

Environmental and Waste Management Group

January 2017 Newsletter



LEGISLATION

Environmental Permitting Regulations published

The Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016 have been published, and are in force as of 21 December 2016. They consolidate the environmental permitting system in England and Wales, and replace the previous Environmental Permitting (England & Wales) Regulations 2010. (Read more: legislation.gov.uk)

Big increases in Climate Change Levy for 2019

The Treasury has outlined increased Climate Change Levy (CCL) rates, which are due to come into force in 2019. The rise will see the Exchequer benefit to around £425 million.

The then Chancellor George Osborne announced in last year's Budget that the Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC) would be scrapped to remove a "burdensome" scheme from UK businesses. In order to make up the revenue from this, the amount paid under the CCL - which is a tax on energy delivered to non-domestic users - is to be increased. (Read more: cedrec.com)

"Rocky road ahead" for waste laws

Up to a third of EU Directives currently steering UK environmental laws cannot be "neatly incorporated" into domestic legislation in the event of Brexit, the Chair of a House of Commons select committee has suggested.

The Environmental Audit Committee's [report published on 4 January](#) warns of "some very, very rocky road ahead" as the UK attempts to unravel environmental legislation developed over a number of decades. The report says that simply transposing legislation without replacing governance arrangements would lead to significant weakening of environmental protections in many areas. (Read more: letsrecycle.com)

GUIDANCE & CONSULTATIONS

Definition of Waste Panel closed indefinitely

The Environment Agency (EA) has indefinitely closed its Definition of Waste Panel for businesses. A message to customers says: "The Definition of Waste Panel is closed until further notice while its

role and purpose is reviewed in the context of our waste regulation strategy. We do not have a timescale for any further updates or when the outcome of the review will be known.”

The EA advises that guidance on determining the waste status of a business’s material can be found online and it provides a business [self-assessment tool called ‘IsItWaste’](#). (Read more: [mrw.co.uk](#))

WRAP publishes Textile Collections Procurement Guide

Waste and resources charity WRAP has published a [Textiles Collections Procurement Guide](#) to assist local authorities in delivering collection services for clothing.

Published on 14 December, the guide provides information on the design, commissioning, management and communication of textile collections for councils. (Read more: [letsrecycle.com](#))

DEFRA launches consultations on Environmental Impact Assessment

Recently two consultations have been released by the Government in relation to implementation of the amended European Directive on Environment Impact Assessment (EIA).

The first consultation (for forestry, agriculture, water resources, land drainage and marine works) relates to changes in the whole UK, while the second consultation focuses on planning and major infrastructure and applies to England only. (Read more: [cedrec.com](#))

Safe storage of wood pellet and wood chip fuel

HSE have published a [Research Report \(RR1077\)](#) on the safe storage these fuels. Wood pellet and wood chip boilers are used in homes, community buildings, and businesses as a renewable energy alternative to oil or gas fired boilers. They are also increasingly being considered for use in large scale power generation.

Outside the UK, there have been at least nine fatalities since 2002 in Europe caused by carbon monoxide poisoning following entry into wood pellet storage areas. This report describes a study, involving seven site visits, to develop evidence to inform HSE engagement with the industry on the prevention of carbon monoxide poisonings. (Read more: [hse.gov.uk](#))

EU Construction and Demolition Waste Management Protocol

By volume, Construction and Demolition (C&D) waste is the largest waste stream in the EU, so the European Commission is introducing a new protocol covering such waste.

This EU Protocol has been developed for application in all 28 EU member states and has the following target groups of stakeholders:

- industry practitioners - construction sector (including renovation companies and demolition contractors), construction products manufacturers, waste treatment, transport & logistics, as well as recycling companies;
- public authorities – at local, regional, national, and EU levels;
- quality certification bodies for building and infrastructure;
- clients of C&D recycled materials.

(Read more: NetRegs - full text of [EU Construction and Demolition Waste Management Protocol](#))

Metal recyclers push for 'sector-specific' fire guidance

The British Metals Recycling Association (BMRA) has announced that it is to work with the EA to develop sector-specific guidance on the prevention of fires at scrap metal sites. Work on the guidance is to begin next month (February) and follows "intensive conversations" between the Agency and the BMRA on the issue, according to the Association.

Waste operators are required to produce Fire Prevention Plans (FPPs) – which are approved by the EA – in order to minimise the likelihood of fires breaking out at sites. (Read more: letsrecycle.com)

INCIDENTS AND PROSECUTIONS

Waste disposal firm fined after worker loses leg

An Essex-based hazardous waste disposal company has been fined after a worker was crushed beneath a tracked excavator at a sorting and recycling site.

Basildon Crown Court heard how on 7 February 2014 the worker was processing wood waste at a site operated by Cohart Asbestos Disposal Ltd at Archers Field in Basildon. (Read more: hse.gov.uk)

Employee dies after collapse of waste material

A Kent-based waste and recycling company has been fined after an employee died when waste material collapsed on top of him.

Maidstone Crown Court heard how Neville Watson, aged 39 and a father of two, was working close to the pile of waste material after connecting a shredder to the loading shovel he was driving. He died of asphyxiation whilst under the pile of waste that appeared to be over eight metres high. (Read more: hse.gov.uk)

Prescot warehouse fire: Blaze at hazardous waste site

A huge blaze has engulfed a warehouse which handles hazardous waste, sending huge plumes of smoke into the sky.

Explosions have been heard coming from the Remondis site on Carr Lane, Prescot, Merseyside, since the fire started. Fire crews have not yet confirmed what materials are handled at the site but have advised residents nearby to keep doors and windows closed. (Read more: bbc.co.uk)

New Earth IVC blaze under investigation

An investigation into a fire which hit New Earth Solutions' Sharpness Dock in-vessel composting (IVC) site on Friday 2 December is continuing.

Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service and Avon Fire and Rescue were called to the facility to reports of a blaze at a warehouse on the site at around 6am. (Read more: letsrecycle.com)

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. His 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)

200 hours Community Service for former waste director

A former company director of Platinum Waste Solutions Ltd has been sentenced to undertake 200 hours unpaid work within a 6 month period, and is subject to supervision for 18 months as an alternative to a custodial sentence, for breaching waste management legislation.

Sarah Nisbet pled guilty at Hamilton Sheriff Court to a charge of storing waste at the company's site in Shotts over the period 29 January to 5 August 2014, without the proper authorisation from SEPA, while the company (now dissolved) pled guilty to a charge of failing to adequately complete Waste Transfer Notes for the transfer of waste on various dates between 1 October 2013 and 19 February 2014. On 11 November 2016, Ms Nisbet was also handed a Confiscation Order of £16,546.50 under the Proceeds of Crime Act. (Read more: ciwm-journal.co.uk and sepa.org)

Hazardous waste firm fines for chemical leak

Tradebe Solvent Recycling Ltd has been fined £27,000, plus costs of £11,960, following a chemical leak at its Hendon Dock site in Sunderland. The Company pleaded guilty to two offences of failing to comply with an environmental permit condition at Sunderland Magistrates' Court on 21 December.

On 8 January 2015, a Tradebe employee transferred around 23,500 litres of isopropyl alcohol (IPA) from a road tanker barrel into one of the site's fixed storage tankers. Three valves were opened during the operation, two manually operated and one, a remote shut off valve, operated from a control room. The court was told that once the transfer of the chemical was complete, one of the manual valves was not properly closed and a connecting hose was left in place rather than being removed and an end cap fitted. It was left overnight and also not spotted by the next day's incoming shift. Around 4,000 litres of IPA leaked from the tank, with some seeping into groundwater.

(Read more: letsrecycle.com)