

NATIONAL GREENHOUSE AND ENERGY REPORTING: OPERATIONAL CONTROL SCORECARD

INTRODUCTION

Under the National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting (NGER) Act 2007, corporations that meet certain thresholds for greenhouse gas emissions and energy production and consumption are required to report to the Greenhouse and Energy Data Officer.

To determine whether your business is liable, see the *QTA Ltd Fact Sheet 07 - Obligations under the National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting Act* (available from QTA Ltd office or website).

Reporting responsibility under the NGER Act 2007 ultimately lies with the corporation that has operational control of facilities where thresholds are triggered.

Operational control lies with the corporation that has greatest authority to introduce and implement operation environmental and OH&S policies (refer section 11 of the NGER Act 2007) and needs to be applied in conjunction with the facility definitions described in Section 9 of the NGER Act 2007 and Division 2.4 of the NGER Regulations 2008.

Where operational control is difficult to determine, or could lie with two or more corporations, a balanced scorecard can be used to help corporations decide which facilities they need to report. The completed document might also form part of a corporation's reporting methodology and records for audit and compliance purposes.

Industry developed examples will cover most business situations and the outcomes can be applied accordingly, depending on the business situation the parties are involved in.

It is not mandatory for corporations to use the scorecard and its application will require a somewhat subjective assessment and consultation between interested parties. However, applying the scorecard may assist with compliance to the legislation.

The Operational Control Scorecard examples can be downloaded from the QTA Ltd website:

<http://www.qta.com.au/communication-factsheets.htm>

HOW TO USE THE SCORECARD

1. Define the facility boundary by applying the appropriate legislation (Section 9 of the NGER Act 2007 and Division 2.4 of the NGER Regulations 2008, Chapter 1 of the NGER Guidelines).
2. Determine whether the business arrangement is addressed in one of the industry developed examples. If an example is appropriate, that outcome may be used with sufficient acknowledgement.
3. If no example is appropriate, the template scorecard, available at <http://www.qta.com.au/communication-factsheets.htm>, can be completed to determine who has operational control.

TO COMPLETE THE TEMPLATE SCORECARD

1. Fill in the corporate, facility and location details.
2. For each corporation involved in the activity, give them a score in relation to how much authority they have to introduce and implement the policy (corporate score).

Example

If it is a very important policy, it might have a policy score of 30.

Corporation A might have a high degree of authority to introduce, B somewhat and C none.

The scores might read: A – 25, B – 5, C – 0. The combined corporate scores should equal the policy score.

3. After the scores are entered, the corporation with the highest total score is considered to have operational control of the facility and therefore is responsible for the greenhouse gas emissions and energy reporting.

If the scorecard is equal on completion, operating and environmental polices only should be considered as a 'count-back'. NGER r2.14 (2)

MORE INFORMATION

More information is available on the Department of Climate Change website:
(<http://www.climatechange.gov.au>).

Questions concerning greenhouse gas and energy reporting obligations can be directed to the Department of Climate Change by calling the toll free helpline on 1800 018 831 or by emailing reporting@climatechange.gov.au