

# Environmental and Waste Management Group

May 2017 Newsletter



## **LEGISLATION**

### **Planning (Hazardous Substances) (Amendment) Regulations published**

These Regulations amend the Planning (Hazardous Substances) Regulations SI 2015/627, to clarify a rule about how controlled quantities are calculated where two or more hazardous substances are present together but individually the amounts of those substances fall below the usual controlled quantities. (Read more: [legislation.gov.uk](http://legislation.gov.uk))

### **Freight Containers (Safety Convention) Regulations in force**

These Regulations make provisions for the use of freight containers. They revoke and replace the Freight Containers (Safety Convention) Regulations SI 1984/1890, updating and modernising the approach to the safety of those containers. (Read more: [legislation.gov.uk](http://legislation.gov.uk))

## **GUIDANCE & CONSULTATIONS**

### **Latest ISO 45001 Draft out for consultation**

The latest Draft of the International Standard for Occupational Safety and Health Management Systems, ISO 45001, has been released for consultation.

Previous amended drafts of the new standard were rejected; however, it is hoped that this may possibly be the last draft before the new standard comes into publication. (Read more: [cedrec.com](http://cedrec.com))

### **ISO 20400 launched**

An international standard to help businesses develop and implement sustainable purchasing practices and policies has been published, the first of its kind.

ISO 20400 for sustainable procurement, published by the International Organisation for Standardisation helps companies to analyse their supply chains for ethical and environmental impacts. (Read more: [cedrec.com](http://cedrec.com))

### **WISH revises stack size and separation fire guidance**

Updated guidance on the prevention of fires at waste management sites – including ‘firmer science’ on waste stack separation distances – has been published by the Waste Industry Safety & Health (WISH) Forum.

The guidance, which is updated from an initial version published in October 2014, takes into account the findings of ‘waste burn trials’ carried out in 2015 and 2016 to test the properties of waste

materials including wood, plastic, paper, rubber and waste derived fuels when set alight. (Read more: [letsrecycle.com](https://letsrecycle.com))

### **Re-assessment of definition of 'hazardous' waste wood**

The Wood Recyclers Association (WRA) and the Environment Agency are collaborating to assess the definition of 'hazardous' waste wood, following concerns over the use of lower grade material as biomass fuel.

At present, waste wood is classified under one of four categories (A, B, C, D), with A-grade material corresponding to 'clean recycled wood', such as untreated clean white pallets or timber packaging. The lower grade material (notably grade D), which might include railway sleepers or telegraph poles, is subject to more stringent regulatory requirements, as these are considered hazardous due to the presence of chemicals such as copper, chrome or arsenic from coatings and treatment. (Read more: [letsrecycle.com](https://letsrecycle.com))

## **INCIDENTS & PROSECUTIONS**

### **Environment Agency warns landowners not to get duped into illegally storing waste**

Disguising rubbish as hay bales is one tactic being used by criminals aiming to dupe East Anglian landowners into "storing" illegal waste on their property, warns the Environment Agency (EA).

Rural businesses are being targeted by individuals looking for opportunities to dispose of waste by dumping it in warehouses, industrial units and open spaces. (Read more [EDP24.com](https://EDP24.com))

### **Biffa fire at Cardiff waste transfer station**

Waste management and recycling firm Biffa suffered a fire at its Bessemer Close waste transfer station in the Leckwith area of Cardiff, which broke out on 24 April.

According to the company, the fire broke out in a waste disposal truck owned by a third party company visiting the site, although a full inquiry into the blaze has been launched to establish the cause. (Read more: [letsrecycle.com](https://letsrecycle.com))

### **Growing interest from Chinese in UK waste market**

Chinese investors are showing "growing interest" in the UK and European waste management market, consultancy firm Grant Thornton has claimed in its annual waste sector review.

The latest edition of the annual report looks at merger and acquisition activity and legislative changes within the UK waste market in 2016. (Read more: [letsrecycle.com](https://letsrecycle.com))

### **Kent construction waste operator jailed**

The operator of a waste site in Sittingbourne, Kent has been handed an eight-month prison sentence for the illegal disposal, sorting and treatment of construction and demolition waste at the site.

John Millen, 50, who had traded as K.M. Millen Grab Hire, received the custodial sentence at Maidstone Crown Court on 12 April after pleading guilty to using the Gas Road site for illegal waste transfer activities. (Read more: [letsrecycle.com](https://letsrecycle.com))

### **Fine issued over illegal waste storage at Gateshead site**

A Gateshead man has been fined and ordered to pay compensation after it was alleged that he had illegally stored waste at an industrial unit and then abandoned it.

