



# Environment Act 1995

## 1995 CHAPTER 25

### PART V

#### MISCELLANEOUS, GENERAL AND SUPPLEMENTAL PROVISIONS

#### *[<sup>F1</sup>Powers of Entry][<sup>F1</sup>Enforcement]*

#### **108 Powers of enforcing authorities and persons authorised by them. E+W**

- (1) A person who appears suitable to an enforcing authority may be authorised in writing by that authority to exercise, in accordance with the terms of the authorisation, any of the powers specified in subsection (4) below for the purpose—
  - (a) of determining whether any provision of the pollution control enactments [<sup>F2</sup>or flood risk activity enactments] in the case of that authority is being, or has been, complied with;
  - (b) of exercising or performing one or more of the pollution control functions [<sup>F3</sup>or flood risk activity functions] of that authority;
  - (c) of determining whether and, if so, how such a function should be exercised or performed.
- (2) A person who appears suitable to the Agency [<sup>F4</sup>, the Natural Resources Body for Wales] or SEPA may be authorised in writing by the Agency [<sup>F4</sup>, the Natural Resources Body for Wales] or, as the case may be, SEPA to exercise, in accordance with the terms of the authorisation, any of the powers specified in subsection (4) below for the purpose of enabling the Agency [<sup>F4</sup>, the Natural Resources Body for Wales] or, as the case may be, SEPA to carry out any assessment or prepare any report which the Agency [<sup>F4</sup>, the Natural Resources Body for Wales] or, as the case may be, SEPA is required to carry out or prepare under section 5(3) or 33(3) above.
- (3) Subsection (2) above only applies where the Minister who required the assessment to be carried out, or the report to be prepared, has, whether at the time of making the requirement or at any later time, notified the Agency [<sup>F5</sup>, the Natural Resources Body for Wales] or, as the case may be, SEPA that the assessment or report appears to him to relate to an incident or possible incident involving or having the potential to involve—

*Status: There are multiple versions of this provision on screen. These apply to different geographical extents. Skip to: E+W - England and Wales extent S - Scotland extent*

*Changes to legislation: Environment Act 1995, Section 108 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 29 May 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

- (a) serious pollution of the environment,
- (b) serious harm to human health, or
- (c) danger to life or health.

(4) The powers which a person may be authorised to exercise under subsection (1) or (2) above are—

- (a) to enter at any reasonable time (or, in an emergency, at any time and, if need be, by force) any premises which he has reason to believe it is necessary for him to enter;
- (b) on entering any premises by virtue of paragraph (a) above, to take with him—
  - (i) any other person duly authorised by the enforcing authority and, if the authorised person has reasonable cause to apprehend any serious obstruction in the execution of his duty, a constable; and
  - (ii) any equipment or materials required for any purpose for which the power of entry is being exercised;
- (c) to make such examination and investigation as may in any circumstances be necessary;
- (d) as regards any premises which he has power to enter, to direct that those premises or any part of them, or anything in them, shall be left undisturbed (whether generally or in particular respects) for so long as is reasonably necessary for the purpose of any examination or investigation under paragraph (c) above;
- (e) to take such measurements and photographs and make such recordings as he considers necessary for the purpose of any examination or investigation under paragraph (c) above;
- (f) to take samples, or cause samples to be taken, of any articles or substances found in or on any premises which he has power to enter, and of the air, water or land in, on, or in the vicinity of, the premises;
- [<sup>F6</sup>(g) in the case of any article or substance found in or on any premises which the person has power to enter, being an article or substance which appears to that person to have caused or to be likely to cause—
  - (i) pollution of the environment,
  - (ii) harm to the environment,
  - (iii) flooding,
  - (iv) harm to human health, or
  - (v) a detrimental impact on drainage,
 to cause it to be dismantled or subjected to any process or test (but not so as to damage or destroy it, unless that is necessary);]
- (h) in the case of any such article or substance as is mentioned in paragraph (g) above, to take possession of it and detain it for so long as is necessary for all or any of the following purposes, namely—
  - (i) to examine it, or cause it to be examined, and to do, or cause to be done, to it anything which he has power to do under that paragraph;
  - (ii) to ensure that it is not tampered with before examination of it is completed;
  - (iii) to ensure that it is available for use as evidence in any proceedings for an offence under the pollution control enactments [<sup>F7</sup>or flood risk activity enactments] in the case of the enforcing authority under whose authorisation he acts or in any other proceedings relating to a

---

*Status:* There are multiple versions of this provision on screen. These apply to different geographical extents. **Skip to:** E+W - England and Wales extent S - Scotland extent

**Changes to legislation:** Environment Act 1995, Section 108 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 29 May 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes

---

variation notice, enforcement notice or prohibition notice under those enactments;

- (j) to require any person whom he has reasonable cause to believe to be able to give any information relevant to any examination or investigation under paragraph (c) above to answer (in the absence of persons other than a person nominated by that person to be present and any persons whom the authorised person may allow to be present) such questions as the authorised person thinks fit to ask and to sign a declaration of the truth of his answers.
- (k) to require the production of, or where the information is recorded in computerised form, the furnishing of extracts from, any records—
  - (i) which are required to be kept under the pollution control enactments [<sup>F8</sup>or flood risk activity enactments] for the enforcing authority under whose authorisation he acts, or
  - (ii) which it is necessary for him to see for the purposes of an examination or investigation under paragraph (c) above,

and to inspect and take copies of, or of any entry in, the records;

- [<sup>F9</sup>(ka) as regards any premises which an English or Welsh authorised person has power to enter by virtue of paragraph (a), for the purposes of an examination or investigation under paragraph (c)—

- (i) to search the premises;
  - (ii) to seize and remove documents or anything else found on the premises (other than an article or substance within paragraph (g));
  - (iii) to require any information which is stored in electronic form and is accessible from the premises to be produced in a form in which it can be removed and—
    - (a) in which it is visible and legible, or
    - (b) from which it can readily be produced in a visible and legible form;
  - (iv) to operate any equipment found on the premises for the purposes of producing such information in such a form;]
- (l) to require any person to afford him such facilities and assistance with respect to any matters or things within that person's control or in relation to which that person has responsibilities as are necessary to enable the authorised person to exercise any of the powers conferred on him by this section;
- (m) any other power for—
  - (i) a purpose falling within any paragraph of subsection (1) above, or
  - (ii) any such purpose as is mentioned in subsection (2) above,which is conferred by regulations made by the Secretary of State.

- (5) The powers which by virtue of subsections (1) and (4) above are conferred in relation to any premises for the purpose of enabling an enforcing authority to determine whether any provision of the pollution control enactments [<sup>F10</sup>or flood risk activity enactments] in the case of that authority is being, or has been, complied with shall include power, in order to obtain the information on which that determination may be made,—

- (a) to carry out experimental borings or other works on those premises; and
  - (b) to install, keep or maintain monitoring and other apparatus there.

*Status: There are multiple versions of this provision on screen. These apply to different geographical extents. Skip to: E+W - England and Wales extent S - Scotland extent*

*Changes to legislation: Environment Act 1995, Section 108 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 29 May 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

- (6) Except in an emergency, in any case where it is proposed to enter any premises used for residential purposes, or to take heavy equipment on to any premises which are to be entered, any entry by virtue of this section shall only be effected—
- <sup>F11</sup>(a) .....
- (b) either—
- (i) with the consent of a person who is in occupation of those premises; or
- (ii) under the authority of a warrant by virtue of Schedule 18 to this Act.
- (7) Except in an emergency, where an authorised person proposes to enter any premises and—
- (a) entry has been refused and he apprehends on reasonable grounds that the use of force may be necessary to effect entry, or
- (b) he apprehends on reasonable grounds that entry is likely to be refused and that the use of force may be necessary to effect entry,
- any entry on to those premises by virtue of this section shall only be effected under the authority of a warrant by virtue of Schedule 18 to this Act.
- <sup>F12</sup>(7A) An English or Welsh authorised person may not exercise the powers in subsection (4)(ka) without—
- (a) the consent of a person entitled to grant access to material on or accessible from the premises, or
- (b) the authority of a warrant by virtue of Schedule 18 to this Act.
- This is subject to subsections (7B) and (7C).
- (7B) An English or Welsh authorised person may exercise a power in subsection (4)(ka)(ii) to (ka)(iv) in relation to a thing without consent or the authority of a warrant if the person has reasonable grounds for believing that—
- (a) it is evidence of a failure to comply with any provision of the pollution control enactments or flood risk activity enactments, and
- (b) exercising the power is necessary to prevent it being concealed, lost, altered or destroyed.
- (7C) Subsection (7A) does not require consent or the authority of a warrant for doing something within the powers in subsection (4)(ka) if, and so far as, it may be done without them in exercise of another power conferred by subsection (4).
- (7D) Where anything seized or removed from premises under subsection (4)(ka) contains protected material, that material—
- (a) may not be used for the purposes of an examination or investigation under subsection (4)(c), and
- (b) must be returned to the premises from which it was removed, or to the person who had possession or control of it immediately before it was removed, as soon as reasonably practicable after it is identified as protected material.
- (7E) Subsection (7D) does not prevent any part of a thing containing protected material which is not protected material being used for the purposes of an examination or investigation, retained or copied.
- (7F) “Protected material” means—
- (a) material subject to legal professional privilege,

