

# Environmental and Waste Management Group

## March 2018 Newsletter



### LEGISLATION

#### **Waste carrier, broker and dealer registration renewals due after 25 March 2018: RPS 208**

Waste carriers, brokers and dealers must register with the Environment Agency (EA). Registration costs £154 and lasts for 3 years. Renewing a registration costs £105. The current online registration system does not allow customers who have registered since March 2015 to renew online. However, the EA is upgrading this system so customers can renew online and details of interim measures may be found via its website. (Read more: [gov.uk](http://gov.uk))

#### **Concerns Raised Over Post-Brexit Chemicals Regulation**

The Environmental Policy Forum has raised safety and commercial concerns should the UK move to end its involvement in the EU chemical framework REACH [Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals]. (Read more: [ciwm-journal.co.uk](http://ciwm-journal.co.uk))

However, it still applies now... **REACH: the clock is ticking**

What companies need to know ahead of the final registration deadline on 31 May. (Read more: [ioshmagazine.com](http://ioshmagazine.com))

#### **Landfill Tax: disposals not made at landfill sites**

From 1st April 2018, anyone sending their earthworks waste (such as excavated soil or crushed concrete) to an offsite landfill, soil recycler, soil treatment facility or possibly even an onsite treatment facility without correctly assessing the waste classification may be liable to pay full landfill tax plus a fine and potential prosecution. The measure extends the scope of Landfill Tax to disposals made at sites without an environmental disposal permit, and brings clarity to what material is taxable at sites that do have a permit. The measure is intended to deter non-compliance by making the illegal disposal of waste less profitable, and reinforce the principle of 'the polluter pays'. (Read more: [gov.uk](http://gov.uk) and see CECA guidance below)

#### **Environmental protection can be strengthened post-Brexit**

Michael Gove says the Government will take firmer action on tackling urban pollution, curbing plastic use, improving air quality, reducing waste, and boosting the UK's natural capital. (Read more: [environment-analyst.com](http://environment-analyst.com))

## **REGULATORS, GUIDANCE & CONSULTATIONS**

### **Published: Civil Engineering Contractors Association (CECA) Free Construction Waste Guidance**

CECA have published new guidance on waste in the construction industry, free to all companies working in the sector. “Waste Classification & Permitting in Construction – Guidance for the Construction Industry on the Waste Permitting Regime” has been made freely available online. The guide has been produced by the CECA Environment Group, with input from the Environment Agency, Natural Resources Wales, and the Scottish Environment Protection Agency. (Read more and download: [ceca.co.uk](http://ceca.co.uk))

### **ISO 45001 launched**

To coincide with the new global standard's launch IOSH Magazine presented a discussion aiming to cover the differences between ISO45001 and the old BS OHSAS 18001, what companies will need to do to make the switch and what consultants and auditors will be looking for in gap analyses and assessments. (Read more and view the discussion: [ioshmagazine.com](http://ioshmagazine.com))

### **The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) launches its Annual Science Review 2018**

Marking British Science Week, HSE launched its Annual Science Review with a focus on its work in supporting a sustainable energy sector in the UK. Chief scientific adviser and director of research, Professor Andrew Curran, said: “I am very pleased and proud to launch our latest Science Review. Good evidence underpins how we regulate and how we support other organisations and government departments both in the UK and overseas. It is particularly pleasing in the Year of Engineering to be able to highlight our work enabling a green and sustainable future for the energy sector in the UK.” (Read more: [hse.gov.uk](http://hse.gov.uk))

### **Welsh Government announces more funding for recycling as performance improves**

The Welsh government has made £7.5m of funding available for local authorities to help them improve their recycling services. Welsh environment minister Hannah Blythyn made the announcement on 27 February, less than a week after the latest recycling figures revealed Wales’ recycling rate stood at 12% above the UK average; Wales’ current household recycling rate is 57.3%, in comparison, the average for the whole of the UK is 45.2%. By 2050 Wales also wants all of its waste to be reused or recycled without the need for any landfill or energy recovery. (Read more: [gov.wales](http://gov.wales))

