**The features of each tier of authorisation are mostly\* fine, but the *term* used for each tier should reflect the distinguishing feature(s) of the tier.**

How does each tier of authorisation differ from the previous tier? All the tiers feature activity-specific standard rules in some form or other; Tier 1 features only such rules. New features of each successive tier are shown in bold in the table below, as follows:

* Tier 2 introduces contact with SEPA and registration of details (e.g. location). (\*At this tier no document is issued, so it would be unfair for SEPA to identify an ‘authorised person’.)
* Tier 3 introduces prior assessment and issue of a document to an authorised person.
* Tier 4 introduces a longer determination period and site-specific conditions.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| ***tier of authorisation*** | *1.* | *2.* | *3.* | *4.* |
| ***level of need for regulatory intervention (cumulative)*** | *activity needs to be regulated* | *SEPA needs to know location of activity or keep a statutory* ***register*** | *SEPA needs to* ***prior-assess*** *suit-ability of activity in that location* | *SEPA needs to manage* ***specific risks*** *of activity in that location* |
| ***activity-specific standard rules*** | **GBRs** published in legislation | GBRs published in legislation | standard permit conditions or rules published on SEPA website | standard permit conditions or rules published on SEPA website |
| ***contact with and response by SEPA*** | *-* | person **notifies** SEPA of location; SEPA **registers** location and/or name of relevant person | person applies to SEPA for authorisation; SEPA carries out simple **assessment** in 28 days | person applies to SEPA for authorisation; SEPA carries out **detailed** assessment in **4 months** (or longer) |
| document issued to authorised person | *-* | - | **document issued to authorised person** with standard rules or conditions only | document issued to authorised person with standard rules or conditions and … |
| ***site-specific conditions*** | *-* | - | - | **site-specific conditions** |
| ***suggested term for tier of authorisation*** | ‘GBRs’ (or ‘GBRS without notification/ registration’) | ‘GBRs with **notification**’ or  ‘GBRs with **registration**’ | ‘**simple** permit’,  ‘**standard** permit’ or ‘**standard rules** permit’ | ‘**complex** permit’,  ‘**non-standard** permit’ or ‘**site-specific** permit’ |

Tier 2 is currently described using the term ‘notification’, but it is distinguished from Tier 1 by both a process of ‘notification’ and a process of ‘registration’. Authorisation is granted subject to standard pre-published rules. The terms suggested for Tier 2 in the final row of the table above reflect this.

Tier 3 is currently described using the term ‘registration’, but the process of registration is a distinguishing feature of Tier 2. The distinguishing feature of Tier 3 is the issue of a document or permit to an authorised person. The terms suggested for Tier 3 in the final row reflect this.

Tier 4 is currently described using the term ‘permit’, but the issue of a permit is a distinguishing feature of Tier 3. The distinguishing feature of Tier 4 is the complexity of the assessment and the need for site-specific conditions. The terms suggested for Tier 4 in the final row reflect this.