---

*Status:* There are multiple versions of this provision on screen. These apply to different geographical extents. **Skip to:** E+W - England and Wales extent S - Scotland extent

**Changes to legislation:** Environment Act 1995, Section 108 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 29 May 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes

---

- (b) excluded material within the meaning of section 11 of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984, or
  - (c) journalistic material, within the meaning of section 13 of that Act, which is not excluded material.]
- (8) In relation to any premises belonging to or used for the purposes of the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority, subsections (1) to (4) above shall have effect subject to section 6(3) of the Atomic Energy Authority Act 1954 (which restricts entry to such premises where they [<sup>F13</sup>are prohibited places within the meaning of Part 1 of the National Security Act 2023].)
- (9) The Secretary of State may by regulations make provision as to the procedure to be followed in connection with the taking of, and the dealing with, samples under subsection (4)(f) above.
- (10) Where an authorised person proposes to exercise the power conferred by subsection (4)(g) above in the case of an article or substance found on any premises, he shall, if so requested by a person who at the time is present on and has responsibilities in relation to those premises, cause anything which is to be done by virtue of that power to be done in the presence of that person.
- (11) Before exercising the power conferred by subsection (4)(g) above in the case of any article or substance, an authorised person shall consult—
- (a) such persons having duties on the premises where the article or substance is to be dismantled or subjected to the process or test, and
  - (b) such other persons,
- as appear to him appropriate for the purpose of ascertaining what dangers, if any, there may be in doing anything which he proposes to do or cause to be done under the power.
- (12) No answer given by a person in pursuance of a requirement imposed under subsection (4)(j) above shall be admissible in evidence in England and Wales against that person in any proceedings, or in Scotland against that person in any criminal proceedings.
- [<sup>F14</sup>(12A) Subject to subsection (7D), anything seized or removed under subsection (4)(ka) may be retained for so long as is necessary in all the circumstances.]
- (13) Nothing in this section shall be taken to compel the production by any person of a document of which he would on grounds of legal professional privilege be entitled to withhold production on an order for discovery in an action in the High Court or, in relation to Scotland, on an order for the production of documents in an action in the Court of Session.
- (14) Schedule 18 to this Act shall have effect with respect to the powers of entry and related powers which are conferred by this section.
- (15) In this section—
- “authorised person” means a person authorised under subsection (1) or (2) above;
  - [<sup>F15</sup>“document” includes anything in which information of any description is recorded (by any means) and any part of such a thing; ]
  - [<sup>F16</sup>“domestic property” has the meaning given by section 75(5)(a) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990;]

*Status: There are multiple versions of this provision on screen. These apply to different geographical extents. Skip to: E+W - England and Wales extent S - Scotland extent*

*Changes to legislation: Environment Act 1995, Section 108 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 29 May 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

[<sup>F17</sup>“emergency” means a case in which it appears to the authorised person in question—

- (a) that there is an immediate risk of serious harm or that circumstances exist which are likely to endanger life or health, and
- (b) that immediate entry to any premises is necessary to verify the existence of that risk or those circumstances or to ascertain the cause of that risk or those circumstances or to effect a remedy,

and for this purpose “serious harm” means—

- (i) serious pollution of the environment,
- (ii) serious harm to the environment,
- (iii) serious flooding,
- (iv) serious harm to human health, or
- (v) a serious detrimental impact on drainage;]

“enforcing authority” means—

- (a) the Secretary of State;
- (b) the Agency;
- (bza) [<sup>F18</sup>the Natural Resources Body for Wales;]
- (ba) [<sup>F19</sup>a waste collection authority;]
- (c) SEPA; or
- (d) a local enforcing authority;

[<sup>F20</sup>“English or Welsh authorised person” means a person authorised under subsection (1) or (2) by the Secretary of State, the Welsh Ministers, the Agency, the Natural Resources Body for Wales, a waste collection authority or a local enforcing authority in England or Wales;]

[<sup>F21</sup>“English waste collection authority” has the same meaning as in section 45A of the Environmental Protection Act 1990;]

[<sup>F22</sup>“flood risk activity enactment”, in relation to an enforcing authority, means an enactment relating to the flood risk activity functions of that authority;

“flood risk activity functions”, in relation to the Agency or the Natural Resources Body for Wales, means the functions relating to flood risk activities conferred or imposed on it by or under regulations made under section 61 of the Water Act 2014;]

“local enforcing authority” means—

- (a) [<sup>F23</sup>a local enforcing authority, within the meaning of Part I of the <sup>M1</sup>Environmental Protection Act 1990;]
- (b) a local authority, within the meaning of Part IIA of that Act, in its capacity as an enforcing authority for the purposes of that Part;
- (c) a local authority for the purposes of Part IV of this Act or regulations under that Part;
- (d) a local authority for the purposes of regulations under section 2 of the Pollution Prevention and Control Act 1999 extending to England and Wales [<sup>F24</sup>or regulations under section 61 of the Water Act 2014];

“mobile plant” means plant which is designed to move or to be moved whether on roads or otherwise;

“pollution control enactments”, in relation to an enforcing authority, means the <sup>M2</sup>enactments and instruments relating to the <sup>M3</sup>pollution control functions of that authority;

---

*Status:* There are multiple versions of this provision on screen. These apply to different geographical extents. **Skip to:** E+W - England and Wales extent S - Scotland extent

**Changes to legislation:** Environment Act 1995, Section 108 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 29 May 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes

---

“pollution control functions”, in relation to the <sup>M4</sup>Agency [<sup>F25</sup>, the Natural Resources Body for Wales] or SEPA, means the <sup>M5</sup>functions conferred or imposed on it by or under—

- (a) the Alkali, &c, Works Regulation Act 1906;
- (b) <sup>F26</sup> ...
- (c) <sup>F26</sup> ...
- (d) <sup>F27</sup> ...
- (e) Parts I, IA and II of the <sup>M6</sup>Control of Pollution Act 1974;
- (f) the Control of Pollution (Amendment) Act 1989;
- (g) Parts [<sup>F23</sup> I,] II and IIA of the <sup>M7</sup>Environmental Protection Act 1990 (integrated pollution control, waste on land and contaminated land);
- (h) Chapter III of Part IV of the <sup>M8</sup>Water Industry Act 1991 (special category effluent);
- (j) Part III and sections 161 to 161D of the <sup>M9</sup>Water Resources Act 1991;
- (k) section 19 of the <sup>M10</sup>Clean Air Act 1993;
- (l) <sup>F28</sup> ...
- (m) [<sup>F29</sup>EU-derived domestic legislation (as defined by section 2 of the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018) to the extent that it relates to pollution;]

[<sup>F30</sup>and, in relation to the Agency [<sup>F31</sup>or the Natural Resources Body for Wales], includes the functions conferred or imposed on, or transferred to, it under section 2 of the Pollution Prevention and Control Act 1999 [<sup>F32</sup>or regulations under section 61 of the Water Act 2014][<sup>F33</sup>but, in relation to the Natural Resources Body for Wales, does not include any functions which were exercisable by the Countryside Council for Wales or the Forestry Commissioners immediately before 1 April 2013 and are functions of that Body by virtue of the Natural Resources Body for Wales (Functions) Order 2013;];]

[<sup>F34</sup> “pollution control functions”, in relation to a waste collection authority, means [<sup>F35</sup>—

- (a) in relation to an English waste collection authority, the functions conferred or imposed on it by or under Part 2 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 (other than sections 45 [<sup>F36</sup>to 45AZD] and 46 [<sup>F37</sup>to 46D] of that Act so far as relating to the collection of household waste from domestic property); and
- (b) in relation to any other waste collection authority,]

the functions [<sup>F38</sup>conferred on it by section 59][<sup>F38</sup>conferred or imposed on it by or under Part 2] of the Environmental Protection Act 1990;

“pollution control functions”, in relation to a local enforcing authority, means the functions conferred or imposed on, or transferred to, that authority—

- (a) by or under Part [<sup>F23</sup> I or] IIA of the <sup>M11</sup>Environmental Protection Act 1990;
- (b) by or under regulations made by virtue of Part IV of this Act; or
- (c) [<sup>F39</sup>by or under EU-derived domestic legislation (as defined by section 2 of the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018) to the extent that it relates to pollution;]

*Status: There are multiple versions of this provision on screen. These apply to different geographical extents. Skip to: E+W - England and Wales extent S - Scotland extent*

*Changes to legislation: Environment Act 1995, Section 108 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 29 May 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

[<sup>F40</sup>and, in relation to an authority in England or Wales, includes the functions conferred or imposed on, or transferred to, that authority under section 2 of the Pollution Prevention and Control Act 1999;]

“pollution control functions”, in relation to the Secretary of State, means any functions which are conferred or imposed upon him by or under any enactment or instrument and which relate to the control of pollution;

“premises” includes any land, vehicle, vessel or mobile plant.

