

## “The Framework License in practice”

In 2002 the “Example Licenses Project” was launched by the Netherlands’ Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment. The aim of the project is to provide permitting authorities (provinces and municipalities) with practical examples of flexible licences attuned to the level of environmental management adopted by companies.

The “Circular on the Framework License and the Customised License” published two years earlier had already provided authorities with the necessary policy- and legal framework for licensing attuned to emss’.

*The Framework licence is the most flexible and notes the objectives the company has to meet. Requirements on technical measures are as much as possible avoided. Moreover the Framework license enables the company to change operations more often without having to apply for a permit revision (a notification is sufficient).*

*The Framework licence is awarded to installations with an EMAS registration or with an ISO14001 certificate, combined with an approved corporate environmental plan and an annual environmental report. Furthermore, the Framework license is not awarded if the installation is in non-compliance or has a history of non compliance or if the installation does not communicate properly with all of its stakeholders.*

*The Customised licence is one where the installation does not meet all the conditions for having a Framework license, and therefore includes more detailed requirements where needed.*

In day-to-day practice permitting authorities still experienced some difficulties in issuing flexible permits and felt the need for further technical support. The “Example Licenses Project” tries to fulfil this need by providing two example licenses: one (flexible) Framework licence and – by contrast - one very detailed (inflexible) license.

*The basis for both licenses is the ‘real-life’ application of Dutch snackfactory (SVO), with external safety and smell as the most important environmental aspects. Two different levels of environmental management were than used as starting point (resulting in two different applications). One level being very high and one level being very low.*

Both example licenses haven been drawn up by experts from the ... (InfoMil) in close cooperation with a number of practioners and have now been translated into English to provide the participants to the second ENAP Workshop (on linking of environmental management with regulation) for a more detailed picture of the practical implementation of the Framework License in the Netherlands.

*Please note that due to the deadline of the workshop the translated licences are still in a draft status. At a later moment they will be finalised and made available to all interested parties.*