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January 2016

In this update....

NEW Legislation:

Fluorinated Greenhouse Gases Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015

These Regulations implement the requirements of Regulation (EU) No 517/2014 of the European Parliament and revoke and remake with amendments the Fluorinated Greenhouse Gases Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2009.

They attempt to limit emissions of fluorinated greenhouse gases ("F-gases") into the atmosphere by ensuring that employees and companies in a number of sectors of business in Northern Ireland are certified to handle equipment during the course of their business without emitting large quantities of F-gases.

The Regulations cover certification of equipment such as refrigeration, fire protection and F-gas based solvents. They create offences and penalties so that the requirements of the EU F-gas Regulations (which do not deal with import and export controls and trade) are implemented in Northern Ireland.

The Regulations come into operation from **31st January 2016**

To view the full text of the Regulations click the link below

[Fluorinated Greenhouse Gases Regulations \(Northern Ireland\) 2015](#)

The Waste Batteries and Accumulators (Amendment) Regulations 2015

These Regulations amend certain conditions of the Waste Batteries and Accumulators Regulations 2009. The amendments will reduce regulatory burdens on businesses, allowing for increased focus on the key aims of the core regulations, including delivery of environmental benefits.

Broadly these regulations make the following changes:

- removal of the requirement to provide operational plans;
- removal of the requirement to submit independent audit reports;
- allows an "approved person" to delegate the responsibility for signing off reports.

The Regulations came into force on **1 January 2016**

To view the full text of the Regulations click the following link:

[The Waste Batteries and Accumulators \(Amendment\) Regulations 2015](#)

Consultations:

Marine conservation zones

The Department of the Environment for Northern Ireland (DOENI) are inviting responses to a consultation on proposals for Marine Conservation Zones in the Northern Ireland inshore region (out to 12 nautical miles). The four sites and the features for which they are being proposed for designation are as follows:

- Rathlin – Deep-sea bed, Black guillemot and Geological/geomorphological features (Submerged lagoons and Sea arches);
- Waterfoot – Subtidal (sublittoral) sand with subtidal seagrass beds (*Zosteramarina*);
- Outer Belfast Lough – Ocean quahog (*Arctica islandica*) and associated habitat Subtidal (sublittoral) sand;
- Carlingford Lough – Subtidal (sublittoral) mud containing Sea-pen and white seaslug communities.

The consultation document is aimed at organisations, groups, and people who undertake activities, or have a general interest in the marine area.

The consultation closes at 5pm on 11 March 2016

To view the consultation documents click the following link:

[DOENI Consultation: Marine conservation zones](#)

The Future of PPGs

Pollution Prevention Guidelines (PPGs) are well known good practice guides, previously produced by the Environment Agency, the Northern Ireland Environment Agency, and SEPA. They also include reference to legal obligations, which are in some cases out of date and require review. These guides have been archived, in England, but are available from the [PPG pages on the NetRegs website](#).

NetRegs is currently working on a review plan to update these guides, and will work with other organisations to do so. The updated guides will have new titles and new branding. Further details, when available, will be presented on the [NetRegs website](#).

Tell us which PPGs you would like to see reviewed first. Email the [NetRegs mailbox](#) with your suggestions.

Nitrates Derogation Application Form

Farmers who want to benefit from a derogation must submit an application form for that year and a fertilisation account (if operating under a derogation in the previous year) to be received by the Northern Ireland Environment Agency each year on or before the 1 March.

To access the Nitrates Derogation Application Form click the link below

[Nitrates Derogation Application Form](#)

From last month's update in case you missed them...

Legislation:

Waste Management Licensing (Amendment No.2) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015

These Regulations come into operation on the 31st December 2015. They broaden the spectrum of prescribed offences which must be taken into account by the Department of the Environment when determining if a person can be deemed a fit and proper person to hold a waste management licence.

The Regulations provide an updated list of offences that include environmental, financial and other relevant offences.

To read the full text of the Regulations click the link below

[Waste Management Licensing \(Amendment No.2\) Regulations \(Northern Ireland\) 2015](#)

Guidance:

Guidance for the Wise Use of Water in the Aggregates and Quarry Products Industry

The Northern Ireland Environment Agency, jointly with the Quarry Products Association NI have published this guidance document.

It provides guidance to assist in protecting the environment by informing the aggregates and quarry products industry of the environmental and commercial benefits that will be delivered through pollution prevention, environmental monitoring and the wise use of water.

To view the Guidance click the link below

[Guidance for the Wise Use of Water in the Aggregates and Quarry Products Industry](#)

The Food Waste Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015

The Northern Ireland Environment Agency has published guidance on the key dates, regulatory requirements and responsibilities for producers of food waste.

To view the Guidance click the link below

[The Food Waste Regulations \(Northern Ireland\) 2015 Guidance](#)

NetRegs self-assessment tool is a success in Northern Ireland

The self-assessment tool, which allows businesses to run an anonymous check on whether they are complying with the main areas of environmental regulation has seen completed assessments since its launch at the end of July 2015

The full assessment is split into six separate units covering:

Air
Materials and equipment
Hazardous substances
Waste
Water
Packaging
Sustainability

Each section will produce a report which can be used for a programme of improvement or as a way of demonstrating compliance.

It is free to use and each section can be completed within a few minutes, even the largest businesses with the most activities on site will take no more than 10-15 minutes to complete a section.

[NetRegs self-assessment tool](#)

NEW NICS Websites

All main NI Government Departments have launched new websites. Unfortunately this has led to a number of broken links on the NetRegs website.

The NetRegs team are currently working to fix as many of these links as possible. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause.

If you have any queries please contact netregs@doeni.gov.uk

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