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February 2019

In this month's update...

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New on NetRegs



Brexit 'No deal' guidance

As a business, you are responsible for any activity that could have negative impacts on the environment or human health. However, with BREXIT approaching there is some uncertainty surrounding what could happen to regulations and legislation.

So here at NetRegs we have compiled some useful guidance on what may happen to regulations if the UK were to leave the EU in March 2019 with no deal.

[Read more here >>>](#)

Resource efficiency checklist.

The NetRegs Resource efficiency good practice checklist is perfect for new start businesses and for charity groups seeking funding.

The checklist covers all aspects of your business/project including energy, waste, water, transport, materials and equipment and more.

Try the checklist now -

[Resource efficiency good practice checklist](#)

New: GPP 26: Safe storage of Drums and Intermediate Bulk Containers (IBCs)

These guidelines will help you if you're responsible for storing and handling drums and Intermediate Bulk Containers (IBCs). They're written for site operators of industrial and commercial premises.

Following the guidance will help you reduce the risk of pollution from your site to land, surface waters and groundwater.

Read the guidance here –

[GPP 26: Safe storage of Drums and Intermediate Bulk Containers \(IBCs\)](#)

New Legislation



Environmental Protection (Microbeads) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2018

These Regulations ban the manufacture and sale of rinse-off personal care products containing microbeads.

Microbeads are an avoidable source of aquatic pollution. Up to 680 tonnes of plastic microbeads are used in personal care products in the UK every year, billions are being washed into drainage systems and entering our seas. Microbeads accumulate in the aquatic environment because they do not biodegrade and because it is impossible to recover them once released.

This legislation will reduce the release of plastic into the aquatic environment and lessen harm to aquatic organisms caused by this form of micro-plastic.

The Regulations come into operation on 11th March 2019.

You can read the Regulation in full here

[The Environmental Protection \(Microbeads\) \(Northern Ireland\) Regulations 2018](#)

Consultations



DAERA seeking views on the proposed Nitrates Action Programme

The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) is seeking views on the proposed Nitrates Action Programme for Northern Ireland 2019-2022.

The Nitrates Action Programme implements the EU Nitrates Directive which is designed to protect surface waters and groundwaters from pollution by agricultural nutrients.

DAERA would welcome any comments on the proposals outlined in the consultation document.

The consultation will close at 4pm on 19 March 2019.

You can access the consultation and associated information here:

[Nitrates Action Programme Consultation](#)

Consultation on Packaging Waste: changing the UK producer responsibility system for packaging waste

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs is currently consulting on proposals to reform the packaging producer responsibility system. Views are sought on measures to reduce the amount of unnecessary and difficult to recycle packaging and increase the amount of packaging that can be recycled through reforms to the packaging producer responsibility regulations. It also proposes that the full net costs of managing packaging waste are placed to influence its design. In particular, the Department is seeking views on:

- changing how costs are managed to be consistent with “polluter pays” principles
- how we can use incentives to encourage the use of recyclable packaging
- making recycling labels mandatory on packaging
- setting new packaging waste recycling targets for 2025 and 2030
- improving monitoring and enforcement of the regulations

The consultation closes on 13 May 2019.

You can read the consultation and associated information here:

[Consultation on Packaging Waste: changing the UK producer responsibility system for packaging waste](#)

Consultation on Introducing a Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) for drinks containers (bottles and cans)

The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs, together with the UK and Welsh Government are currently seeking views on proposals to introduce a deposit return scheme for drink containers in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. This would include drink containers such as:

- glass bottles
- plastic bottles
- cans

The cost of the deposit would be added to the price of the drinks included in the scheme when they are purchased. The deposit would be redeemed when consumers return their empty drinks containers to a designated return point. It is anticipated, that if introduced, a deposit return scheme will increase recycling and reduce littering of drinks containers included in the scheme. The consultation is primarily aimed at:

- Businesses that produce, sell or import drinks in single use containers
- Organisations involved in the management and recycling of packaging waste
- Packaging compliance schemes
- Other organisations who have an interest in packaging and how packaging waste is managed in the UK
- The public

This current consultation closes on 13 May 2019

You can access the consultation and associated information here:

[Consultation on Introducing a Deposit Return Scheme \(DRS\) for drinks containers \(bottles and cans\)](#)

Consultation on Plastic packaging tax

HM Treasury is seeking views on the design of a brand new tax which would apply to businesses that produce or import plastic packaging that doesn't include at least 30% recycled content, from April 2022.

This consultation closes on the 12 May 2019

You can read the consultation and associated information here:

[Consultation on Plastic packaging tax](#)

Updates

Refrigeration and freezer equipment: How to manage the impacts of the EU Fluorinated Greenhouse Gases Regulation



A ban is coming in to force in 2020 that will prevent refrigerants with a global warming potential (GWP) greater than 2500 being used to service or refill your refrigeration or freezer system.

This ban affects refrigeration systems containing HFCs amounting to over 40 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent. This equates to around 10kg of R404A, a common refrigerant in medium sized systems.

The type of systems affected will typically include:

- industrial refrigeration systems
- large commercial refrigeration systems, e.g. 'central pack' systems used in supermarkets
- large transport refrigeration systems, e.g. in trains or ships

For more information on the ban read the guidance - [How to manage the impacts of the EU Fluorinated Greenhouse Gases Regulation](#)

A Guide to Consigning Hazardous Waste



The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs has published a guidance document to help explain how to use consignment notes when dealing with hazardous waste.

The purpose of the Hazardous Waste Regulations is to provide an effective system of control for wastes which are dangerous and difficult to handle, to ensure that they are managed from their point of production to their final destination for disposal or recovery. This is achieved by tracking movements of hazardous waste via a Consignment Note system.

You can read the guidance here:

[A Guide to Consigning Hazardous Waste](#)

Farmers to note the online submission for Nitrates Derogation records



Farmers who want to be considered for derogation this year must submit their applications to DAERA online. The system is now open for 2019 applications and for the submission of 2018 records.

The submission deadline date is 23:59 on the 31 March 2019, for all Fertilisation accounts from 2018 and applications for 2019.

Please note that Fertilisation plans for 2019 should be prepared by the 1 March and be available on farm from this date.

[Read more here >>>](#)

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