report engine defects as soon as possible so we can rectify them straight away
- ✓ Be proactive and switch off any non-essential (check first) plant or vehicle engine you find running

Information and Enquiries

For any query relating to this brief or any other environmental issue you can contact Andy Young on 01189 774901 Ext:206.

Other organisations you may be interested in and may be able to help you:

Environment Agency: Incident Hotline: 0800 807060
General Enquiries: 08708 506506

Department for Environment,
Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA) Helpline: 08459 335577

Department of Trade & Industry (DTi) 0207 2155000

English Nature General Enquiries: 01733 455101

Countryside Agency General Enquiries: 01242 533222