

## **ASEMS - POEMS release of EMP04 v4.0 – Transition from EMP04 & EMP05**

### **Reference:**

Release of EMP04 V4.0 July 2020 (and removal of EMP05)

### **Background:**

The POEMS EMP04 & EMP05 v3.3 have been reviewed, combined and updated to EMP04 Environmental Impact Screening and Scoping v4.0. EMP05 has been withdrawn, with the procedure number reserved for future use. This document does not provide instruction as to how to implement POEMS, these can be found on the [ASEMS website](#).

### **Aim:**

This document outlines the main differences between POEMS EMP04 and EMP05 V3.3 and EMP04 V4.0.

### **Timing:**

Delivery teams are to ensure transition to the new EMP04 before the next review of their Environmental Management Plans.

On the release of EMP04 v4.0, a transition period will be in place until 31 August 21. During this time, teams will be able to follow the obsolescent EMP04 and EMP05 v3.3, copies of which can be obtained from QSEP if required.

### **Why has POEMS changed?**

In response to user feedback, EMP04 has undergone substantial updates to amend criteria for prioritising environmental impacts. The update enables greater resolution of priorities by weighing environmental significance against other key legislative and practical considerations, ensuring implementation of the most effective environmental management solutions.

The updates have resulted in EMP04 - 'Screening and Scoping' and EMP05 - 'Impact priority Evaluation' at version 3.3 being merged and developed into EMP04 v4.0

### **Why adopt the POEMS?**

EMP04 v3.3 and EMP05 v3.3 are obsolescent and will be made obsolete on 31 August 21.

For environmental management to be effective, Delivery Teams (DT) need to focus on the most important environmental aspects and impacts associated with their projects(s).

The significance of the effect on the environment is estimated using an environmental impact significance matrix. This gives each environmental impact either a high, medium or low significance depending on the estimated severity and frequency of the effect on the environment. The environmental impact and aspect priority are then determined by weighing this significance against other criteria.

### **What are the Headline changes?**

- Removal of current EMP04 v3.3
- Removal of current EMP05 v3.3 (Will be left blank for future update)
- Current links to EMP05 within other EMP's will be linked to the new EMP04.
- Addition of new EMP04 v4.0 – Environmental Impact Screening & Scoping.
- Policy Clauses – Link relevant policy clauses to new EMP04 (no clauses will be changed).
- Environmental Features Matrix (EFM) (was EMP04/F/01) – Update of Matrix for new version of EMP04.

For the purposes of clarity, only significant changes are listed below. Minor and non-technical changes are not listed.

<b>New EMP04 Procedural overview</b>
<p>For environmental management to be effective, Delivery Teams (DT) need to focus on the most important environmental aspects and impacts associated with their projects(s). This is done by using this procedure to first identify and then prioritise the environmental aspects and impacts associated with a project. This procedure consists of seven steps (below).</p> <p>Firstly, the activities, environmental aspects and environmental impacts for a project are identified and recorded, using an <u>Environmental Features Matrix (EFM)</u>. The significance of the effect on the environment is estimated using an environmental impact significance matrix. This gives each environmental impact either a high, medium or low significance depending on the estimated severity and frequency of the effect on the environment. The environmental impact and aspect priority are then determined by weighing this significance against other criteria. These are any potential risks to MOD operations/key milestones, any potential risk of non-compliance with legislation, and the ability to implement operational controls. In addition, the responsible stakeholder (within the MOD) for each environmental impact is identified to facilitate environmental impact management if required.</p> <p>All this information is also added to the <u>EFM</u>, and this is supported by a summary of the results of the procedure in an Environmental Impact Screening and Scoping report (EISS report) Those environmental impacts selected for further management are taken forward for Environmental Impact Management (EIM) and communicated to stakeholders in accordance with POEMS <u>EMP06</u>.</p>
<b>New EMP04 Step Procedure</b>
<b>Step 1: Form a working group</b>
<b>Step 2: Identify activities, environmental aspects and impacts</b>
<b>Step 3: Assess environmental impact significance</b>
<b>Step 4: Consider potential environmental risk and opportunity to implement operational controls</b>
<b>Step 5: Determine and justify final environmental impact priority</b>
<b>Step 6: Finalise the environmental impacts for Environmental Impact Management</b>

**Step 7: Communicate priority of environmental impacts to stakeholders**