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November 2018

In this month's update...

[New on NetRegs](#), [New Legislation](#), [Consultations](#) and [Updates](#)

New on NetRegs



Why you need a green team

When it comes to sustainability in your office, small changes can make a big difference. However, encouraging buy-in from your employees can sometimes prove difficult. Setting up a green team will help to make the switch to sustainability much more seamless.

Read our blog on [why your business needs a green team](#)

Food and drink and the sustainable supply chain

Read our blog about [sustainable procurement in the food and drink sector](#)

New GPP 22: Dealing with spills



This guidance is for anyone who is responsible for storing and transporting materials that could cause pollution if they spill. It may also be useful for those who respond to spills, or those responsible for transporting or storing waste from spills.

This guideline gives information and advice about:

- pollution risk assessments;
- pollution incident response plans;
- the pollution control hierarchy;
- pollution control methods and equipment you could use to contain spills;
- site specific pollution control options;
- spills on a road or highway;
- clean-up after you've contained a spill, including pollutant specific information.

You can view this GPP, and others, here:

[GPP22: Dealing with spills](#)

[NetRegs: Guidance for Pollution Prevention](#)

New Legislation



Plant Health Order (Northern Ireland) 2018

This Order comes into operation on the 1st December 2018. It consolidates with amendments the Plant Health Order (Northern Ireland) 2006, which contains measures to prevent the introduction and spread of harmful pests and diseases into the EU and the Plant Health (Phytophthora ramorum) Order (NI) 2005 which contains measures to prevent the introduction and spread of Phytophthora ramorum amendments and various amendments to those Orders.

This Order also includes measures strengthening import and movement

requirements for oak trees, to minimise the risk of further incursions of *Thaumetopoea* (oak processionary moth).

The Plant Health legislation is updated frequently, to take account of new or revised risk assessments, pest interceptions, changes in distribution of pests and other developments.

[Plant Health Order \(Northern Ireland\) 2018](#)



Consultation



Synopsis of consultation responses – draft Fluorinated Greenhouse Gases (Amendment) Regulations (NI) 2018

The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (“The Department”) plans to introduce the draft F-gas Regulations to update the existing F-gas Regulations in order to ensure compliance with further new EU requirements on F-gas provisions. The Department consulted on the draft Regulations from the 31 August 2018 until 26th October 2018 and has now published the synopsis of responses received from stakeholders to its consultation document.

You can read both the Consultation and Synopsis here;

[Consultation Papers](#)

[Synopsis of Responses](#)

Consultation on proposed amendments to regulations on the use of Hazardous Substances in Electrical and Electronic Equipment

The Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs is currently seeking views on updating the restriction of the use of certain hazardous substances (RoHS) in electrical and electronic equipment regulations to bring the amended EU directive 2017/2102 into UK law.

The change will correct some unintended consequences of widening the definition of electrical and electronic equipment products. In particular the change will stop the restriction on the resale and repair of old equipment and clarify issues concerning product scope.

The Consultation closes 4 December 2018

[Read the Consultation and associated documents](#)

Updates

Landfill Tax: Increase in Rates

Landfill Tax was introduced on 1 October 1996 to encourage waste producers and the waste management industry to switch to more sustainable alternatives for disposing of material.

Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) has



publishes guidance on updated charges that will apply to operators of landfill sites in England and Northern Ireland from the 1 April 2019. The rates being amended and the new rates are set out below.

Material sent to landfill	Rates from 1 April 2018	Rates from 1 April 2019
Standard rated	£88.95/tonne	£91.35/tonne
Lower rated	£2.80/tonne	£2.90/tonne

Further Information:

[HM Revenue & Customs policy paper: Landfill tax rates](#)

Now is the time to Soil Sample

The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs has published guidance on the period from October to February as the optimum time for taking soil samples as soils should not be tested within three months of the last application of lime, slurry or chemical fertiliser in order to achieve accurate results.

Soil analysis determines the fertility of your soils, allowing you to plan manure and fertiliser applications to maximise crop yield, minimise wastage and nutrient loss and make full use of your slurry and manure.

For more information see:-

[DAERA: Now is the time to soil sample](#)

[DAERA: Nitrates Action Programme and Phosphorous Regulations 2015-2018](#)

First Seabin installed in NI Waters

A Seabin, a floating garbage bin that sucks in waste



floating on the surface of the water in docks and marinas, has been installed by Ards and North Down Council.

This innovative method of dealing with plastic pollution is part of a larger plan to protect the wildlife and natural beauty of the Northern Irish coast.

[Ards and North Down Council: Seabin Installed in Bangor](#)

[BBC News: Floating bin to trap marine plastic](#)

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[NetRegs update - August 2018](#)



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