[<sup>F41</sup> “ waste collection authority ” shall be construed in accordance with section 30(3)(a), (b) and (bb) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990.]

- (16) Any power to make regulations under this section shall be exercisable by statutory instrument; and a statutory instrument containing any such regulations shall be subject to annulment pursuant to a resolution of either House of Parliament.]

#### Extent Information

- E1** This version of this provision extends to England and Wales only; a separate version has been created for Scotland only

#### Textual Amendments

- F2** Words in s. 108(1)(a) inserted (E.W.) (6.4.2016) by [The Environmental Permitting \(England and Wales\) \(Amendment\) \(No. 2\) Regulations 2016 \(S.I. 2016/475\)](#), reg. 1(2), **Sch. 3 para. 3(3)(a)(i)** (with regs. 31-33)
- F3** Words in s. 108(1)(b) inserted (E.W.) (6.4.2016) by [The Environmental Permitting \(England and Wales\) \(Amendment\) \(No. 2\) Regulations 2016 \(S.I. 2016/475\)](#), reg. 1(2), **Sch. 3 para. 3(3)(a)(ii)** (with regs. 31-33)
- F4** Words in s. 108(2) inserted (1.4.2013) by [The Natural Resources Body for Wales \(Functions\) Order 2013 \(S.I. 2013/755\)](#), art. 1(2), **Sch. 2 para. 382(2)** (with Sch. 7)
- F5** Words in s. 108(3) inserted (1.4.2013) by [The Natural Resources Body for Wales \(Functions\) Order 2013 \(S.I. 2013/755\)](#), art. 1(2), **Sch. 2 para. 382(2)** (with Sch. 7)
- F6** S. 108(4)(g) substituted (E.W.) (6.4.2016) by [The Environmental Permitting \(England and Wales\) \(Amendment\) \(No. 2\) Regulations 2016 \(S.I. 2016/475\)](#), reg. 1(2), **Sch. 3 para. 3(3)(b)(i)** (with regs. 31-33)
- F7** Words in s. 108(4)(h)(iii) inserted (E.W.) (6.4.2016) by [The Environmental Permitting \(England and Wales\) \(Amendment\) \(No. 2\) Regulations 2016 \(S.I. 2016/475\)](#), reg. 1(2), **Sch. 3 para. 3(3)(b)(ii)** (with regs. 31-33)
- F8** Words in s. 108(4)(k)(i) inserted (E.W.) (6.4.2016) by [The Environmental Permitting \(England and Wales\) \(Amendment\) \(No. 2\) Regulations 2016 \(S.I. 2016/475\)](#), reg. 1(2), **Sch. 3 para. 3(3)(b)(iii)** (with regs. 31-33)
- F9** S. 108(4)(ka) inserted (E.W.) (9.1.2022) by [Environment Act 2021 \(c. 30\)](#), s. 147(2)(h), **Sch. 10 para. 5(2)** (with s. 144)
- F10** Words in s. 108(5) inserted (E.W.) (6.4.2016) by [The Environmental Permitting \(England and Wales\) \(Amendment\) \(No. 2\) Regulations 2016 \(S.I. 2016/475\)](#), reg. 1(2), **Sch. 3 para. 3(3)(c)** (with regs. 31-33)
- F11** S. 108(6)(a) omitted (E.W.) (9.1.2022) by virtue of [Environment Act 2021 \(c. 30\)](#), s. 147(2)(h), **Sch. 10 para. 5(3)** (with s. 144)
- F12** S. 108(7A)-(7F) inserted (E.W.) (9.1.2022) by [Environment Act 2021 \(c. 30\)](#), s. 147(2)(h), **Sch. 10 para. 5(4)** (with s. 144)
- F13** Words in s. 108(8) substituted (20.12.2023) by [The National Security Act 2023 \(Consequential Amendments of Primary Legislation\) Regulations 2023 \(S.I. 2023/1386\)](#), reg. 1(2), **Sch. para. 15**
- F14** S. 108(12A) inserted (E.W.) (9.1.2022) by [Environment Act 2021 \(c. 30\)](#), s. 147(2)(h), **Sch. 10 para. 5(5)** (with s. 144)



*Status: There are multiple versions of this provision on screen. These apply to different geographical extents. Skip to: E+W - England and Wales extent S - Scotland extent*

*Changes to legislation: Environment Act 1995, Section 108 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 29 May 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

- F15** Words in s. 108(15) inserted (E.W.) (9.1.2022) by Environment Act 2021 (c. 30), s. 147(2)(h), **Sch. 10 para. 5(6)(a)** (with s. 144)
- F16** Words in s. 108(15) inserted (E.W.) (1.7.2012) by Protection of Freedoms Act 2012 (c. 9), s. 120, **Sch. 2 para. 3(2)** (with s. 97)
- F17** Words in s. 108(15) substituted (E.W.) (6.4.2016) by The Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 2016 (S.I. 2016/475), reg. 1(2), **Sch. 3 para. 3(3)(d)(i)** (with regs. 31-33)
- F18** Words in s. 108(15) inserted (1.4.2013) by The Natural Resources Body for Wales (Functions) Order 2013 (S.I. 2013/755), art. 1(2), **Sch. 2 para. 382(3)(a)** (with Sch. 7)
- F19** Words in s. 108(15) inserted (E.W.) (31.3.2004 for W., 31.3.2004 for E.) by Anti-social Behaviour Act 2003 (c. 38), **ss. 55(7), 93**; S.I. 2004/690, art. 3(h); S.I. 2004/999, art. 2(m)
- F20** Words in s. 108(15) inserted (E.W.) (9.1.2022) by Environment Act 2021 (c. 30), s. 147(2)(h), **Sch. 10 para. 5(6)(b)** (with s. 144)
- F21** Words in s. 108(15) inserted (E.W.) (1.7.2012) by Protection of Freedoms Act 2012 (c. 9), s. 120, **Sch. 2 para. 3(3)** (with s. 97)
- F22** Words in s. 108(15) inserted (E.W.) (6.4.2016) by The Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 2016 (S.I. 2016/475), reg. 1(2), **Sch. 3 para. 3(3)(d)(ii)** (with regs. 31-33)
- F23** Words in s. 108(15) repealed (1.4.2015 for S.) by Pollution Prevention and Control Act 1999 (c. 24), s. 7(3), **Sch. 3**; S.S.I. 2015/74, art. 2(2)(g)
- F24** Words in s. 108(15) inserted (31.3.2017) by The Water Act 2014 (Consequential Amendments etc.) Order 2017 (S.I. 2017/506), arts. 1(1), **10(2)(a)**
- F25** Words in s. 108(15) inserted (1.4.2013) by The Natural Resources Body for Wales (Functions) Order 2013 (S.I. 2013/755), art. 1(2), **Sch. 2 para. 382(3)(b)(i)** (with Sch. 7)
- F26** Words in s. 108(15) omitted (1.4.2006) by virtue of The Water Environment (Consequential and Savings Provisions) (Scotland) Order 2006 (S.S.I. 2006/181), **sch. Pt. 4 para. 8(4)**
- F27** Words in s. 108(15) repealed (26.2.2015) by The Regulatory Reform (Scotland) Act 2014 (Consequential Modifications) Order 2015 (S.I. 2015/374), arts. 1(1), **6(3)**
- F28** Words in s. 108(15) repealed (E.W.) (6.4.2010) by The Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2010 (S.I. 2010/675), reg. 1(1)(b), Sch. 26 para. 13(5), **Sch. 28** (with reg. 1(2), Sch. 4)
- F29** Words in s. 108(15) substituted (31.12.2020) by The Environment (Amendment etc.) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 (S.I. 2019/458), regs. 1(1), **3(12)(a)**; 2020 c. 1, Sch. 5 para. 1(1)
- F30** S. 108(15): words in definition of “pollution control functions” in relation to the Environment Agency inserted (E.W.) (1.8.2000) by S.I. 2000/1973, reg. 39, **Sch. 10 para. 16(b)**
- F31** Words in s. 108(15) inserted (1.4.2013) by The Natural Resources Body for Wales (Functions) Order 2013 (S.I. 2013/755), art. 1(2), **Sch. 2 para. 382(3)(b)(ii)** (with Sch. 7)
- F32** Words in s. 108(15) inserted (31.3.2017) by The Water Act 2014 (Consequential Amendments etc.) Order 2017 (S.I. 2017/506), arts. 1(1), **10(2)(b)**
- F33** Words in s. 108(15) inserted (1.4.2013) by The Natural Resources Body for Wales (Functions) Order 2013 (S.I. 2013/755), art. 1(2), **Sch. 2 para. 382(3)(b)(iii)** (with Sch. 7)
- F34** Words in s. 108(15) inserted (31.3.2004 for W., 31.3.2004 for E.) by Anti-social Behaviour Act 2003 (c. 38), **ss. 55(8), 93**; S.I. 2004/690, art. 3(h); S.I. 2004/999, art. 2(m)
- F35** Words in s. 108(15) inserted (E.W.) (1.7.2012) by Protection of Freedoms Act 2012 (c. 9), s. 120, **Sch. 2 para. 3(4)** (with s. 97)
- F36** Words in s. 108(15) substituted (17.5.2024) by Environment Act 2021 (c. 30), **ss. 57(9), 147(3)** (with s. 144); S.I. 2024/639, reg. 2(a)
- F37** Words in s. 108(15) inserted (E.W.) (9.1.2022) by Environment Act 2021 (c. 30), s. 147(2)(h), **Sch. 10 para. 5(6)(c)** (with s. 144)
- F38** Words in s. 108(15) substituted (E.W.) (18.10.2005 for E., 16.3.2006 for W.) by Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 (c. 16), **ss. 53, 108(1)(2)**; S.I. 2005/2896, art. 3(h); S.I. 2006/768, art. 2(b)
- F39** Words in s. 108(15) substituted (31.12.2020) by The Environment (Amendment etc.) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 (S.I. 2019/458), regs. 1(1), **3(12)(b)**; 2020 c. 1, Sch. 5 para. 1(1)

