From: NetRegs Update
To: Parnell, Alan
Subject: New SEPA charging scheme, circular economy funding and much more...
Date: 31 March 2016 07:30:39

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March 2016

In this month's update...

NEW Legislation:

The Producer Responsibility Obligations (Packaging Waste) (Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2016

The Producer Responsibility Obligations (Packaging Waste) (Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2016 amend the existing instruments establishing the system of packaging waste producer responsibility in Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

The amendments include:

- removal of the requirement to provide operational plans
- transfer of the approvals process from the appropriate authority to the appropriate agency;

allowing an “approved person” to delegate the responsibility for signing off reports; and
- providing operators of schemes based in both Great Britain and Northern Ireland with the right to apply for approval from one approving body rather than two.

The Regulations came into force on 14 February 2016

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

The Producer Responsibility Obligations (Packaging Waste) (Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2016

The Renewable Heat Incentive Scheme and Domestic Renewable Heat Incentive Scheme (Amendment) Regulations 2016

The Renewable Heat Incentive Scheme and Domestic Renewable Heat Incentive Scheme (Amendment) Regulations 2016 amends the Renewable Heat Incentive Scheme Regulations 2011 and Domestic Renewable Heat Incentive Scheme Regulations 2014 to introduce a number of amendments applying to both schemes or that apply to each scheme separately.

The amendments include:

- change the annual tariff uplift from Retail Price Index (RPI) to Consumer Price Index (CPI)
- set the degression triggers for all technologies for degressions for the financial year 2016/17
- amendments to the land criteria
- provide clarity on the criteria which schemes must satisfy in order to demonstrate equivalence to the Microgeneration Certification Scheme (MCS)
- provide clarity on what is meant when a tariff is required to be rounded to a specified number of decimal places
- clarification of Ofgem’s ability to request a new Energy Performance Certificate (EPC), and amend payments in line with new information
- removal of the need for a Green Deal Assessment report
- removal of the 183 days of occupation requirement for new build properties
- clarification that solar thermal collectors must not have been used before the plant’s first commissioning date.
- cross-referencing the Renewables Obligations (RO) Order 2015

The Regulations came into force on 24 February 2016

To view the full text of the regulations click the link below:

The Renewable Heat Incentive Scheme and Domestic Renewable Heat Incentive Scheme (Amendment) Regulations 2016

Consultations:

Consultation on the regulatory fitness of chemicals legislation (excluding REACH)

This is a public consultation on the regulatory fitness of chemicals legislation (excluding REACH). Its objective is to obtain stakeholder views on the functioning of the legislative framework for chemicals. This includes legislation governing the hazard identification and classification of chemicals and legislation governing risk management measures for chemicals (excluding REACH), including chemical-related provisions in worker safety legislation, transport legislation, environmental protection legislation, product control legislation, as well as supporting legislation.

The closing date for responses to the consultation is 27 May 2016

To view the consultation documents visit the European Commission Public consultation webpage

A consultation on a Scottish replacement to Air Passenger Duty and Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening and Scoping Report

Air Passenger Duty - The Air Passenger Duty (APD) consultation paper seeks views on how a Scottish replacement to Air Passenger Duty should be structured and operated in order to help generate

sustainable growth by boosting Scotland's international air connectivity.

The Scottish Government wants to seek views from a wide range of stakeholders on how a Scottish replacement to APD should be structured and operated in order to help achieve the strategic objective of sustainable growth through improving air connectivity in Scotland.

Strategic Environmental Assessment - As well as consulting on the structure and operation of a Scottish replacement to APD, the Scottish Government is also consulting and seeking views on the initial findings and proposed scope and methodology of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) that it is undertaking.

Views are being sought at this early stage ensure that the assessment proceeds with an effective evidence base that has been informed by key stakeholders and organisations. In order to help structure responses, a number of questions have been set out within the Screening and Scoping Report. However, additional views are also welcomed.

The closing date for responses to both consultations is 3 Jun 2016

To view the consultation documents visit the Scottish Government Consultation Hub

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Updates:

NEW SEPA Charging Scheme

SEPAs new charging scheme will start on 1 April 2016. The Environmental Regulation (Scotland) Charging Scheme 2016 will replace five existing schemes with a single risk-based scheme.

The following five schemes will be replaced:

1. waste management;
2. pollution prevention and control;
3. the holding/disposal of radioactive substances (Band B and C);
4. water abstraction, impoundment and engineering;
5. discharges to water.

More information about the regulatory charging scheme 2016, is available on SEPAs Charging scheme development webpage.