John Armstrong, 52, of Park Lane, Winlaton Mill, appeared at North Tyneside Magistrates' Court on 7 April facing one charge of operating a waste site without a permit, to which he pleaded guilty. (Read more: [letsrecycle.com](https://letsrecycle.com))

### **South West Water fined £1.8m after lone worker drowns**

South West Water has fined £1.8m (21 April) for failing to ensure the safety of a lone worker who fell into a sand filtration tank at a facility in Falmouth docks, Cornwall.

Robert Geach, 54, was found floating face down in the unit at a South West Water treatment plant on 30 December 2013. Truro Crown Court heard that Mr Geach, who was working alone at the time, was carrying out a routine task when he slipped and fell into a narrow opening, and was then left with no means of escape or way to call for help. He lay in the tank for four and a half hours until a colleague was eventually dispatched to the site and found him at 19.50 on the day of the accident, according to the [Cornwall Live](https://www.cornwalllive.com) website. (Read more: [hse.gov.uk](https://www.hse.gov.uk))

### **Recycling centre blaze In South Yorkshire**

Fire crews remain at the scene (11 May) of a recycling centre fire that saw circa 500 tonnes of plastic, metals and other materials alight. The fire at Universal Recycling on Wharf Road in Kilnhurst caught light on Monday (8 May) morning and sent smoke hundreds of metres in the air.

South Yorkshire Fire Service said the surface fire had now been subdued, but scrap metal and plastic alight underneath was causing more smoke. According to the BBC, incident commander Claire Duke said the smoke is likely to get worse before it gets better, after a large grab had been used to pull apart about a third of the plastic and metal bales. (Read more: [ciwm-journal.co.uk](https://www.ciwm-journal.co.uk))

### **Solar panel firm fined after worker fell through roof void**

A Bristol-based solar panel installation company has been fined after a worker fell more than 3.5m through a void in a roof. Solarjen Ltd, of Victoria Grove, Bristol, pleaded guilty to breaching Regulation 4(1) of the Work at Height Regulations 2005 and was fined £250,000 with £12,073 costs.

The fall inflicted serious injuries on the man, including bleeding on the brain, a fractured spleen and fractured ribs. An investigation by the HSE found that the company failed to ensure physical guarding was in place to prevent the worker from falling through voids in the roof. The inquiry also found the company failed to appropriately supervise the work. (Read more: [hse.gov.uk](https://www.hse.gov.uk))

## **OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST**

### **BHS unveils robot sorting system for MRFS**

American equipment supplier BHS has unveiled a sorting system using a robot known as “Max”, which can visualise different types of recyclables and sort them out.

The company – Bulk Handling Systems – has announced the installation of Max-AI Technology, an artificial intelligence system which identifies recyclables and other items for recovery, at a materials recycling facility in Sun Valley, California. (Read more: [letsrecycle.com](https://letsrecycle.com))

### **Green Investment Bank to be sold off in £2.3 billion deal**

A bid from Australian bank Macquarie to purchase the Green Investment Bank from the UK Government for £2.3 billion has been accepted.

The deal was expected to be completed in January, but this was delayed due to last minute negotiations on price and political opposition. (Read more: [cedrec.com](https://cedrec.com))

### **Watchdog drops objection over waste transfer station**

Plans to turn the landfill site at Easter Langlee into a giant waste transfer station (WTS) are set to be given the green light. Scottish Borders Council’s lead planning officer, Carlos Clarke, is recommending approval of the £5.2m development to the local authority’s quasi-judicial planning committee. (Read more: [bordertelegraph.com](https://bordertelegraph.com))

### **Waste crime ‘flourishing’ due to weak regulation, industry says**

Gaps in regulation have increased the opportunities for waste crime, which is now costing the taxpayer more than £600m a year, according to the waste industry.

Waste trade body the Environmental Services Association (ESA) commissioned the report ‘[Rethinking Waste Crime](#)’ published earlier this month, which found that most serious waste crime is generated by business, not households. It argues that while the waste industry has changed beyond recognition over the past 20 years, regulation has failed to keep up with developments, leaving criminals to exploit the gaps. (Read more: [ciwm-journal.co.uk](https://ciwm-journal.co.uk))

### **360-degree cameras installed on waste vehicles in Glasgow**

Glasgow City Council has recently taken the step of installing a number of 360-degree cameras onto its food waste recycling vehicles in an attempt to improve safety.

The Council decided to opt for the 360 technology system to help improve the safety of their vehicles, particularly around the general public and in the busier areas of Glasgow City Centre. The council’s food waste vehicles operate in the centre of Glasgow and the suburbs where reversing can at times be challenging. (Read more: [shponline.co.uk](https://shponline.co.uk))