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# NetRegs

For Northern Ireland and Scotland  
[www.netregs.org.uk](http://www.netregs.org.uk)

## NetRegs update

Understand your  
environmental  
regulations and learn  
about best practice



**SEPA**  
Scottish Environment  
Protection Agency

**NIEA** Northern Ireland  
Environment  
Agency  
[www.doeni.gov.uk/niea](http://www.doeni.gov.uk/niea)

February 2016

## In this month's update...

### NEW Legislation:

#### The Environmental Better Regulation Bill

The Environment Better Regulation Bill was approved by the Northern Ireland assembly on 8 February 2016.

The Bill includes:

- Quicker and clearer ways of communicating authorised fuels and exempted fireplaces for use in a smoke control area;
- Measures that will allow district councils to prepare and implement air quality action plans more quickly;



- A faster, leaner and less confusing system for reporting on drinking water quality for public supplies;
- A requirement for DOE to conduct a review to identify opportunities to make “powers of entry” onto premises clearer and simpler;
- Powers to make regulations to streamline the environmental permitting process for businesses

The Bill is expected to receive Royal Assent within the next six weeks. Once Royal Assent has been received, the Bill will become law and will be known as the Environmental Better Regulation Act (Northern Ireland) 2016.

For further details on the Environmental Better Regulation Bill visit the [NI Assembly website](#).

## Consultations:

### NIEA Regulatory Charging Policy 2016-21 Consultation

The Agency’s current Regulatory Charging Policy expires in March 2016. The policy covers those fees and charges associated with waste, water, and pollution control regulations.

Your views are sought by 17:00 24 March 2016 on the proposed new Regulatory Charging Policy to adjust fees and charges by the GDP deflator for the period 2016-21.



You can read the Consultation document here: <https://www.doeni.gov.uk/consultations/niea-regulatory-charging-policy-proposal-period-2016-21>

### Consultation on changes to the certification and testing of petrol vapour recovery equipment

The DOENI is leading a consultation on amending the Pollution Prevention and Control (Industrial Emissions) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2013 to require the equipment used for Stage II Petrol Vapour Recovery to be certified and tested according to certain CEN standards

The consultation closes at 23:59 on 28 March 2016.

To view the consultation documents visit the consultation pages on the [DOENI website](#).

## Updates:

### Local Coca-Cola Bottling Company Sustainable future 'in the can' as it signs Prosperity Agreement

Northern Ireland’s Environment Minister, Mark H. Durkan has signed a significant environmental agreement with ‘Coca-Cola Hellenic Bottling Company (Coca-Cola HBC)’ based in Lisburn.

The Agreement, which was signed on 8<sup>th</sup> February, is with the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) and known as a ‘Prosperity Agreement.’ It includes



significant commitments from both the company and the NIEA to ensure better environmental outcomes, for instance, Coca-Cola HBC have committed to reduce carbon emissions and energy consumption by 10-15% by 2019. Read more on this story on the [DOENI News pages](#).

Further information on this and the other Prosperity Agreements signed to date can be found here: <https://www.doeni.gov.uk/articles/prosperity-agreements> or contact [NIEAProsperityAgreements@doeni.gov.uk](mailto:NIEAProsperityAgreements@doeni.gov.uk)

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## NetRegs Website Links

Due to the launch of new websites for all main NI Government Departments we are currently experiencing a high 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](mailto:netregs@doeni.gov.uk)

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

### 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 **31<sup>st</sup> 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:

- a) removal of the requirement to provide operational plans;
- b) removal of the requirement to submit independent audit reports;
- c) 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](#)

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## 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](#)

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## Updates:

### 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 the Scottish Environment Protection Agency. 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 turn them into a new replacement guidance series, with new titles and new branding. We will work with NIEA and other organisations to do so. 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.

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## 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](#)

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