

VCU™ successfully completes ABPR 2005 Initial Validation stage.



UK – (May 2007) – VCU Europa Ltd are delighted to announce that the Bidston In-Vessel Composting facility in Merseyside has achieved ABPR Initial Validation using the Vertical Composting Units (VCU).

This covers source segregated garden and kitchen waste, including catering and food wastes that contain meat. All members of the EU are obliged to meet the requirements of the ABPR, which has had a significant impact on the waste industry, particularly in the area of biowaste treatment.

To achieve the Initial Validation stage of ABPR accreditation, the VCU was required to meet the following performance parameters:

- 1- particle size of no more than 60 mm treated to at least 70°C for a minimum of one hour twice.
- 2 Temperature measurement validation to guarantee that all material has reached the time-temperature requirement.
- 3 Daily feed of 7 tonnes into each VCU chamber.
- 4- Four consecutive clear results of microbiological testing were achieved to complete the Initial Validation stage.

Initial Validation shows that all material passing through a VCU chamber has met or exceeded the time/temperature requirements.

During this stage, material from the Initial Validation stage and subsequent material which passes microbiological testing, may leave the site and be spread on non-pasture land, or otherwise disposed of in accordance with the Regulations.

The approval clears the way to start the Positive Release stage, which will commence shortly.

This will involve sampling consecutive batches, on a weekly basis, for two months with clear results for *Salmonella spp.*. During this time it is necessary to maintain temperature, throughput and batch identity and location records.

Following successful completion of the Positive Release stage, and four clear results from SVS samples, the microbiological testing element of validation will be deemed successful and the plant will be eligible for recommendation for full approval.

Editors Notes:

VCU Technology Ltd have global experience in the provision of in-vessel composting plants with over 30 plants installed in United Kingdom, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand, and Canada. For further information contact: Peter Hallam, peterh@vcutechnology.com

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