

UK Steel

Environment Agency Charge Proposal: Cost of Service Consultation

For attention of: enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk

May 2025

About UK Steel

UK Steel, is the trade association for the UK steel industry. It represents all the country's steelmakers and a number of downstream steel processors.

Questions and Answers

Do you agree or disagree with the proposed increase in our charges to cover the cost of the change in our cost of service as given in tables 5 to 8?

Disagree

While recognising inflationary pressures and the increasing burden of taxation on the EA itself, UK Steel members regret the decision of the Environment Agency to raise fees. UK steel companies themselves are operating in an uncompetitive business environment, and any decision to increase the financial burden goes against the Government's stated aim to encourage economic growth, and regulate proportionally.

As UK Steel and members have emphasised in previous consultation responses, in particular to increased and new charges for registration of waste exemptions, the EA should look to regulating in-scope industries in a more risk-based fashion, better targeting resources at known problems and high-risk operations. Smarter regulation, more targeted, would help the regulator better manage its limited resources, while reducing the burden on lower risk industries and companies. This would be consistent with government objectives, and help avoid further costs on the private sector.

While we regret the raise in charges, however, we do note and welcome the decision not to raise charges by more than the Consumer Price Index (CPI) as of 30th September of the previous year. This will allow companies to better predict what the fees will be when undertaking annual financial planning.

We would urge the Environment Agency to consider other alternatives to raising fees in future, in order to help our industry and others manage costs and remain competitive, while protecting the environment.

For further information, contact:

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