*Status: There are multiple versions of this provision on screen. These apply to different geographical extents. Skip to: E+W - England and Wales extent S - Scotland extent*

*Changes to legislation: Environment Act 1995, Section 108 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 29 May 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

- F40** S. 108(15): words in definition of “pollution control functions” in relation to a local enforcing authority inserted (E.W.) (1.8.2000) by S.I. 2000/1973, reg. 39, **Sch. 10 para. 16(c)**
- F41** Words in s. 108(15) inserted (31.3.2004 for W., 31.3.2004 for E.) by Anti-social Behaviour Act 2003 (c. 38), **ss. 55(9)**, 93; S.I. 2004/690, art. 3(h); S.I. 2004/999, art. 2(m)

**Modifications etc. (not altering text)**

- C1** S. 108 applied (with modifications) (1.4.1999) by S.I. 1999/743, **art. 20(4)**
- C2** S. 108 excluded by 1991 c. 57, **s. 172(3A)** (as added (1.4.1996) by 1995 c. 25, **Sch. 22 para. 166**; S.I. 1996/186, **art. 3**)
- C3** S. 108 restricted (21.4.2005) by The Greenhouse Gas Emissions Trading Scheme Regulations 2005 (S.I. 2005/925), **reg. 3(4)** (with reg. 3)
- C4** S. 108 extended (12.7.2007) by The Transfrontier Shipment of Waste Regulations 2007 (S.I. 2007/1711), **reg. 1, Sch. 5 para. 1** (with reg. 3)
- C5** S. 108 applied (E.) (1.3.2009) by The Environmental Damage (Prevention and Remediation) Regulations 2009 (S.I. 2009/153), regs. 1(1), **31(2)**
- C6** S. 108 applied by SI 2005/2773, reg. 7(4A) (as inserted (E.) (23.12.2009) by The Volatile Organic Compounds in Paints, Varnishes and Vehicle Refinishing Products (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2009 (S.I. 2009/3145), regs. 1, 2)
- C7** S. 108 extended (20.7.2011) by The Environmental Protection (Controls on Ozone-Depleting Substances) Regulations 2011 (S.I. 2011/1543), regs. 1(2), **8(3)** (with reg. 1(3))
- C8** S. 108 modified (24.3.2012) by The Bathing Water Regulations 2008 (S.I. 2008/1097), regs. 1(3)(e), **16(4)**
- C9** S. 108 applied (27.7.2012) by The Volatile Organic Compounds in Paints, Varnishes and Vehicle Refinishing Products Regulations 2012 (S.I. 2012/1715), regs. 1, **6(2)** (with reg. 3)
- C10** S. 108 extended (7.3.2015) by The Ozone-Depleting Substances Regulations 2015 (S.I. 2015/168), regs. 1(2), **13(3)** (with reg. 12(7))
- C11** S. 108 applied (E.) (19.7.2015) by The Environmental Damage (Prevention and Remediation) (England) Regulations 2015 (S.I. 2015/810), regs. 1(1), **31(2)** (with regs. 4-8)
- C12** S. 108 applied (with modifications) (1.4.2018) by The Control of Mercury (Enforcement) Regulations 2017 (S.I. 2017/1200), regs. 2(2), **9(4)(5)** (with reg. 1(2))
- C13** S. 108 applied (with modifications) (1.4.2018) by The Control of Mercury (Enforcement) Regulations 2017 (S.I. 2017/1200), regs. 2(2), **27(3)** (with reg. 1(2))
- C14** S. 108(4) modified (E.) (28.2.2023) by The Packaging Waste (Data Reporting) (England) Regulations 2023 (S.I. 2023/219), regs. 1(2), **26(3)**
- C15** S. 108(12)-(13) applied (E.) (28.2.2023) by The Packaging Waste (Data Reporting) (England) Regulations 2023 (S.I. 2023/219), reg. 1(2), **26(5)**
- C16** S. 108(6)-(7F) applied (with modifications) (E.) (28.2.2023) by The Packaging Waste (Data Reporting) (England) Regulations 2023 (S.I. 2023/219), regs. 1(2), **26(4)**
- C17** S. 108 applied in part (with modifications) (W.) (17.7.2023) by The Packaging Waste (Data Collection and Reporting) (Wales) Regulations 2023 (S.I. 2023/798), regs. 1(2), **26**
- C18** S. 108(4): power to appoint person to exercise powers conferred (27.7.1999) by 1999 c. 24, ss. 1, 2, **Sch. 1 Pt. 1 para. 14(2)**
- C19** S. 108(4) modified (16.12.2005) by The Producer Responsibility Obligations (Packaging Waste) Regulations 2005 (S.I. 2005/3468), reg. 1(1), **35(2)**
- C20** S. 108(4) modified (16.3.2007) by The Producer Responsibility Obligations (Packaging Waste) Regulations 2007 (S.I. 2007/871), reg. 1(1), **35(2)**
- C21** S. 108(4)(a)-(l) applied (with modifications) (6.3.1997) by S.I. 1997/648, **reg. 28(2)**
- C22** S. 108(4)(a)-(l) applied (with modifications) (2.8.2004) by The Justification of Practices Involving Ionising Radiation Regulations 2004 (S.I. 2004/1769), reg. 1, Sch. 1 paras. 1, 2 (with reg. 2)
- C23** S. 108(6)(7) applied (with modifications) (6.3.1997) by S.I. 1997/648, **reg. 28(3)**
- C24** S. 108(6)(7) applied (with modifications) (16.12.2005) by The Producer Responsibility Obligations (Packaging Waste) Regulations 2005 (S.I. 2005/3468), reg. 1(1), **35(3)**

*Status:* There are multiple versions of this provision on screen. These apply to different geographical extents. **Skip to:** E+W - England and Wales extent S - Scotland extent

**Changes to legislation:** Environment Act 1995, Section 108 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 29 May 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes

- C25** S. 108(6)(7) applied (with modifications) (16.3.2007) by [The Producer Responsibility Obligations \(Packaging Waste\) Regulations 2007 \(S.I. 2007/871\)](#), regs. 1(1), **35(3)**
- C26** S. 108(12)(13) applied (6.3.1997) by [S.I. 1997/648](#), **reg. 28(4)**
- C27** S. 108(12)(13) applied (16.12.2005) by [The Producer Responsibility Obligations \(Packaging Waste\) Regulations 2005 \(S.I. 2005/3468\)](#), regs. 1(1), **35(4)**
- C28** S. 108(12)(13) applied (16.3.2007) by [The Producer Responsibility Obligations \(Packaging Waste\) Regulations 2007 \(S.I. 2007/871\)](#), regs. 1(1), **35(4)**
- C29** S. 108(15) applied (E.W.) (27.6.2000) by [S.I. 2000/1460](#), reg. 3, **Sch. 1 para. 9**
- C30** S. 108(15) modified (W.) (10.12.2006) by [The Radioactive Contaminated Land \(Modification of Enactments\) \(Wales\) Regulations 2006 \(S.I. 2006/2988\)](#), regs. 1(2), **18**

#### Marginal Citations

- M1** 1990 c. 43.  
**M2** 1993 c. 12.  
**M3** 1989 c. 14.  
**M4** 1965 c. 13.  
**M5** 1906 c. 14.  
**M6** 1974 c. 40.  
**M7** 1990 c. 43.  
**M8** 1991 c. 56.  
**M9** 1991 c. 57.  
**M10** 1993 c. 11.  
**M11** 1990 c. 43.

## 108 Powers of enforcing authorities and persons authorised by them. **S**

- (1) A person who appears suitable to an enforcing authority may be authorised in writing by that authority to exercise, in accordance with the terms of the authorisation, any of the powers specified in subsection (4) below for the purpose—
- (a) of determining whether any provision of the pollution control enactments in the case of that authority is being, or has been, complied with;
  - (b) of exercising or performing one or more of the pollution control functions of that authority; [<sup>F42</sup>or]
  - (c) of determining whether and, if so, how such a function should be exercised or performed.
  - [<sup>F43</sup>(d) of determining whether any of the following offences are being or have been committed—
    - (i) an offence under section 110 of this Act;
    - (ii) an offence under section 40(1) of the Regulatory Reform (Scotland) Act 2014 (offences relating to significant environmental harm);
    - (iii) an offence under section 293(2) of the Criminal Procedure (Scotland) Act 1995 (statutory offences: art and part and aiding or abetting) as it applies in relation to an offence mentioned in sub-paragraph (i) or (ii) above;
    - (iv) an attempt, conspiracy or incitement to commit an offence mentioned in sub-paragraph (i) or (ii) above; or
  - (e) in a case only where the person is authorised by SEPA, of determining whether, and if so to what extent, any financial benefit has accrued or is likely to accrue to a person in connection with an offence mentioned in subsection (1A) below which the authorised person reasonably believes is being or has been committed.]

*Status: There are multiple versions of this provision on screen. These apply to different geographical extents. Skip to: E+W - England and Wales extent S - Scotland extent*

*Changes to legislation: Environment Act 1995, Section 108 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 29 May 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

- [<sup>F44</sup>(1A) The offence is a relevant offence (within the meaning of section 53 of the Regulatory Reform (Scotland) Act 2014) for the purpose of provision made under section 24, or of section 35, of that Act).]
- (2) A person who appears suitable to the Agency [<sup>F45</sup>, the Natural Resources Body for Wales] or SEPA may be authorised in writing by the Agency [<sup>F45</sup>, the Natural Resources Body for Wales] or, as the case may be, SEPA to exercise, in accordance with the terms of the authorisation, any of the powers specified in subsection (4) below for the purpose of enabling the Agency [<sup>F45</sup>, the Natural Resources Body for Wales] or, as the case may be, SEPA to carry out any assessment or prepare any report which the Agency [<sup>F45</sup>, the Natural Resources Body for Wales] or, as the case may be, SEPA is required to carry out or prepare under section 5(3) or 33(3) above.
- (3) Subsection (2) above only applies where the Minister who required the assessment to be carried out, or the report to be prepared, has, whether at the time of making the requirement or at any later time, notified the Agency [<sup>F46</sup>, the Natural Resources Body for Wales] or, as the case may be, SEPA that the assessment or report appears to him to relate to an incident or possible incident involving or having the potential to involve—
- (a) serious pollution of the environment,
  - (b) serious harm to human health, or
  - (c) danger to life or health.
- (4) The powers which a person may be authorised to exercise under subsection (1) or (2) above are—
- (a) to enter at any reasonable time (or, in an emergency, at any time and, if need be, by force) any premises which he has reason to believe it is necessary for him to enter;
  - (b) on entering any premises by virtue of paragraph (a) above, to take with him—
    - (i) any other person duly authorised by the enforcing authority and, if the authorised person has reasonable cause to apprehend any serious obstruction in the execution of his duty, a constable; and
    - (ii) any equipment or materials required for any purpose for which the power of entry is being exercised;
  - (c) to make such examination and investigation as may in any circumstances be necessary;
  - (d) as regards any premises which he has power to enter, to direct that those premises or any part of them, or anything in them, shall be left undisturbed (whether generally or in particular respects) for so long as is reasonably necessary for the purpose of any examination or investigation under paragraph (c) above;
  - (e) to take such measurements and photographs and make such recordings as he considers necessary for the purpose of any examination or investigation under paragraph (c) above;
  - (f) to take samples, or cause samples to be taken, of any articles or substances found in or on any premises which he has power to enter, and of the air, water or land in, on, or in the vicinity of, the premises;
  - (g) in the case of any article or substance found in or on any premises which he has power to enter, being an article or substance which appears to him to have caused or to be likely to cause pollution of the environment or harm to human health, to cause it to be dismantled or subjected to any process or test (but not so as to damage or destroy it, unless that is necessary);

---

*Status:* There are multiple versions of this provision on screen. These apply to different geographical extents. **Skip to:** E+W - England and Wales extent S - Scotland extent

**Changes to legislation:** Environment Act 1995, Section 108 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 29 May 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes

---

- (h) in the case of any such article or substance as is mentioned in paragraph (g) above, to take possession of it and detain it for so long as is necessary for all or any of the following purposes, namely—
- (i) to examine it, or cause it to be examined, and to do, or cause to be done, to it anything which he has power to do under that paragraph;
  - (ii) to ensure that it is not tampered with before examination of it is completed;
  - (iii) to ensure that it is available for use as evidence in any proceedings for an offence under the pollution control enactments in the case of the enforcing authority under whose authorisation he acts or in any other proceedings relating to a variation notice, enforcement notice or prohibition notice under those enactments;
  - [<sup>F47</sup>(iv) to ensure that it is available for use as evidence in any proceedings for an offence under section 40(1) of the Regulatory Reform (Scotland) Act 2014;]
- (j) to require any person whom he has reasonable cause to believe to be able to give any information relevant to any examination or investigation under paragraph (c) above—
- [<sup>F48</sup>(i)] to answer (in the absence of persons other than a person nominated by that person to be present and any persons whom the authorised person may allow to be present) such questions as the authorised person thinks fit to ask and to sign a declaration of the truth of his answers [<sup>F49</sup>; and
  - (ii) without prejudice to the generality of paragraph (c) above, to attend at such place and at such reasonable time as the authorised person may specify to answer those questions and sign such a declaration;]
- [<sup>F50</sup>(ja) in a case only where he is authorised under subsection (1) or (2) above by SEPA, and without prejudice to the generality of paragraphs (c) and (j) above, to require any person whom he has reasonable cause to believe to be able to give any information relevant to an examination or investigation under paragraph (c) above, to provide the person's name, address and date of birth;]
- (k) to require the production of, or where the information is recorded in computerised form, the furnishing of extracts from, any records—
- (i) which are required to be kept under the pollution control enactments for the enforcing authority under whose authorisation he acts, or
  - (ii) which it is necessary for him to see for the purposes of an examination or investigation under paragraph (c) above,
- and to inspect and take copies of, or of any entry in, the records;
- [<sup>F51</sup>(ka) as regards any premises which by virtue of an authorisation from SEPA he has power to enter, to search the premises and seize and remove any documents found in or on the premises which he has reasonable cause to believe—
- (i) may be required as evidence for the purpose of proceedings relating to an offence under any of the pollution control enactments, or under section 40(1) of the Regulatory Reform (Scotland) Act 2014, which he reasonably believes is being or has been committed; or
  - (ii) may assist in determining whether, and if so to what extent, any financial benefit has accrued or is likely to accrue as mentioned in subsection (1)(e) above;]
- (l) to require any person to afford him such facilities and assistance with respect to any matters or things within that person's control or in relation to which that

*Status: There are multiple versions of this provision on screen. These apply to different geographical extents. Skip to: E+W - England and Wales extent S - Scotland extent*

*Changes to legislation: Environment Act 1995, Section 108 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 29 May 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

person has responsibilities as are necessary to enable the authorised person to exercise any of the powers conferred on him by this section;

- (m) any other power for—
  - (i) a purpose falling within any paragraph of subsection (1) above, or
  - (ii) any such purpose as is mentioned in subsection (2) above,
 which is conferred by regulations made by the Secretary of State.

