



BMT Cordah Limited
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANCY
AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS

**RP 549: Development of a
Protocol for the Treatment
and Disposal of Oily Waste
in the UK**

**Task 1: Local Authority
Contingency Planning**

March 2007



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Attachment 1: MCA Survey layout

Attachment 2: MCA Survey entries

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1 TASK 1 – LOCAL AUTHORITY CONTINGENCY PLANNING

1.1 Introduction

As part of a wider study for the Maritime Coastguard Agency (MCA) BMT Cordah Limited have completed a study to determine the existing level of contingency planning arrangements in place for all UK maritime local authorities. This work was completed in 2006 by the BMT Cordah project Team for Project Reference: RP 549 Development of a Protocol for the Treatment and Disposal of Oily Waste in the UK. The overall project objective focuses on the management and infrastructure in place to deal with oily waste resulting from a marine spill in the United Kingdom.

1.2 Online questionnaire activities

Activities for Task 1 involved the set up and maintenance of an online questionnaire for local authorities to enter details of their waste policy and temporary/intermediate storage facilities. See Figure 1: Screenshot of MCA Survey introduction page.

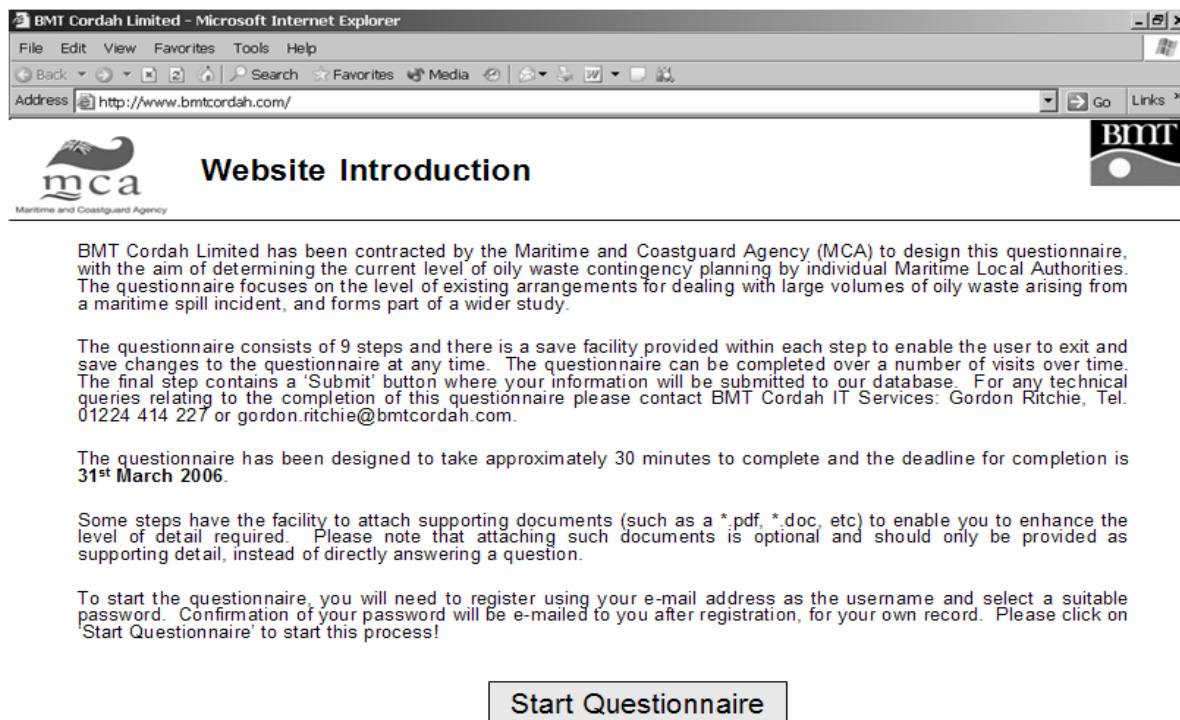


Figure 1: Screenshot of MCA Survey introduction page

MARITIME AND COASTGUARD AGENCY
Stage 1 - Maritime Local Authority Details
Step 1 aims to capture details associated with the Maritime Local Authority, their contact details and departmental resources.

Stage 01 x Stage 02 x Stage 03 x Stage 04 x Stage 05 x Stage 06 x Stage 07 x Stage 08 x Stage 09 x

Welcome Gordon Ritchie,
You can continue the survey from Stage 01, review and change your previous answers, submit your answers below or [logout](#).
Please note: If you log out here your answers for this step will not be saved. [logout](#)

1) What is the name of the department responsible for the management of oily waste generated from a maritime oil spill?

2) How many personnel work in this department?
 1-2 3-5 6-10 11+

Figure 2: Screenshot of MCA Survey during completion online

The entire online questionnaire is presented in this report as **Attachment 1: MCA Survey layout**.

1.3 Progress

The Maritime Local Authority (MLA) questionnaire was open for representatives from various authorities to register and enter their details since the beginning of 2006. Reminders were sent out by the MCA over the summer months and entries continued to be submitted until October 2006 when 82 representatives had registered and 47 had fully completed the questionnaire and submitted the information via the website.

To encourage the completion of the questionnaire all those within the database that were shown to have “Registered but *not yet started*” or “Registered but completion still ongoing” were listed in progress reports to enable the MCA to contact those concerned.

