



European Union Network for the
Implementation and Enforcement
of Environmental Law

Joint Inspections



Why joint inspections?

On-site inspection is an important part of environmental compliance assurance. Many of IMPEL's member organisations have responsibility for carrying out inspections to ensure that environmental permit conditions and standards are being met. Sharing knowledge and experience on inspections amongst organisations and countries is a key area of IMPEL's work.

Joint inspections provide a focus for practitioners to come together to share their expertise, to develop and test methodologies, such as inspection 'check lists', and to agree on good practices for the planning and execution of on-site inspections. They make a valuable contribution to the professional development of those directly involved, and, by sharing the results more widely, to the building of capacity within IMPEL's member organisations.

Joint inspections also play an important role in helping to achieve a level playing field in the environmental regulation of industry across Europe.

TARGET GROUP

- Inspectors working in Europe on IED installations

EU LEGISLATION

- [Industrial Emission Directive](#)

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What's involved in a joint inspection?

Joint inspections involve visiting specific sites and processes. For each joint inspection, specific objectives are identified and agreed. These may include: the assessment of inspection methods and procedures; the instruments that are used; and the practical application of Best Available Techniques (BAT). Sites may also be chosen because there is a specific issue that needs to be addressed and problem-solving among a small group of inspectors could be helpful in resolving it. In some cases, it may be valuable to showcase situations where solutions, such as practical remediation techniques, can be demonstrated to a wider audience, in which case the visiting group of inspectors can be larger.

For each joint inspection the host country identifies the site and liaises with the site managers. The host inspector prepares the inspection together with two to three inspectors from different countries. They execute the inspection together and evaluate what has been learned directly afterwards. The outcomes of the joint inspection are summarised and then presented to a wider group of inspectors so that lessons learned and good practices can be shared more widely.

Progress and next steps

Procedures have been developed within IMPEL's Industrial Emission Directive (IED) implementation project drawing on the learning that has been gained through joint inspections in more than ten countries. Practical guidance is available as a Fact Sheet in IMPEL's [combined guidance on 'Doing the Right Things'](#).

For future years, the intention is to broaden the scope of joint inspections and increase the overall number carried out each year. If your organisation is interested in hosting a joint inspection, please contact the working group leader, Marinus Jordaan: marinus.jordaan@dcmr.nl

LINKS

- [IMPEL IED project](#)
- [IMPEL IED video](#)

KEY WORDS

- Joint Inspections
- On-site
- IED