- (5) The powers which by virtue of subsections (1) and (4) above are conferred in relation to any premises for the purpose of enabling an enforcing authority to determine whether any provision of the pollution control enactments in the case of that authority is being, or has been, complied with [<sup>F52</sup>, or whether an offence under section 40(1) of the Regulatory Reform (Scotland) Act 2014 is being, or has been, committed,] shall include power, in order to obtain the information on which that determination may be made,—

- (a) to carry out experimental borings or other works on those premises; and
- (b) to install, keep or maintain monitoring and other apparatus there.

- (6) Except in an emergency, in any case where it is proposed to enter any premises used for residential purposes, or to take heavy equipment on to any premises which are to be entered, any entry by virtue of this section shall only be effected—

- <sup>F53</sup>(a) .....
- (b) either—

- (i) with the consent of a person who is in occupation of those premises; or
- (ii) under the authority of a warrant by virtue of Schedule 18 to this Act.

- (7) Except in an emergency, where an authorised person proposes to enter any premises and—

- (a) entry has been refused and he apprehends on reasonable grounds that the use of force may be necessary to effect entry, or
- (b) he apprehends on reasonable grounds that entry is likely to be refused and that the use of force may be necessary to effect entry,

any entry on to those premises by virtue of this section shall only be effected under the authority of a warrant by virtue of Schedule 18 to this Act.

- <sup>F54</sup>(7A) An authorised person may not exercise the power in subsection (4)(ka) above to seize and remove documents except under the authority of a warrant by virtue of Schedule 18 to this Act.

(7B) Section 108A applies where documents are removed under that power.

(7C) Subsections (7D) and (7E) apply where a document removed under that power contains information in respect of which a claim to confidentiality of communications could be maintained in legal proceedings.

(7D) The information may not be used—

- (a) in evidence for the purpose of proceedings mentioned in paragraph (ka)(i) of subsection (4) above against a person who would be entitled to make such a claim in relation to the document; or
- (b) to determine whether any financial benefit has accrued or is likely to accrue as mentioned in subsection (1)(e) above.

(7E) The document must be returned to the premises from which it was removed, or to the person who had possession or control of it immediately before it was removed, as soon

---

*Status:* There are multiple versions of this provision on screen. These apply to different geographical extents. **Skip to:** E+W - England and Wales extent S - Scotland extent

**Changes to legislation:** Environment Act 1995, Section 108 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 29 May 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes

---

as reasonably practicable after the information is identified as information described in subsection (7C) above (but the authorised person may retain, or take copies of, any other information contained in the document).]

- (8) In relation to any premises belonging to or used for the purposes of the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority, subsections (1) to (4) above shall have effect subject to section 6(3) of the Atomic Energy Authority Act 1954 (which restricts entry to such premises where they [<sup>F13</sup> are prohibited places within the meaning of Part 1 of the National Security Act 2023).]
- (9) The Secretary of State may by regulations make provision as to the procedure to be followed in connection with the taking of, and the dealing with, samples under subsection (4)(f) above.
- (10) Where an authorised person proposes to exercise the power conferred by subsection (4)(g) above in the case of an article or substance found on any premises, he shall, if so requested by a person who at the time is present on and has responsibilities in relation to those premises, cause anything which is to be done by virtue of that power to be done in the presence of that person.
- (11) Before exercising the power conferred by subsection (4)(g) above in the case of any article or substance, an authorised person shall consult—
  - (a) such persons having duties on the premises where the article or substance is to be dismantled or subjected to the process or test, and
  - (b) such other persons,  
as appear to him appropriate for the purpose of ascertaining what dangers, if any, there may be in doing anything which he proposes to do or cause to be done under the power.
- (12) No answer given by a person in pursuance of a requirement imposed under subsection (4)(j) above shall be admissible in evidence in England and Wales against that person in any proceedings, or in Scotland against that person in any criminal proceedings [<sup>F55</sup>, except in a case where the proceedings relate to—
  - (a) an offence under section 44(2) of the Criminal Law (Consolidation) (Scotland) Act 1995 (false statements and declarations), or
  - (b) another offence where in giving evidence the person makes a statement inconsistent with the answer.]
- (13) Nothing in this section shall be taken to compel the production by any person of a document of which he would on grounds of legal professional privilege be entitled to withhold production on an order for discovery in an action in the High Court or, in relation to Scotland, on an order for the production of documents in an action in the Court of Session.
- (14) Schedule 18 to this Act shall have effect with respect to the powers of entry and related powers which are conferred by this section.
- (15) In this section—

“authorised person” means a person authorised under subsection (1) or (2) above;

[<sup>F56</sup>“document” includes anything in which information of any description is recorded (by any means) and any part of such a thing;]

“emergency” means a case in which it appears to the authorised person in question—

*Status: There are multiple versions of this provision on screen. These apply to different geographical extents. Skip to: E+W - England and Wales extent S - Scotland extent*

*Changes to legislation: Environment Act 1995, Section 108 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 29 May 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

- (a) that there is an immediate risk of serious pollution of the environment or serious harm to human health, or
  - (b) that circumstances exist which are likely to endanger life or health,
- and that immediate entry to any premises is necessary to verify the existence of that risk or those circumstances or to ascertain the cause of that risk or those circumstances or to effect a remedy;

“enforcing authority” means—

- (a) the Secretary of State;
- (b) the Agency;
- (bza) [<sup>F57</sup>the Natural Resources Body for Wales;]
- (c) SEPA; or
- (d) a local enforcing authority;

“local enforcing authority” means—

- (a) [<sup>F58</sup>a local enforcing authority, within the meaning of Part I of the <sup>M12</sup>Environmental Protection Act 1990;]
- (b) a local authority, within the meaning of Part IIA of that Act, in its capacity as an enforcing authority for the purposes of that Part;
- (c) a local authority for the purposes of Part IV of this Act or regulations under that Part;
- (d) a local authority for the purposes of regulations under section 2 of the Pollution Prevention and Control Act 1999 extending to England and Wales [<sup>F59</sup>or regulations under section 61 of the Water Act 2014];

“mobile plant” means plant which is designed to move or to be moved whether on roads or otherwise;

“pollution control enactments”, in relation to an enforcing authority, means the <sup>M13</sup>enactments and instruments relating to the <sup>M14</sup>pollution control functions of that authority [<sup>F60</sup>(including any enactments comprised in, or in instruments made under, an Act of the Scottish Parliament relating to those functions).]

“pollution control functions”, in relation to the <sup>M15</sup>Agency [<sup>F61</sup>, the Natural Resources Body for Wales] or SEPA, means the <sup>M16</sup>functions conferred or imposed on it by or under—

- (a) [<sup>F62</sup>the Alkali, &c, Works Regulation Act 1906;]
- (b) <sup>F63</sup> ...
- (c) <sup>F63</sup> ...
- (d) <sup>F64</sup> ...
- (e) Parts I, IA and II of the <sup>M17</sup>Control of Pollution Act 1974;
- (f) the Control of Pollution (Amendment) Act 1989;
- (g) Parts [<sup>F58</sup> I,] II and IIA of the <sup>M18</sup>Environmental Protection Act 1990 (integrated pollution control, waste on land and contaminated land);
- (h) Chapter III of Part IV of the <sup>M19</sup>Water Industry Act 1991 (special category effluent);
- (j) Part III and sections 161 to 161D of the <sup>M20</sup>Water Resources Act 1991;
- (k) section 19 of the <sup>M21</sup>Clean Air Act 1993;
- (l) <sup>F65</sup> ...
- (m) [<sup>F66</sup>EU-derived domestic legislation (as defined by section 2 of the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018) to the extent that it relates to pollution;]



*Status:* There are multiple versions of this provision on screen. These apply to different geographical extents. **Skip to:** E+W - England and Wales extent S - Scotland extent

**Changes to legislation:** Environment Act 1995, Section 108 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 29 May 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes

- (n) [<sup>F67</sup> in relation to SEPA , regulations under section 2 of the Pollution Prevention and Control Act 1999 [<sup>F68</sup> or section 18 of the Regulatory Reform (Scotland) Act 2014];]
- (o) [<sup>F69</sup> regulations made by virtue of section 78YC of the Environmental Protection Act 1990;]

“pollution control functions”, in relation to a local enforcing authority, means the functions conferred or imposed on, or transferred to, that authority—

- (a) by or under Part [<sup>F58</sup> I or] IIA of the <sup>M22</sup>Environmental Protection Act 1990;
- (b) by or under regulations made by virtue of Part IV of this Act; or
- (c) [<sup>F70</sup> by or under EU-derived domestic legislation (as defined by section 2 of the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018) to the extent that it relates to pollution;][<sup>F71</sup> or
- (d) by or under regulations made by virtue of section 78YC of the Environmental Protection Act 1990;]

“pollution control functions”, in relation to the Secretary of State, means any functions which are conferred or imposed upon him by or under any enactment or instrument [<sup>F72</sup> (including any enactment comprised in, or in an instrument made under, an Act of the Scottish Parliament)] and which relate to the control of pollution;

“premises” includes any land, vehicle, vessel or mobile plant.

