

Environmental and Waste Management Group

June 2017 Newsletter



LEGISLATION

New EIA Regulations

A whole series of new Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations have been published, with the aim to implement the amended EIA Directive into UK law.

This article explores the amendments and highlights the steps which will need to be taken in order to comply. (Read more: burges-salmon.com)

GUIDANCE & CONSULTATIONS

Government targets air pollution

Following a High Court ruling that the Government must publish its draft air quality plan, the Government has finally published the draft and launched a consultation - "[Tackling nitrogen dioxide in our towns and cities](#)" - regarding its proposed measures.

The draft plan confirms that the Government want to establish clean air zones in the most polluted areas. Such zones will see targeted action aimed to improve air quality and will be implemented by the local authorities, not the Government itself. (Read more: cedrec.com)

NEW Guidance on Effective Monitoring in Waste Collections

[WISH \(Waste Industry Safety & Health Forum\)](#) have published a new information sheet on monitoring safety in waste collections. This information sheet provides two example checklists and a matrix to assist those involved with such monitoring.

The [information sheet is free to download](#) from the WISH website. It is worth noting the status of WISH guidance, as this and other WISH documents are also available via the [HSE website](#).

INCIDENTS AND PROSECUTIONS

Viridor faces prosecution

Waste management firm Viridor is set to be prosecuted over the death of an employee who was run over by his own waste lorry in the grounds of a hospital in Plymouth.

The HSE is bringing four charges against Viridor concerning the 2015 death of 57-year-old Lee Jane, a waste lorry driver who had been working with Viridor for nine years. (Read more: resource.co)

Public urged by HSE to recycle batteries at recycling points due to fire risk

Members of the public have been urged by the HSE to use the appropriate recycling points to dispose of used batteries.

The recent call made by the HSE comes in the wake of fires that came from household mixed wastes, in which the batteries were inappropriately disposed of. In a statement made by the HSE, members of the public are urged to "safely dispose of batteries at recycling points. Disposing of batteries in waste collections can lead to the risk of injury to refuse workers and members of the public from fires and explosions". (Read more: cedrec.com)

Scrap metal fire hits Light Bros' Lewes site

A fire involving an estimated 200 tonnes of scrap metal broke out at a site operated by waste management company, Light Brothers Ltd, in Lewes, East Sussex.

East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service described the incident as a "large fire", and reported that the blaze broke out at close to 7pm on 25 May. The company noted that the fire was spotted on CCTV and was quickly contained. (Read more: letsrecycle.com)

Fire hits Renewi's Amsterdam facility

An investigation is underway into a fire at Renewi's Icova facility on the outskirts of Amsterdam which started on the evening of Saturday 27 May.

According to Renewi (formerly Shanks in the UK, before a merger with Dutch firm Van Gansewinkel), the "major fire" caused extensive damage to the sorting halls. However, the main Icopower facility, which manufactures fuel pellets from waste, has not been damaged. (Read more: letsrecycle.com)

Man injured after G&P Batteries fire

A 26-year-old man has been treated in hospital for minor injuries following a fire at G&P Batteries' Darlaston recycling facility in the West Midlands on 23 May, emergency services have confirmed.

The incident, which occurred at the Willenhall Road facility at around 1.45pm, is believed to have been caused by the explosion of a number of lithium batteries being stored at the premises.

Around 4 tonnes of batteries are believed to have been involved in the blaze.

(Read more: expressandstar.com)

SUEZ fined £220,000 for health & safety breach

SUEZ Recycling and Recovery has been fined £220,000 (7 June 2017) after a worker was injured at its Billingham energy from waste site on 17 October 2014.

Teesside Crown Court heard Leonard Allison was injured when hot ash and steam erupted through a chute. According to the Gazette Live, Mr Allison was attempting to remove a blockage in a chute with a poll when the blockage fell into a "quench" pit of water, forcing a plume of hot water, ash and steam to erupt through the open chute. Mr Allison suffered serious burns to his back, arms, legs, face and ears and remained in hospital for 11 days. (Read more: ciwm-journal.co.uk & hse.gov.uk)

Petrol leak costs Tesco £8m

Tesco has been prosecuted for leaking 23,500 litres of petrol into the sewerage system and local rivers in Haslingden, Lancashire. The incident, in July 2014, led to residents having to seek medical help after petrol odours coming from the sewer network gave them headaches and nausea. The smell affected residents up to 1km away.

The leak was caused by Tesco's failure to address a known issue with part of the fuel delivery system and an inadequate alarm system at a petrol station operated by the retailer in Haslingden, north of Manchester, according to the Environment Agency. The supermarket's emergency procedures were also found to be poor, the regulator said. (Read more: bbc.co.uk)

"Horrific" deaths prompt HSE machinery warning

Recent incidents resulting in the deaths of two workers within the waste and recycling sector have prompted the Health and Safety Executive to issue a strong reminder about the need to take note of machinery guidance.

Describing the fatalities as "Two horrific deaths in the industry", the HSE said this week that there was specifically a need for the sector to take note of guidance relating to guarding and isolation procedures. The HSE explained that within a month of each other, two men have died at separate incidents within the waste and recycling sector. And, it noted early reports suggested that these were both "machinery related incidents." The Executive has not specified which deaths it is referring to. (Read more: letsrecycle.com)

OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST

Chemical substitute "dating site" launched

An initiative has been launched to make it easier for businesses to find less problematic alternatives to toxic chemicals.

The 'Marketplace', launched by NGO ChemSec on 17 May, hosts marketing materials from suppliers and requests for products, as well as guidance and case studies on substitution. ChemSec describes the Marketplace as a "dating site" to match industry requirements to safer alternatives. For more details visit - Chemsec: The Marketplace

CSR increasingly important in construction procurement, survey shows

Almost half of tenders for electrical work in the construction industry require contractors to submit corporate social responsibility (CSR) information, particularly on the environment. A survey by trade body the ECA and the Considerate Constructors Scheme, found that 48% of invitations to tender, contracts or pre-qualification questionnaires ask for information on CSR issues. (Read more: eca.co.uk)

Trafficking gang of four with recycling links are jailed

Four men involved with supplying labour to recycling centres in the north-east of England have been jailed for their involvement in a people trafficking ring. This week they were jailed for between 5 and 12 years. The Crown Prosecution Service noted that that the "appalling" ring had "abused and exploited Polish workers as modern slaves". (Read more: chroniclelive.co.uk)