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**April 2019**

## **In this month's update...**

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## New on NetRegs



### Website changes

The NetRegs team are always working hard to improve the website. The eagle-eyed users may have already spotted a couple of recent changes, which include new “Tools” and “Blogs” sections.

Our “Tools” section provides a new home for our:

- E-learning courses,
- Self-assessment tool,
- Mobile app,
- Email newsletter, and
- Savings calculator.

The “Blog” section houses our new and improved NetRegs Blog and provides up-to-date summaries of our social content on Facebook and Twitter. Details of NetRegs latest Blog can be found below.

Visit [www.netregs.org.uk](http://www.netregs.org.uk) and check out the new sections today!

### NetRegs Blog - Latest

[How micro-brewers and distillers can reduce their environmental impact - 24/04/2019](#)

A blog exploring the environmental obligations and responsibilities of micro-brewers and distillers, with advice on things they should and shouldn't be doing.



[Read More](#)

## Latest GPPs -

### **GPP29: Micro-breweries and micro-distilleries**

This GPP is written for small/micro-breweries and distilleries.

It provides an overview of the environmental regulations that you may need to comply with, and provides good practice advice that can help you to minimise your environmental impacts.

Read GPP29 here:

[GPP29: Micro-breweries and micro-distilleries](#)

### **GPP 26 Safe storage - Drums and Intermediate Bulk Containers**

This GPP is written for site operators of industrial and commercial premises storing and handling drums and intermediate bulk containers (IBCs) containing oil, chemicals or potentially polluting substances.

Read GPP26 here:

[GPP 26 Safe storage - Drums and Intermediate Bulk Containers](#)

## New Legislation



### **Environmental Protection (Microbeads) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2019**

These Regulations ban the manufacture and sale of rinse-off personal care products containing microbeads and complete a UK ban on the manufacture and sale of rinse-off cosmetic products which

became effective in England, Scotland and Wales during 2018.

The ban applies to all rinse-off personal care products, as defined in the regulations. Rinse-off personal care products include, but are not limited to: products designed for use on the body, skin, hands, feet, nails, face, hair and oral cavity, including to exfoliate, cleanse, lighten or colour, soften skin or hair, remove hair, deodorise or perfume, as well as bath products with personal care properties and dental products.

It is now an offence under these Regulations to:

- Use microbeads as an ingredient in the manufacture of rinse-off personal care products;
- Supply, or offer to supply, any rinse-off personal care product containing microbeads;
- Fail to provide, without reasonable excuse, any information required by notice in writing served by the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) or a district council.

Microbeads accumulate in the aquatic environment because they do not biodegrade and because it is impossible to recover them once released. However, microbeads are an avoidable source of aquatic pollution and it has been concluded that the microbead ban will have a positive impact on the aquatic environment.

The Regulations came into force on 11 March 2019.

You can read the Regulations in full here:

[Environmental Protection \(Microbeads\) Regulations \(Northern Ireland\) 2019](#)

## **Nutrient Action Programme Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2019**

### **Nutrient Action Programme Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2019**

These Regulations have been made by the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs. They revoke the NAP Regulations (NI) 2014 and the NAP (Amendment) Regulations (NI) 2015. They also revoke and incorporate the Phosphorus (Use in Agriculture) Regulations (NI) 2014, and regulations 10 and 11 of the Pesticides, genetically modified Organisms and Fertilisers (Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations (NI) 2018. The NAP Regulations apply to all agriculture land in Northern Ireland.

The Nitrates Directive (91/676/EEC) aims to improve water quality by protecting water against pollution caused by nitrates from agricultural sources. In particular, it is about promoting better management of animal manures, chemical nitrogen fertilisers and other nitrogen-containing materials spread onto the land.

These Regulations implement measures which continue to build on improvements in water quality and

agricultural nutrient management seen in the last three action programmes.

The Regulations came into operation on 11 April 2019.