- (16) Any power to make regulations under this section shall be exercisable by statutory instrument; and a statutory instrument containing any such regulations shall be subject to annulment pursuant to a resolution of either House of Parliament.

#### Extent Information

- E2** This version of this provision extends to Scotland only; a separate version has been created for England and Wales only

#### Textual Amendments

- F13** Words in s. 108(8) substituted (20.12.2023) by [The National Security Act 2023 \(Consequential Amendments of Primary Legislation\) Regulations 2023 \(S.I. 2023/1386\)](#), reg. 1(2), **Sch. para. 15**
- F42** Word in s. 108(1) repealed (S.) (30.6.2014) by [Regulatory Reform \(Scotland\) Act 2014 \(asp 3\)](#), **ss. 46(2)(a)(i)**, 61(2); S.S.I. 2014/160, art. 2(1)(2)
- F43** S. 108(1)(d)(e) inserted (S.) (30.6.2014) by [Regulatory Reform \(Scotland\) Act 2014 \(asp 3\)](#), **ss. 46(2)(a)(ii)**, 61(2); S.S.I. 2014/160, art. 2(1)(2)
- F44** S. 108(1A) inserted (S.) (30.6.2014) by [Regulatory Reform \(Scotland\) Act 2014 \(asp 3\)](#), **ss. 46(2)(b)**, 61(2); S.S.I. 2014/160, art. 2(1)(2)
- F45** Words in s. 108(2) inserted (1.4.2013) by [The Natural Resources Body for Wales \(Functions\) Order 2013 \(S.I. 2013/755\)](#), art. 1(2), **Sch. 2 para. 382(2)** (with Sch. 7)
- F46** Words in s. 108(3) inserted (1.4.2013) by [The Natural Resources Body for Wales \(Functions\) Order 2013 \(S.I. 2013/755\)](#), art. 1(2), **Sch. 2 para. 382(2)** (with Sch. 7)
- F47** S. 108(4)(h)(iv) inserted (S.) (30.6.2014) by [Regulatory Reform \(Scotland\) Act 2014 \(asp 3\)](#), **ss. 46(2)(c)(i)**, 61(2); S.S.I. 2014/160, art. 2(1)(2)
- F48** S. 108(4)(j) renumbered as s. 108(4)(j)(i) (S.) (30.6.2014) by [Regulatory Reform \(Scotland\) Act 2014 \(asp 3\)](#), **ss. 46(2)(c)(ii)**, 61(2); S.S.I. 2014/160, art. 2(1)(2)
- F49** S. 108(4)(j)(ii) and word inserted (S.) (30.6.2014) by [Regulatory Reform \(Scotland\) Act 2014 \(asp 3\)](#), **ss. 46(2)(c)(ii)**, 61(2); S.S.I. 2014/160, art. 2(1)(2)

*Status: There are multiple versions of this provision on screen. These apply to different geographical extents. Skip to: E+W - England and Wales extent S - Scotland extent*

*Changes to legislation: Environment Act 1995, Section 108 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 29 May 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

- F50** S. 108(4)(ja) inserted (S.) (30.6.2014) by Regulatory Reform (Scotland) Act 2014 (asp 3), **ss. 46(2)(c)(iii)**, 61(2); S.S.I. 2014/160, art. 2(1)(2)
- F51** S. 108(4)(ka) inserted (S.) (30.6.2014) by Regulatory Reform (Scotland) Act 2014 (asp 3), **ss. 46(2)(c)(iv)**, 61(2); S.S.I. 2014/160, art. 2(1)(2)
- F52** Words in s. 108(5) inserted (S.) (30.6.2014) by Regulatory Reform (Scotland) Act 2014 (asp 3), **ss. 46(2)(d)**, 61(2); S.S.I. 2014/160, art. 2(1)(2)
- F53** S. 108(6)(a) repealed (S.) (30.6.2014) by Regulatory Reform (Scotland) Act 2014 (asp 3), **ss. 46(2)(e)**, 61(2); S.S.I. 2014/160, art. 2(1)(2)
- F54** S. 108(7A)-(7E) inserted (S.) (30.6.2014) by Regulatory Reform (Scotland) Act 2014 (asp 3), **ss. 46(2)(f)**, 61(2); S.S.I. 2014/160, art. 2(1)(2)
- F55** Words in s. 108(12) added (S.) (30.6.2014) by Regulatory Reform (Scotland) Act 2014 (asp 3), **ss. 46(2)(g)**, 61(2); S.S.I. 2014/160, art. 2(1)(2)
- F56** Words in s. 108(15) inserted (S.) (30.6.2014) by Regulatory Reform (Scotland) Act 2014 (asp 3), **ss. 46(2)(h)(i)**, 61(2); S.S.I. 2014/160, **art. 2(1)(2)**
- F57** Words in s. 108(15) inserted (1.4.2013) by The Natural Resources Body for Wales (Functions) Order 2013 (S.I. 2013/755), art. 1(2), **Sch. 2 para. 382(3)(a)** (with Sch. 7)
- F58** Words in s. 108(15) repealed (1.4.2015 for S.) by Pollution Prevention and Control Act 1999 (c. 24), s. 7(3), **Sch. 3**; S.S.I. 2015/74, art. 2(2)(g)
- F59** Words in s. 108(15) inserted (31.3.2017) by The Water Act 2014 (Consequential Amendments etc.) Order 2017 (S.I. 2017/506), arts. 1(1), **10(2)(a)**
- F60** Words in s. 108(15) added (S.) (30.6.2014) by Regulatory Reform (Scotland) Act 2014 (asp 3), s. 61(2), **sch. 3 para. 43(10)(a)**; S.S.I. 2014/160, art. 2(1)(2)
- F61** Words in s. 108(15) inserted (1.4.2013) by The Natural Resources Body for Wales (Functions) Order 2013 (S.I. 2013/755), art. 1(2), **Sch. 2 para. 382(3)(b)(i)** (with Sch. 7)
- F62** Words in s. 108(15) repealed (S.) (30.6.2014) by Regulatory Reform (Scotland) Act 2014 (asp 3), **ss. 46(2)(h)(ii)**, 61(2); S.S.I. 2014/160, art. 2(1)(2)
- F63** Words in s. 108(15) omitted (S.) (1.4.2006) by virtue of The Water Environment (Consequential and Savings Provisions) (Scotland) Order 2006 (S.S.I. 2006/181), **sch. Pt. 4 para. 8(4)**
- F64** Words in s. 108(15) repealed (26.2.2015) by The Regulatory Reform (Scotland) Act 2014 (Consequential Modifications) Order 2015 (S.I. 2015/374), arts. 1(1), **6(3)**
- F65** Words in s. 108(15) repealed (S.) (1.9.2018) by The Environmental Authorisations (Scotland) Regulations 2018 (S.S.I. 2018/219), reg. 1, **sch. 7 para. 1** (with reg. 78, sch. 5 para. 2)
- F66** Words in s. 108(15) substituted (31.12.2020) by The Environment (Amendment etc.) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 (S.I. 2019/458), regs. 1(1), **3(12)(a)**; 2020 c. 1, Sch. 5 para. 1(1)
- F67** S. 108(15): para. (n) in the definition of “pollution control functions” inserted (S.) (28.9.2000) by S.S.I. 2000/323, regs. 1(1), 36, **Sch. 10 para. 5(3)**
- F68** Words in s. 108(15) inserted (S.) (30.6.2014) by Regulatory Reform (Scotland) Act 2014 (asp 3), s. 61(2), **sch. 3 para. 5(3)**; S.S.I. 2014/160, art. 2(1)(2)
- F69** Words in s. 108(15) inserted (S.) (1.4.2007 for specified purposes, 30.10.2007 in so far as not already in force) by The Radioactive Contaminated Land (Scotland) Regulations 2007 (S.S.I. 2007/179), reg. 1(1)(2), **16(a)**
- F70** Words in s. 108(15) substituted (31.12.2020) by The Environment (Amendment etc.) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 (S.I. 2019/458), regs. 1(1), **3(12)(b)**; 2020 c. 1, Sch. 5 para. 1(1)
- F71** Words in s. 108(15) inserted (S.) (1.4.2007 for specified purposes, 30.10.2007 in so far as not already in force) by The Radioactive Contaminated Land (Scotland) Regulations 2007 (S.S.I. 2007/179), reg. 1(1)(2), **16(b)**
- F72** Words in s. 108(15) inserted (S.) (30.6.2014) by Regulatory Reform (Scotland) Act 2014 (asp 3), s. 61(2), **sch. 3 para. 43(10)(b)**; S.S.I. 2014/160, art. 2(1)(2)

#### Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C31** S. 108 applied (with modifications) (1.4.1999) by S.I. 1999/743, **art. 20(4)**
- C32** S. 108 excluded by 1991 c. 57, s. **172(3A)** (as added (1.4.1996) by 1995 c. 25, **Sch. 22 para. 166**; S.I. 1996/186, **art. 3**)

*Status:* There are multiple versions of this provision on screen. These apply to different geographical extents. **Skip to:** E+W - England and Wales extent S - Scotland extent

**Changes to legislation:** Environment Act 1995, Section 108 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 29 May 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes

- C33** S. 108 restricted (21.4.2005) by The Greenhouse Gas Emissions Trading Scheme Regulations 2005 (S.I. 2005/925), **reg. 3(4)** (with reg. 3)
- C34** S. 108 extended (12.7.2007) by The Transfrontier Shipment of Waste Regulations 2007 (S.I. 2007/1711), **reg. 1, Sch. 5 para. 1** (with reg. 3)
- C35** S. 108 applied (E.) (1.3.2009) by The Environmental Damage (Prevention and Remediation) Regulations 2009 (S.I. 2009/153), **regs. 1(1), 31(2)**
- C36** S. 108 applied by SI 2005/2773, **reg. 7(4A)** (as inserted (E.) (23.12.2009) by The Volatile Organic Compounds in Paints, Varnishes and Vehicle Refinishing Products (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2009 (S.I. 2009/3145), **regs. 1, 2**)
- C37** S. 108 extended (20.7.2011) by The Environmental Protection (Controls on Ozone-Depleting Substances) Regulations 2011 (S.I. 2011/1543), **regs. 1(2), 8(3)** (with reg. 1(3))
- C38** S. 108 modified (24.3.2012) by The Bathing Water Regulations 2008 (S.I. 2008/1097), **regs. 1(3)(e), 16(4)**
- C39** S. 108 applied (27.7.2012) by The Volatile Organic Compounds in Paints, Varnishes and Vehicle Refinishing Products Regulations 2012 (S.I. 2012/1715), **regs. 1, 6(2)** (with reg. 3)
- C40** S. 108 extended (7.3.2015) by The Ozone-Depleting Substances Regulations 2015 (S.I. 2015/168), **regs. 1(2), 13(3)** (with reg. 12(7))
- C41** S. 108 applied (E.) (19.7.2015) by The Environmental Damage (Prevention and Remediation) (England) Regulations 2015 (S.I. 2015/810), **regs. 1(1), 31(2)** (with regs. 4-8)
- C42** S. 108 applied (with modifications) (1.4.2018) by The Control of Mercury (Enforcement) Regulations 2017 (S.I. 2017/1200), **regs. 2(2), 9(4)(5)** (with reg. 1(2))
- C43** S. 108 applied (with modifications) (1.4.2018) by The Control of Mercury (Enforcement) Regulations 2017 (S.I. 2017/1200), **regs. 2(2), 27(3)** (with reg. 1(2))
- C44** S. 108(4): power to appoint person to exercise powers conferred (27.7.1999) by 1999 c. 24, **ss. 1, 2, Sch. 1 Pt. 1 para. 14(2)**
- C45** S. 108(4) modified (16.12.2005) by The Producer Responsibility Obligations (Packaging Waste) Regulations 2005 (S.I. 2005/3468), **regs. 1(1), 35(2)**
- C46** S. 108(4) modified (16.3.2007) by The Producer Responsibility Obligations (Packaging Waste) Regulations 2007 (S.I. 2007/871), **regs. 1(1), 35(2)**
- C47** S. 108(4) modified (S.) (28.2.2023) by The Packaging Waste (Data Reporting) (Scotland) Regulations 2023 (S.S.I. 2023/7), **regs. 1, 26(3)**
- C48** S. 108(4)(a)-(l) applied (with modifications) (6.3.1997) by S.I. 1997/648, **reg. 28(2)**
- C49** S. 108(4)(a)-(l) applied (with modifications) (2.8.2004) by The Justification of Practices Involving Ionising Radiation Regulations 2004 (S.I. 2004/1769), **reg. 1, Sch. 1 paras. 1, 2** (with reg. 2)
- C50** S. 108(6)(7) applied (with modifications) (6.3.1997) by S.I. 1997/648, **reg. 28(3)**
- C51** S. 108(6)(7) applied (with modifications) (16.12.2005) by The Producer Responsibility Obligations (Packaging Waste) Regulations 2005 (S.I. 2005/3468), **regs. 1(1), 35(3)**
- C52** S. 108(6)(7) applied (with modifications) (16.3.2007) by The Producer Responsibility Obligations (Packaging Waste) Regulations 2007 (S.I. 2007/871), **regs. 1(1), 35(3)**
- C53** S. 108(6)-(7E) applied (with modifications) (S.) (28.2.2023) by The Packaging Waste (Data Reporting) (Scotland) Regulations 2023 (S.S.I. 2023/7), **regs. 1, 26(4)**
- C54** S. 108(12)(13) applied (6.3.1997) by S.I. 1997/648, **reg. 28(4)**
- C55** S. 108(12)(13) applied (16.12.2005) by The Producer Responsibility Obligations (Packaging Waste) Regulations 2005 (S.I. 2005/3468), **regs. 1(1), 35(4)**
- C56** S. 108(12)(13) applied (16.3.2007) by The Producer Responsibility Obligations (Packaging Waste) Regulations 2007 (S.I. 2007/871), **regs. 1(1), 35(4)**
- C57** S. 108(12)(13) applied (S.) (28.2.2023) by The Packaging Waste (Data Reporting) (Scotland) Regulations 2023 (S.S.I. 2023/7), **regs. 1, 26(5)**
- C58** S. 108(15) applied (27.6.2000) by S.I. 2000/1460, **reg. 3, Sch. 1 para. 9**
- C59** S. 108(15) modified (W.) (10.12.2006) by The Radioactive Contaminated Land (Modification of Enactments) (Wales) Regulations 2006 (S.I. 2006/2988), **regs. 1(2), 18**

---

***Status:** There are multiple versions of this provision on screen. These apply to different geographical extents. **Skip to:** E+W - England and Wales extent S - Scotland extent*

***Changes to legislation:** Environment Act 1995, Section 108 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 29 May 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) [View outstanding changes](#)*

---

### **Marginal Citations**

- M12** 1990 c. 43.
- M13** 1993 c. 12.
- M14** 1989 c. 14.
- M15** 1965 c. 13.
- M16** 1906 c. 14.
- M17** 1974 c. 40.
- M18** 1990 c. 43.
- M19** 1991 c. 56.
- M20** 1991 c. 57.
- M21** 1993 c. 11.
- M22** 1990 c. 43.

**Status:**

There are multiple versions of this provision on screen. These apply to different geographical extents.

**Skip to:**

- E+W - England and Wales extent
- S - Scotland extent

**Changes to legislation:**

Environment Act 1995, Section 108 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 29 May 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations.

[View outstanding changes](#)

**Changes and effects yet to be applied to the whole Act associated Parts and Chapters:**

Whole provisions yet to be inserted into this Act (including any effects on those provisions):

- s. 82(1A) inserted by [2024 asc 2 s. 16\(3\)](#)
- s. 83B inserted by [2024 asc 2 s. 17\(1\)](#)
- s. 85(3)(e)(f) inserted by [2024 asc 2 s. 18\(b\)](#)
- Sch. 7 para. 7(4A)(4B) inserted by [2007 c. 28 Sch. 14 para. 4\(3\)](#)