



Guidance Note

Warehousing

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General

Warehousing relates to the storage of goods and substances in specially prepared or constructed buildings or facilities.

In the Sohar Freezone a warehousing company (the tenant) can operate the warehouse or can sublet parts of the warehouse complex to one or more sub-tenants.

A tenant in SFZ or SIP requires an environmental permit and the sub-tenant needs only a No-objection (NOL), such to the judgement of the Competent Authorities.

The tenant is held responsible for all environmental issues with respect to the warehouse, irrespective that the warehouse has sub-tenants.

In addition to the environmental permit, the company that handles or stores chemicals, needs to acquire a chemical permit.

Permit procedure

The Preliminary Environmental Permit (PEP) application has to be submitted by the tenant and follows the normal procedure and the application documentation must include:

- Green form.
- SFZ approved Plot Allocation Form (PAF).
- Commercial registration.
- Environmental Review (or EIA is so required).
- Standard tenant sub-tenant contract (if so relevant).

The Environmental Review (ER) includes information on the plot layout, stormwater management, fire fighting facilities, storage of waste, storage of fuels, storage of chemicals, etc.

The ER must provide details of building structure (fire endurance specifications) or containment (impermeable floor, sloping) for hazardous materials.

The ER should provide information on the substances that are included and/or excluded from handling or storage.

After nominal one year a Final Environmental Permit (FEP) can be requested.

No Objection (NOL) procedure for sub-tenants

The tenant must request a NOL on behalf of every sub-tenant. The NOL request must include:

- Information on the substances that are included and/or excluded from handling or storage (maximum quantities and type of substances and MSDS).



- Information on storage location inside the warehouse complex.
- Information on any specific requirements that are needed (such as cooling, ventilation, smoke detection, sprinklers etc.).
- 4 weeks before commencing operations a commercial registration of the sub-tenant has to be submitted.

The NOL is only valid if the Preliminary Environmental Permit is valid. The NOL could include additional requirements.

Substance Storage Notification

The tenant has to notify the SEU on any substantial change in handling and storage of materials and substances. If a major change is anticipated, a NOL has to be requested. (a major change is considered when the tenant or sub-tenant intends to operate outside the permit or NOL).

Reporting and information requirements

The tenant has to report through the three monthly Environmental Performance Report (EPR) an overview of hazardous materials that are stored in the warehouse complex. The tenant must base the EPR on information received from the sub-tenants.

The tenant must be able to produce a list of actually stored hazardous materials in order to facilitate firefighting and assess environmental risks.

Administrative

SEU will formally consider the permit holder (is the tenant) as the primary responsible entity for environmental issues.

Communications to and from the SEU can be routed through the One Stop Shop (OSS). SEU considers the OSS not as a replacement of the permit holding company but only as a facilitating organization.

Warehouse safety

The tenant has to ensure that staff and staff of sub-tenant is aware and trained in the use of all safety facilities and instructions and has relevant communication facilities in case of emergencies.