

Module	Environment
Jurisdictions	UK

Module Application

As the operator of a regulated facility, does the organisation obtain the appropriate environmental permit, and comply with its terms and conditions, unless exempt?

Does the organisation ensure that directors' responsibilities are fulfilled by complying with Streamlined Energy and Carbon Reporting (SECR) framework requirements, and highlighting climate-related matters in financial reporting?

Does the organisation comply with regulations and schemes limiting its air pollution?

Does the organisation obtain proper licences when abstracting water, impounding water, or discharging water, and when carrying out activities in the UK marine area?

Does the organisation classify, store, transport, and dispose of waste in compliance with regulatory requirements, ensuring accurate documentation and timely registrations or renewals?

Does the organisation adhere to land management regulations in the UK?

Does the organisation comply with rules that promote and maintain biodiversity in the UK, including licensing and biodiversity net gain regulations?

Module Scope

Organisations operating in the UK must navigate a complex regulatory landscape to ensure environmental responsibility and legal compliance. Key regulations govern various aspects of environmental management, from emissions control and waste disposal to biodiversity protection and sustainable resource use. Understanding these obligations is essential for businesses to mitigate risks, maintain operational integrity, and contribute to environmental sustainability.

The UK ENVIRONMENT module informs UK organisations of their legislated legal obligations to the environment. The module focuses on providing practical assistance to UK organisations to ensure that they comply with sustainability regulations by transparently reporting energy use, climate risks, and pollution measures.

Organisations and their employees are expected to be familiar with the legal obligations to which they are subject. The aim of this module is to equip the organisation with knowledge of their environmental obligations and the processes and procedures necessary to establish the relevant systems and operations to ensure compliance.

The specific questions covered by the module are:

- Does the UK organisation comply with environmental permitting, energy and carbon reporting, air pollution limits, water management, waste management, land regulations, and biodiversity requirements in the UK?
- What processes or procedures should the organisation adopt to bring it into compliance with its obligations?
- What are the consequences if the legal obligations are breached?

The key topics covered in this module are:

- Environmental Permits
- Company and Director Responsibilities
- Clean Air
- Water Management
- Waste Management
- Land Management
- Biodiversity

The module encompasses a range of legislative sources including:

- Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016
- Streamlined Energy and Carbon Reporting (SECR) framework
- Clean Air Act 1993
- UK Emissions Trading Scheme
- Water Resources Act 1991
- Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011
- Land Contamination Risk Management framework
- Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981
- Control of Asbestos Regulations 2012

Relevant regulators include:

- Environment Agency (England)
- Natural Resources Wales (Wales)
- Scottish Environment Protection Agency (Scotland)
- Northern Ireland Environment Agency (Northern Ireland)
- Financial Reporting Council (the whole of the UK)

Non-compliance with sustainability regulations can have severe consequences for UK organisations, such as heavy fines, penalties and criminal charges, including terms of imprisonment. England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland each have distinct regulatory approaches in relation to environment responsibility and legal compliance. The consequences of UK organisations breaching or not complying with their legal obligations vary considerably between jurisdictions.

The UK ENVIRONMENT module covers specific consequences for each area of non-compliance in detail, in relation to:

- *Air Quality and Emissions*

- Clean Air Act (UK) violations
 - Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- *Waste Management*
 - Hazardous Waste
 - Documentation and Record Keeping
 - Environmental Permits
- *Water Management*
 - Water Pollution
 - Water Abstraction
 - Marine Activities
- *Biodiversity and Land Protection*
 - Protected Sites and Species
 - Hedgerows
- *Single-use Plastics*
 - Supply Violations
- *Corporate Reporting*
 - Directors' Responsibilities

The UK ENVIRONMENT module provides comprehensive coverage of the vast majority of environmental obligations. However, it does not cover obligations that are limited to a small number of highly specialised organisations such as those operating nuclear facilities.

The module does not cover the rights or entitlements of individuals who have suffered damages or losses due to breaches of obligations by UK organisations. The module does not cover the process that an entity or an individual would follow to report or seek compensation for the breach or their loss.

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