The website was kept operational until early December to allow Marine Local Authorities to complete the questionnaire fully as requested.

1.4 Results

The electronic results are presented on the accompanying CD-ROM in two files: one entitled “**RP549 Task 1 Maritime Local Authority Database**” which is a Microsoft Access database file and the other entitled “**MCA Data**”, a Microsoft Excel file, sorted by MLA name. The Access database includes links to attachments that local authorities uploaded whereas the Excel file contains all contact details and additional comments (see attachment 2 for a print out of all entries).

The actual *.mdb file consists of 3 tables: ‘registration’ ‘answers’ ‘questions’ and there is also a File Folder called ‘home’ that contains uploaded files from various MLA representatives. The ‘registrations’ and ‘answers’ tables are linked to the file uploads through the use of a primary key. This permits the user to create queries as to exactly which MLA has registered and link the answers within various stages of the survey.

There are also field names within the tables that correlate to uploaded file: ‘stage_##_files’ which comprise Unix paths that can be altered to link to the ‘home’ folder, so that uploaded files can be opened from within the database. If the user is browsing the directories manually, the directory number correlates to the registration and primary key’s ‘quest_id’ and ‘id’.

The ‘questions’ table is not currently linked, but contains the questions used in the survey and which answer field they correlate with. A query with a ‘join’ could be used by MCA to pull out specific question and answers required. BMT Cordah have included, combined, and separated the multiple choice answers so these can be queried individually, or altogether.

As part of the questionnaire respondents were asked if they wanted specific elements to be included in the Guidance document (Task 4). The responses included the following (with respondent in brackets):

“1. Definitive and practical advice about where waste can be stored if no temporary storage site has been identified. 2. Simple explanation of the legal aspects of hazardous waste disposal and what provisions can be waived to facilitate storage of oily waste during an incident. 3. Definitive guidance on what containers are suitable for storing oily waste e.g. skips etc. Although you have asked for details of quantities of skips and spec. etc we have been advised locally that skips are not the most suitable containers for storage.” **(Kent County Council)**

“All aspects from waste minimization and storage at the beach through to end treatment and disposal options.” **(West Sussex County Council)**

“Falkirk’s access and waste storage plan is worth consideration [as a template]. The plan contains a location map of the Forth Estuary, identifying 13 vehicle access and waste storage points. The location map is broken down into 13 individual site maps. As well as providing directions in text format, each includes an aerial photograph and 10k raster map.

Vehicle access and the waste storage/holding points are highlighted and information is provided on weight restrictions.” **(Falkirk Council)**

“Waste Disposal at all stages; Appropriate PPE for clearance operators; Methods of initial removal from beaches and foreshore materials; Best Practice; Welfare; Shift working; MCA capabilities; EA capabilities; & Contractor lists.” **(Teignbridge District Council)**

“Directions for where current guidance can be obtained”. **(Somerset County Council)**

“Guidance on the movement, temporary and longer term storage of oily waste, if we do not have clear guidance we have concerns of legal action being taken against us.” **(Medway Council)**

“Improved national data base of permanent waste sites. Use of existing Refinery sites for disposal / re claiming.” **(Carmarthenshire)**

“The one essential matter is a pragmatic and acceptable method of medium and long term disposal of oily waste.” **(Cornwall County Council)**

“Use of UK refinery capacity for any oily waste from any marine spills. Use of landfarming if available.” **(Pembrokeshire County Council)**

“National list of approved contractors, final disposal options at site of incident, and health and safety implications, The use of volunteers, Communications with the public, Types of containment re types of product and differing toxicity roles and responsibilities of public service agencies i.e. the EA EN & LA's (county, unitaries, Districts).” **(Weymouth & Portland Borough Council)**

“Economic & tourism impact is of crucial importance. As a peninsular our disposal routes are limited.” **(Penwith District Council)**

“Cheshire Fire & Rescue Service would like to be involved in the Guidance Document. We have to update our procedures and this is best achieved with the knowledge of "Industry best practice". **(Cheshire County Council, Civil Protection Unit)**

“Recommendation on when not to progress clean up... Recommendations on temporary and intermediate storage... An understanding with regulators on storage quantities and constraints during an event... Recycling potential...” **(Isle of Anglesey County Council)**

“Beach Storage, Temporary Storage & Treatment.” **(Norfolk County Council)**

“Specific responsibilities of local authorities and professional services within them.” **(Vale Royal Borough Council)**

“Site protocols required to help with temporary and long term storage site. Detailed advice for waste officers dealing with oiled waste. Outlines of systems to be employed during an incident.(transfer notices etc) Long term disposal options for waste. Up to date guidance

taking into account changes in waste management legislation for all aspects of the operation so local plans can be developed to implement the protocols.” (**Devon County Council**)

1.5 Conclusions

Overall the response from Marine Local Authorities (MLA) was low. Of the 168 MLAs only 82 MLA representatives entered information into the online questionnaire, to varying degrees of completion. That constitutes a little under half (49%) of the expected respondents despite the website remaining operational for an extended period of time.

Those MLA's that did respond have provided useful information on the level of their contingency planning to date plus specific requests for what the staff within MLAs need to assist their activities. The MCA may like to engage in detailed dialogue with the representatives that have made specific requests in order to gain a broader understanding of their needs.

Attachment 1: MCA Survey layout

Attachment 2: MCA Survey text entries

Attachment 3: CD-ROM (Database)