Zero Waste Scotland launches £18m Circular Economy Fund for business

Zero Waste Scotland has launched an £18m fund to help small and medium-sized enterprises explore and pioneer ways to develop a circular economy.

The Circular Economy Investment Fund aims to accelerate the development of business innovation, including support for developing new technologies and the infrastructure needed for a more circular economy.
Interested organisations should go to the Zero Waste Scotland website for more information and to apply.

The fund will be open for applications from 1st April 2016 and will be a two stage process. More information is available at www.zerowastescotland.org.uk/circular-economy

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Saltire Awards for Civil Engineering

The search is on for Scotland's best engineering and construction projects with entries due by end April 2016.

The Awards celebrate excellence in the industry and the people who design, build and maintain Scotland's transport, water, flooding, energy and waste infrastructure. The inclusion of new categories will ensure that projects large and small and their contribution to Scottish life can be showcased more effectively.

The categories include the project that most beneficially impacts the people of Scotland, an 'infrastructure' award and Special Awards, which will shine a light on environmental improvements, buildings and projects designed in Scotland but constructed overseas.

For more information visit Saltire Awards for Civil Engineering

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Managing Naturally Occurring Radioactive Material (NORM) in the oil and gas industry

Improve the management of Naturally Occurring Radioactive Material (NORM) with this single point of reference.

This report provides guidance and general information on the management of process streams or equipment contaminated with minor concentrations of Naturally Occurring Radionuclides (NORs). Colloquially streams or installation parts contaminated with NORs are indicated as Naturally Occurring Radioactive Material (NORM) within the oil and gas industry.

To view the guidance click the link below:

Managing Naturally Occurring Radioactive Material (NORM) in the oil and gas industry

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Events:

VIBES Awards Launch Events 2016

Do you have what it takes to be a sustainable business Champion? Add Vision In Business for the Environment of Scotland (VIBES) launch events to your diary to learn more about the 2016 VIBES Awards:

- 21st April in Edinburgh
- 28th April in Dunfermline
- 3rd May in Inverness
- 10th May in Cumbernauld
- 11th May in Aberdeen
- 18th May in Duns

For information visit http://www.vibes.org.uk/ or email: vibes@sepa.org.uk

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GreenFleet Scotland

Energy Saving Trust along with Transport Scotland and Scottish Enterprise are again sponsoring GreenFleet Scotland and Evolution at the Royal Highland Centre, Ingliston, Edinburgh on Friday and Saturday 15 and 16 April 2016.

GreenFleet Scotland is the fleet event for Scotland, designed to demonstrate the viability of ultra-low emission, plug-in, hybrid and electric vehicles to organisations that want to improve the efficiency of their fleet and transport operations and to address poor air quality caused by emissions from road transport.

You can register for the events at http://events.greenfleet.net/scotland and http://scotland.evolutionshow.co.uk/

The Natural Step and Circular Economy together: The Natural Step Level 1 - 100% Resilient Food Security and 0% Waste

For the first time in Scotland, The Natural Step (TNS) and Circular Economy Frameworks are working together to involve food stakeholders to define and explore sustainability and create a Sustainable Food System in the North of Scotland.

This combined TNS Level 1 course and Circular Economy workshop takes place over two consecutive days and builds upon more than 25 years of practical experience and results in coaching sustainability champions who are leading their organisations and communities toward a sustainable future.

When: Level 1: May 7, from 9am - 6pm
Circular Economy Workshop: May 8, from 9am - 5pm

Where: Transition Town Forres
Environmental Education Centre c/o The Hub
20 Tolbooth St.
Forres IV36 1PH.

For more details including course pricing visit: http://www.thenaturalstep.org/education/ or send an email to hello@thenaturalstep.org

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

Legislation:

The Waste Management Licensing (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2016

These Regulations amend the Waste Management Licensing (Scotland) Regulations 2011 to remove exemptions from waste management licensing the storage and treatment of waste tyres.

The regulations come into force on the 30th March 2016.

For further details visit the Waste Management Licensing (Scotland) Amendment Regulations page on NetRegs

The Scottish Landfill Tax (Standard Rate and Lower Rate) Order 2016

This Order specifies the standard rate and lower rate for Scottish landfill tax for disposals on or after 1st April 2016. The standard rate is £84.40 and the lower rate is £2.65. Tax is to be calculated by reference to the weight and types of material disposed of, as provided for in section 13 of the Landfill Tax (Scotland) Act 2014.

The Order comes into force on the 1st April 2016.

