

Environmental and Waste Management Group



February 2017 Newsletter

LEGISLATION

Changes to regulation of F-gases (Regulation (EU) No 517/2014 of 16 April 2014)

From 1 January 2017, equipment that contains less than 3 kg of F-gas (or if hermetically sealed contains less than 6kg of F-gas) will have to be leak tested if the equipment charge in tonnes CO₂ equivalent is greater than 5 tonnes. There was previously derogation from this requirement.

For more details, see the [F-gas guidance on the NetRegs website](#)

Equipment and Protective Systems Intended for Use in Potentially Explosive Atmospheres Regulations SI 216/1107 published

These Regulations revoke and replace the Equipment and Protective Systems Intended for Use in Potentially Explosive Atmospheres Regulations SI 1996/192 and implement Directive 2014/34/EU, on equipment and protective systems intended for use in potentially explosive atmospheres.

(Read more: legislation.gov.uk)

Great Repeal Bill to include environmental regulations

The UK Government's Brexit White Paper, published on 2 February, has confirmed plans to transpose the current framework of environmental regulation set out in EU Directives into UK law.

The document, entitled '[The United Kingdom's exit from and new partnership with the European Union](#)' was published by the Department for Exiting the European Union, and sets out the government's 'vision' ahead of negotiations to exit the EU.

While the document is light on specific measures on a number of policy areas, it does confirm that environmental measures which have been underpinned by existing EU legislation will continue to apply once the UK has left the EU. (Read more: letsrecycle.com)

GUIDANCE & CONSULTATIONS

MEP's vote in favour of 70% recycling target

European Parliament's environment committee has voted to amend the European Commission's Circular Economy Package, increasing the recycling target for member states from 65% to 70% by 2030. (Read more: ciwm-journal.co.uk)

Scotland looks to revamp waste laws

SEPA and the Scottish Government have launched a consultation proposing a simplification of environmental regulations and a restructuring of the regulatory authority. Under the plans, SEPA's four main regulatory departments – water, waste, radioactive substances and pollution prevention – would be merged into a single structure, to provide an "integrated authorisation framework".

The [consultation document](#) was published on 12 January 2017, with responses sought until 12 April. (Read more: sepa.view.com)

New SEPA guidance on reuse activities and waste regulation

SEPA has published new guidance on [Reuse Activities and Waste Regulation](#).

The guidance aims to provide clarity on when waste legislation applies to reuse activities and is relevant for anyone who undertakes activities which involves the reuse of products – for instance local authorities, charity shops, community reuse organisations, remanufacturing companies, repair shops / services, logistics companies that transport used goods, retailers that take back used goods, online reuse organisations, auction houses, pawnbroker etc.

INCIDENTS AND PROSECUTIONS

Landfill site operator fined £180,000 after employee loses both legs

A waste company operating a landfill site in mid-Wales has been fined £180,000 after an accident in which a worker had to have both legs amputated after being struck by a shovel loader.

The incident led to the worker being hospitalised for six months and both legs being amputated from the mid-thigh. [The HSE found](#) that the company did not have controls in place to protect workers from the high volume of vehicles and traffic on site. Although they had previously identified the risk and how they could prevent workers being hit by vehicles, those measures had not been implemented. (Read more: [cedrec.com](#) and [hsw.com](#))

Lincoln woman fined over £1500 for rubbish dumped outside tip

A Lincoln woman has been slapped with a £1500 bill after a pile of rubbish was tipped onto the road outside of the recently closed Whisby Waste and Recycling Centre. Karen Frankman of Lincoln was charged with failing to give information relating to the fly tipping offence on May 3, 2016. (Read more: [thelincolnite.co.uk](#))

Waste boss found guilty for “mattress mountain”

The operator of a mattress and bed recycling site in Kent has been found guilty for failing to comply with waste exemptions. Charges were brought against Lewis Bertram, trading as Eco Matters at Smarden Business Estate, Ashford, after a large dump of mattresses built up on his site.

Bertram, who had been operating the business since July 2013, was convicted of three charges and will be sentenced on 3 February. (Read more: [mrw.co.uk](#))

Wood recycler’s permit refused after fires

A wood recycling company in Wales has had its permit application for a waste storage and treatment facility refused after fires at its other sites.

Natural Resources Wales (NRW) said it was not satisfied that South Wales Wood Recycling had the appropriate measures in place to operate the facility without impacting on the environment or local people. The proposed activity at Baglan Energy Park, near Port Talbot, would involve storing and treating waste wood for recycling into items such as animal bedding and biofuel.

South Wales Wood Recycling was [fined £20,000 in November](#) over fires at its sites at Alexandra Dock facility in Newport and Old Llynfi Power Station site in Maesteg. An unrelated 5 day [fire at its Brigend site](#) was also tackled in September. (Read more: [mrw.co.uk](#))

Two men die in recycling plant tanker tragedy

Two men have died after falling into a tanker at a food waste recycling facility in Leicestershire.

The tragic events occurred before Christmas (22 December) and saw the death of 19-year-old Nathan Walker as he tried to clear a blockage in a tanker at Green Feeds Ltd at Church Farm in Normanton, an inquest has heard. A colleague, 35-year-old Gavin Rawson, also died when he fell into the same tanker as he tried to rescue the teenager. (Read more: ciwm-journal.co.uk)

Illegal waste shipment lands Glasgow operator with fine for breaching environmental legislation

Waste shipments have come under scrutiny following the illegal shipment of waste electrical and electronic goods by a Glasgow-based businessman.