You can read the Regulations in full here:

[Nutrient Action Programme Regulations \(Northern Ireland\) 2019](#)

## **The Energy Performance of Buildings (Certificates and Inspections) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2019**

These Regulations amend the Energy Performance of Buildings (Certificates and Inspections) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2008 to set the fees for entering data onto the register of energy performance certificates, display energy certificates, and air conditioning inspection reports.

The Regulations come into force on 30 April 2019.

You can read the Regulations in full here:

[The Energy Performance of Buildings \(Certificates and Inspections\) \(Amendment\) Regulations \(Northern Ireland\) 2019](#)

## **Waste (Fees and Charges) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2019**

The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs is required to have in place a charging scheme to ensure that, so far as practicable, fees and charges payable for waste management licences are sufficient to recover the costs for the Department in exercising its functions under the Waste and Contaminated Land (NI) Order 1997. However, fees for considering applications to register an undertaking carrying on an exempt activity and charges for considering applications for registration as carriers of, brokers of, or dealers in controlled waste are set out in legislation, as opposed to the charging scheme.

The purpose of these Regulations is to increase those legislative fees and charges.

The Regulations come into operation on 02 May 2019.

You can read the Regulations in full here

[Waste \(Fees and Charges\) \(Amendment\) Regulations \(Northern Ireland\) 2019](#)

## **The Restriction of the Use of Certain Hazardous Substances in Electrical and Electronic Equipment (Amendment) Regulations 2019**

These Regulations amend Restriction of the Use of Certain Hazardous Substances in Electrical and Electronic Equipment Regulations 2012.

This instrument amends the following provisions of the 2012 Regulations:

- The restriction of the second-hand sale of electrical equipment from July 2019. Such an outcome would be in conflict with the waste hierarchy, which puts reuse and refurbishment above recycling;
- The inability to repair or upgrade equipment that falls within the scope of the 2011 Directive after July 2019, with new cables or spare parts. This would be undesirable from both an environmental and an economic perspective;
- An inadvertent ban on new pipe organs being placed on the EU market, as they would not be RoHS compliant due to the amount of lead required to produce the pipes;
- The different treatment of cord connected non-road mobile machinery, such as professional cleaning machines (which would be caught by the 2011 Directive), in comparison with otherwise identical machinery powered by a battery or an on board power supply (which would be exempt).

The Regulations come into force on 12 June 2019

You can read the Regulations in full here:

[The Restriction of the Use of Certain Hazardous Substances in Electrical and Electronic Equipment \(Amendment\) Regulations 2019](#)

## Consultations



### **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 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 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



## NetRegs will be at the Balmoral show from the 15<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> May 2019

Come and visit us and our NIEA colleagues in the Eikon Centre, and find out how NetRegs can help your business comply with your environmental obligations.

## Movement of live animals and animal products from/through the Republic of Ireland into Northern Ireland





The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs has published information on measures required for the movement of animals and animal products from/through the Republic of Ireland into Northern Ireland.

You can access the information in full here

<https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/movement-live-animals-and-animal-products-fromthrough-republic-ireland-northern-ireland>

## **Invasive Species Week 13<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> May 2019**

During Invasive Species Week, organisations across England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland, Jersey, Guernsey and the Isle of Man will be working together to raise awareness of the damage that non-native invasive species are causing. Invasive non-native species harm the environment and wildlife, are costly to the economy, and can even pose a risk to human health and our way of life.

There are simple things you can do to help protect the environment and recreational spaces you enjoy, find out more at:

[nonnativespecies.org/invasivespeciesweek](http://nonnativespecies.org/invasivespeciesweek)

This year as Invasive Species Week coincides with the Balmoral show, Northern Ireland Environment Agency, Biodiversity Conservation Science Unit, will have a high profile presence on the DAERA stand, located in the Eikon Centre to exhibit and highlight the issues.



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## **Missed last month's update?**

Visit the [updates archive on NetRegs](#) to view any of the previous updates.



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