### **Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) challenge to business**

SEPA’s CEO, Terry A’Hearn, challenged businesses to embrace the economic opportunity of sustainable solutions to environmental challenges, taking the opportunities offered to grow and thrive, at a recent event organised by the Institute of Directors in Edinburgh. Mr A’Hearn was quoted as saying that “the scale of environmental challenges facing humanity is enormous, with a real urgency to act. Poor leaders are going to pretend it isn’t a problem, good leaders will face the reality of the situation. Only great leaders will understand that it is an opportunity for their businesses and organisations”. (Read more: [sepa.org.uk](http://sepa.org.uk))

## **SEPA invitation to help shape its first sector plans**

Everyone with an interest in Scotland's environment is being invited to have their say on SEPA's sector plans, including for landfill. (Read more: [sepa.org.uk](http://sepa.org.uk))

## **Hazardous substances at work survey: HSE releases research into 45-year-old COSHH, CLAW and DSEAR regulations**

The report analyses the responses to an online survey about dutyholders', employees' and employers' experiences of COSHH, CLAW and DSEAR. The research found that the regulations provide a useful framework for determining organisational policies and processes to manage the risks from hazardous substances but this could be simplified and supported by additional guidance. (Read more: [hse.gov.uk](http://hse.gov.uk))

## **INCIDENTS AND PROSECUTIONS**

### **Worker killed in recycling plant accident**

HSE is investigating the death of a man at a recycling plant in Renfrewshire. (Read more: [bbc.co.uk](http://bbc.co.uk))

### **Butane leak lands refinery £400k COMAH [Control of Major Accident Hazards Regulations 1999] fine**

Total Lindsey Oil Refinery (LOR), the owner of the Lindsey Oil Refinery in Killingholme, North Lincolnshire, has been fined following the leakage of about 50 tonnes of flammable butane gas from the plant in March 2015. The company pleaded guilty for failing to take necessary precautions to prevent a major accident that could impact people and the environment. (Read more: [ioshmagazine.com](http://ioshmagazine.com))

### **Explosion at toner recycling facility**

A recycling company and its machinery designers have been fined following an explosion and fire at a recycling site in Surrey in 2011 which injured eight workers, five seriously, and left one hospitalised for 15 weeks. HSE prosecuted both the recycling company and the designer of equipment used to process the waste, commenting after the case that "both designers and suppliers must ensure that the risks of using their equipment are eliminated through safe design, and this should include taking into account foreseeable misuse." (Read more: [hse.org.uk](http://hse.org.uk))

### **Cold weather fatality**

Questions have been asked as to the circumstances of a workers' death after being trapped in heavy snow on a remote windfarm site in Scotland during recent bad weather. (Read more: [bbc.co.uk](http://bbc.co.uk))

## **OTHER TOPICS OF INTEREST**

### **“Shape a new world of work” – IOSH Conference, 17-18 September 2018. ICC Birmingham.**

The annual conference offers an exciting, relevant, up to the minute insight on the world of work from both national and global perspectives. Aimed not only at occupational safety and health (OSH) professionals, the conference will also be invaluable to anyone who wants to create a safer, healthier and better world in which to work. (Details and booking: [ioshconference.com](http://ioshconference.com))

### **Satellite projects could tackle waste, EV charging, and flooding**

The projects are part of the UK Space Agency’s Space for Smarter Government Programme, which aims to boost the public sector through. More than £700,000 in funding will be used to help bring them to fruition. (Read more: [environment-analyst.com](http://environment-analyst.com))

### **'Record' year for renewable electricity generation in Scotland**

Renewable electricity generation in Scotland reached record levels last year, according to official data. Statistics published by the UK government showed an increase of 26% in 2017, compared with the previous year. The majority of the increase was attributed to greater onshore wind capacity. (Read more: [bbc.co.uk](http://bbc.co.uk))

### **...and keeping up the momentum: Wind turbine project off Aberdeen takes major step forward**

A North Sea wind turbine development off Aberdeen, which was opposed by Donald Trump before he became President of the USA, has taken a major step forward with the installation of foundations for the first of energy firm Vattenfall’s 11 turbines. (Read more: [bbc.co.uk](http://bbc.co.uk))