To view the full text of the Regulations follow the link below:

The Scottish Landfill Tax (Standard Rate and Lower Rate) Order 2016

The Reservoirs (Scotland) Regulations 2016

From 1 April 2016, reservoirs in Scotland with a capacity of 25,000m^3 or more will be regulated by SEPA. To begin with the new regime will apply only to reservoirs with a capacity of 25,000m^3 or more. At some point, this will be extended so that it also applies to reservoirs with a capacity of between 10,000 and 25,000m^3.

Under the new regime, SEPA will regulate each reservoir having regard to the risk that each reservoir poses to public safety. In particular, SEPA will be responsible for ensuring that reservoir managers

comply with the duties imposed on them under the new regime.

The Regulations come into force on the 1st April 2016.

To view the full text of the Regulations follow the link below:

The Reservoirs (Scotland) Regulations 2016

Consultations:

Draft provisions for a Wild Fisheries (Scotland) Bill/Draft Wild Fisheries Strategy: a consultation

This consultation is designed to give stakeholders an opportunity to provide feedback on the approach currently being taken to develop the legislative provisions for a Wild Fisheries (Scotland) Bill.

The closing date for responses to the consultation is the 2nd May.

To view the consultation documents follow the link below:

Draft Provisions for a Wild Fisheries (Scotland) Bill/Draft Wild Fisheries Strategy

SEPA Consultation: Guidance for Release of Nuclear Sites from Radioactive Substances Regulation

SEPA is seeking responses to their public consultation on the proposed new guidance on Requirements for Release of Nuclear Sites from Radioactive Substances Regulation.

The proposed new guidance has been produced jointly by the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA), the Environment Agency (EA) and Natural Resources Wales (NRW).

The closing date for responses to the consultation is the 9th May.

To view the consultation documents follow the link below:

Requirements for Release of Nuclear Sites from Radioactive Substances Regulation

OTHER

Organic Ambitions - Scotland's Organic Action Plan 2016-2020 - Knowledge - Strength - Skills - Resilience

The Scottish Organic Forum (SOF) carried out an extensive consultation with over 700 stakeholders to produce this Action Plan. It includes 17 actions under four headline themes (KNOWLEDGE, STRENGTH, SKILLS & RESILIENCE) to be taken forward over the next 5 years.

The Action Plan will encourage growth in the Scottish organic sector which will, in turn, help Scotland address wider challenges such as encouraging biodiversity, tackling climate change through reducing greenhouse gas emissions, improving soils and protecting our air and water. It will also add further economic value to the Scottish Food and Drink Sector.

To view the report click on the link below:

Organic Ambitions - Scotland's Organic Action Plan 2016-2020 - Knowledge - Strength - Skills - Resilience

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Updates:

'Making Things Last' Scotland's Circular Economy Strategy

This strategy sets out the priorities of the Scottish Government for moving towards a more circular economy – where products and materials are kept in high value use for as long as possible. It builds on Scotland's progress in the zero waste and resource efficiency agendas.

A more circular economy will benefit:

- the environment – cutting waste and carbon emissions and reducing reliance on scarce resources;
- the economy – improving productivity, opening up new markets and improving resilience; and
- communities – more, lower cost options to access the goods we need with opportunities for social enterprise.

Within the strategy four priority areas have been identified, these are: food and drink, energy infrastructure, remanufacturing and construction.

To view the strategy document click the following link:

Making Things Last: A Circular Economy Strategy for Scotland

NEW SEPA Guidance: Systematic Assessment of Resource Use and Efficiency for PPC Part A Activities

SEPA has developed a new PPC reporting template and supporting guidance for the systematic assessment of resource utilisation, which combines the reporting of water use, energy efficiency and waste minimisation, with the aims of:

- clarifying the requirement of resource utilisation systematic assessments;
- improving the efficiency of the reporting and review process;
- reducing the amount of reporting for resource utilisation requirements;
- encouraging regulated industries to continuously drive resource use efficiency; and
- realising the positive benefits to the environment and on operator productivity (as well as significant associated cost savings for operators).

To view the new PPC template and supporting guidance visit the Guidance pages on the SEPA website and choose the relevant document under 'Part A installations > Resource use and efficiency systematic assessment'

Scottish Rural Development Programme 2014-2020

The Scottish Rural Development Programme (SRDP) offers funding for rural Scotland. A key aim of the SRDP is to deliver environmental benefits for water, soil, biodiversity, landscape, climate change and public access.

The 2016 application window for the Agri-Environment Climate (AEC) Scheme (one of the main SRDP schemes) is now open until 15 April 2016. A further application window is expected to open in early 2017.

Further information on the SRDP can be found on the SRDP pages on the Scottish Government's website.

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