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January 2017

## In this month's update...

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### NEW Legislation



# Producer Responsibility Obligations (Packaging Waste) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2017

The regulations amend the Producer Responsibility Obligations (Packaging Waste) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007. The 2007 Regulations impose obligations on producers to recover and recycle packaging waste in order to attain the recovery and recycling targets set out in Article 6(1) of Council Directive 94/62/EC on packaging waste. The new Regulations set the recycling targets for glass and plastic together with the recycling by re-melt glass targets for the years 2016,2017,2018,2019 and 2020.

Comes into force on 02 February 2017

You can read the Regulations in full here <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/nisr/2017/3/introduction/made>

## Consultation



### Consultation on proposed changes to the packaging recycling business targets for paper, steel, aluminium, wood and overall recovery and recycling for 2018-2020

The Department of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DAERA) has published a consultation paper as part of a UK wide consultation, to amend the business targets for paper, aluminium, steel and wood and for overall recovery and recycling in the Producer Responsibility Obligations (Packaging Waste) (Amendment) Regulations 2007 (as amended) and the Producer Responsibility Obligations (Packaging Waste) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007 (as amended).

The proposals will be of greatest interest to:

- Packaging 'producers', as defined in the Packaging Regulations
- Packaging compliance schemes
- Reprocessors and exporters of waste packaging
- Waste management companies and local authorities involved in the collection of packaging
- Any research institutions, groups or individuals with a particular interest in packaging waste.

**The closing date for responses to the consultation is: 06 January 2017.**

For more details visit the [NetRegs website](#).

### Consultation: Proposals to ban the use of microbeads in cosmetics and personal care products

The purpose of the consultation is to seek views on the Governments proposals for a UK-wide ban on the sale and manufacture of cosmetics and personal care products containing microbeads which may harm the marine environment.

The ban would apply to solid microplastic ingredients <5mm in size in every dimension that are used as an ingredient in rinse-off cosmetics and personal care products including but not limited to exfoliating scrubs, shower gels and toothpastes. The consultation also seeks to gather evidence on the extent of the environmental impacts of microbeads found in other products, to inform future UK actions to protect the marine environment.

The closing date for responses is 28 February 2017.

For more details visit the [NetRegs website](#)

## Updates

### Groundwater Hazardous Substances Standards – NIEA Interim Regulatory Position Statement



The Northern Ireland Environment Agency has published an Interim Regulatory Position Statement to clarify how it regulates the input of hazardous substances into groundwater and the standards to be achieved through extant licences/permits. The interim statement will remain in place until an update of the regulatory position is published in Spring 2017.

You can read the Statement here

<https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/groundwater-hazardous-substances-standards>

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