The director of Favour Ltd was fined £675 at Glasgow Sheriff Court on 5 January 2017 for the illegal shipment of waste electrical & electronic equipment (WEEE) to Nigeria in 2014, including televisions, monitors and PC desktop units. (Read more: sepa.org.uk)

Fire halts operations at UPM's Shotton MRF

Operations were halted at UPM's Shotton materials recycling facility (MRF) in North Wales, due to a fire at the site on 30 January. UPM's newsprint production mill, which is located in a separate building on the same site, was unaffected by the fire.

Fire crews from North Wales Fire & Rescue Service were called to the MRF site shortly after 8pm, and worked alongside UPM's Shotton Emergency Response Team to bring the fire under control by midnight. The MRF was immediately shut down and all MRF employees were evacuated safely after the alarm was raised, UPM said. (Read more: letsrecycle.com)

Staffordshire plastics fire was arson

A [major fire in an unlicensed plastic recycling facility](#) in Staffordshire earlier this month week was started deliberately, investigators have concluded.

Emergency services were called to Hanbury Plant Recycling Centre in Milton, Stoke-on-Trent, on Sunday morning. At its height, the blaze was being tackled by more than 50 firefighters.

The Environment Agency (EA) has confirmed that Hanbury Plastics Recycling (Stoke), operated an illegal site at Milton. (Read more: mrw.co.uk)

Minerals giant pays out £100,000 after toxic chemical pollution

In a case brought by the Environment Agency, Imerys Minerals has been fined £75,000 and must pay £25,000 in costs for polluting a Cornish river with a hazardous chemical.

Truro Crown Court was told the French-owned company ignored manufacturer's warnings when it chose to let almost 500 litres of Jayfloc 85 enter one of its pollution treatment systems in July 2013. The chemical is a flocculent used in china clay processing and is classified as hazardous and harmful to aquatic life. The manufacturer's guidelines say that the chemical should not be allowed to enter drains, surface waters or groundwater due to its toxicity. (Read more: gov.uk)

Recycling company fined after worker crushed by roller shutter door

The worker was injured when the door's roller barrel fell on him, resulting in 3 cracked ribs and a damaged spleen. An investigation by HSE into the April 2015 incident found that none of the electronically operated roller shutter doors at the company's site had been adequately maintained.

Recresco Ltd, of Cwmbran, pleaded guilty at Newport Magistrates' Court to breaching S.2(1) of the Health & Safety at Work Act and was fined £50,000 with £9944 costs. (Read more: hse.gov.uk)

OTHER NEWS OF INTEREST

HSE report shows six waste sector worker deaths in 2015/16

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) has published its latest [Health & safety in the Waste sector in Great Britain](#) report showing that there were 6 fatalities to workers in the waste sector over the period 2015/16. This brings the figure up to 30 waste worker fatalities over the past 5 years.

The waste sector accounts for around 0.4% of the jobs in Great Britain. The report considers the current health & safety situation for the waste sector, with a focus on the scale and profile of work-related illness and injury in workers in the sector. (Read more: ciwm-journal.co.uk)

EA and HSE to join forces to inspect North-East waste sites

The Environment Agency has joined forces with the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) in the North-East to carry out combined visits to check waste sites aren't flouting important legislation.

This ongoing joint agency approach aims to improve working practices on regulated sites. During the last series of visits towards the end of 2016, staff attended 13 sites across the region, with more visits proposed for the early part of this year. (Read more: ciwm-journal.co.uk)

Charities to receive over £1.5 million from businesses which broke environmental laws

Environmental charities will receive more than £1.5 million for projects benefitting wildlife and the environment, as a result of enforcement action by the Environment Agency.

Companies which broke environmental laws - either by polluting rivers, breaching permit conditions designed to protect communities or avoiding recycling - have agreed to make payments to a range of charities and have pledged to make improvements to avoid future offences. There are 26 Enforcement Undertakings on the new list with payments ranging from £1500 to £375,000, including 6 companies that have agreed to make 6 figure payments.

30 charities and projects will benefit from the bumper pay-out of £1,564,761. The money will go to by local groups on projects that will make a direct positive impact on the environment: stretches of rivers will be cleaned up; native species will be restocked into rivers; and communities groups will invest in parkland for everyone to enjoy. (Read more: gov.uk)

"World First" claimed for recycling of MDF waste

The world's first ever technology to recycle MDF waste has moved a step closer to reality, according to MDF Recovery. Britain alone disposes of around 350,000 tonnes of MDF each year.

MDF Recovery says it has successfully concluded proof of concept trials to develop a commercially viable process to recover wood fibre from waste MDF. It is the culmination of more than six years' research and development to create a technology that will offer the first alternative to landfill or burning to dispose of MDF, it says. (Read more: ciwm-journal.co.uk)

Cost of remediating illegal landfill could reach £100 million

Remediation costs at a massive 47-hectare illegal waste dumping site near Londonderry, which would include waste removal, containment and site treatment, could cost between £20 million and £100 million, the authorities have revealed.

Northern Ireland Environment Minister Michelle McIlveen said that the environmental risk assessment was complete and the next stage would involve "a costed remediation strategy detailing the remediation treatments that must be implemented at the site to meet clean up targets and thus protect the River Faughan and the wider environment". She added that the remediation work will begin this month and is expected to be completed "by the end of spring 2017".