

Mercury Update

January 2005

DEFRA issued additional guidance to PG5/2(04) on 10th January 2005 which has significant implications for existing crematoria (Available as a download from the Institute's website at www.iccm-uk.com)

Cremation authorities and companies now have until 31st December 2005 to consider their options for achieving a 50% reduction in the emissions of mercury and to inform their relevant local authority regulator.

The options available include the following that have been confirmed by DEFRA:

- **Operators may either upgrade their existing crematoria or trade or a combination of both to achieve 50% reduction of mercury emissions.**
- **A single crematorium can abate 50% of its cremations and not trade.**
- **Private sector companies can trade internally provided they can provide evidence of achieving 50% reduction in mercury emissions.**
- **Local authorities with 2 or more crematoria can trade internally provided they can provide evidence of achieving 50% reduction in mercury emissions.**
- **Two or more operators could form their own trading arrangement provided they can provide evidence of achieving 50% reduction in mercury emissions.**

Clause 5 of the additional guidance states:

"Operators of all crematoria should notify their relevant local authority regulator by no later than 31 December 2005 whether they will opt for fitting abatement, or whether they will be sharing the cost of abatement fitted by other crematoria (whether or not owned by the same operator), or whether they will choose a combination of these two approaches."

It is clear that authorities and companies have 12 months to decide which is the best approach for them and must therefore start the decision making process in the near future.

You are advised to copy this update to your Chief Officer, Chief Executive, Environmental Health Officer and Finance Officer in order to aid the decision making process.

Further information will be relayed as developments occur.