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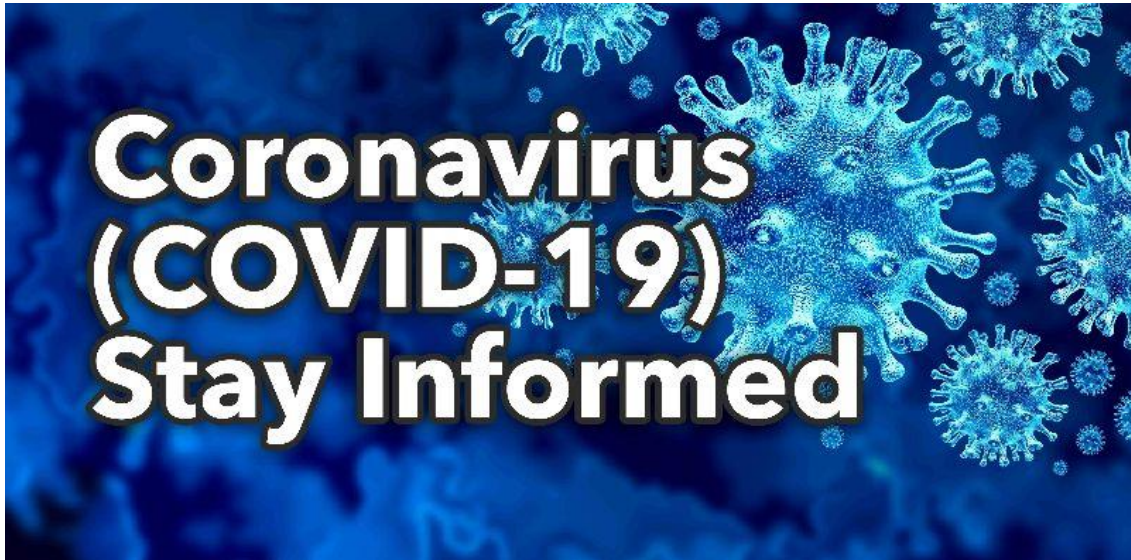


October 2020

In this month's update...

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

Coronavirus (COVID-19) guidance and support



Coronavirus guidance

SEPA Guidance

The Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) has created an information website to keep you informed on the current coronavirus situation.

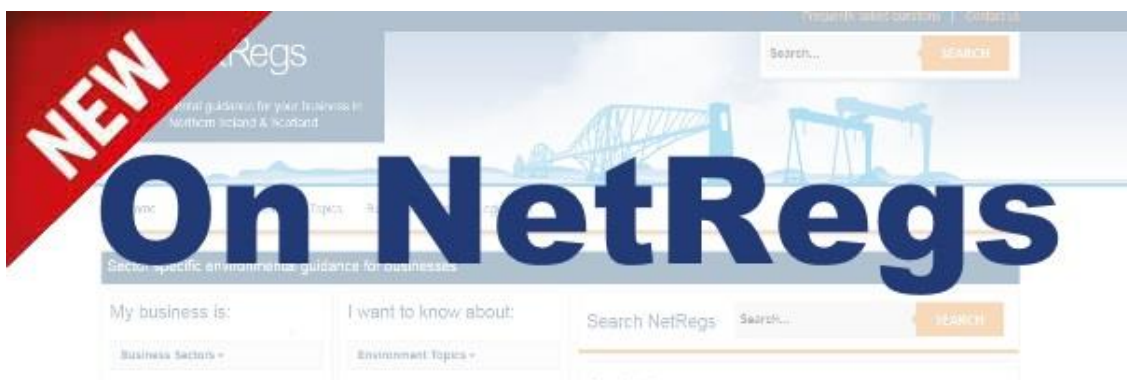
[Read more here >>>](#)

Find Business Support

Scotland's enterprise and skills agencies are working in partnership to help you find the support you need if your business has been affected by the coronavirus pandemic. Find guidance, advice and tools for all sectors across Scotland.

[Read more here >>>](#)

New on NetRegs



New Guidance for Pollution Prevention (GPP) - A General Guide to Pollution Prevention

An overview of how businesses can reduce the risk of, and the damage from, pollution incidents. Provides a guide to which of the other GPPs are useful for different situations, and provides other useful sources of support and guidance.

[Read more here >>>](#)

New Legislation



The Waste (Miscellaneous Amendments) (Scotland) Regulations 2020

These Regulations transpose aspects of the European Commission's Circular Economy Package (CEP) into Scottish waste legislation and ensure the relevant legislation will operate following the end of the EU-

Exit transition period.

The Regulations:

- make provision that the National Waste Management Plan for Scotland is to include a statement of Scottish Ministers' policies in relation to a set of waste prevention measures, such as sustainable production and consumption and reducing waste, and targets for recycling certain materials, and
- amend the date on which landfill operators must refuse to accept biodegradable municipal waste from 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2025.

The Regulations come into force on 04 December 2020.

[View the regulations here >>>](#)

Consultations



SEPA Consultation on the revised guidance on the use of enforcement action

Every day SEPA works to protect and enhance Scotland's environment, using a range of regulatory tools to ensure compliance with environmental law.

The 2014 The Regulatory Reform (Scotland) Act enabled the single largest ever expansion to SEPA's set of enforcement powers, and a staged approach to their implementation has been taken to make sure the powers are used effectively and appropriately.

Since 2016, SEPA has been working to further develop its approach to enforcement. This has included creating a dedicated enforcement function and phasing in the implementation of new powers to agree Enforcement Undertakings and issue Fixed Monetary Penalties. Having successfully completed these steps, SEPA now intend to implement Variable Monetary Penalties (VMPs).

A VMP is a discretionary financial penalty which SEPA can impose. The minimum VMP that will be imposed is £1000.

The consultation on the revised guidance on the use of enforcement action includes a new method of calculating a VMP. You can view and complete the [consultation online](#). Email VMPConsultation@sepa.org.uk to register your interest in online awareness sessions, which SEPA will run in November, or for other enquiries.

Submissions to the consultations must be made by **15 December 2020**.

Scottish Government Consultation launched on banning common single-use plastic items.

Plans to ban some of the most environmentally damaging single-use plastic items in Scotland, including plastic cutlery and plastic straws, have been published for consultation.

The Scottish Government is seeking views on the introduction of new legislation to restrict the sale or commercial supply of plastic plates, plastic straws, plastic cutlery, polystyrene food and drink containers, plastic balloon sticks and products made from oxo-degradable plastics.

The consultation closes on 04 January 2021.

[Read more and respond here >>>](#)

BEIS Consultations:

Draft Ecodesign and Energy Labelling Regulations 2021

The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy is seeking views on proposed updates to ecodesign and energy labelling requirements.

The consultation closes at 11:45pm on 11 November 2020.

[Read more and respond here >>>](#)

Proposals for a green gas levy

The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy is seeking views on policy options for a new levy on gas suppliers to fund support for green gas injection into the gas grid.

The consultation closes at 11:45pm on 2 November 2020

[Read more and respond here >>>](#)

Consultation on WEEE Compliance Fee Methodology 2020

This consultation contains proposals from external organisations for a compliance fee methodology and administrator for 2020.

Comments are invited on whether the Secretary of State should set a compliance fee for 2020 and if so the extent to which each of the proposals meet the published evaluation criteria.

The consultation closes on 09 November 2020.

[Read more and respond here >>>](#)

Updates

EU Exit – Transition guidance

The UK Government is providing guidance and information for **businesses that trade with the EU**.

This includes the following:

- [Webinars for exporters of animals and products of animal origin to the EU](#)
- [Webinars for businesses by sector](#)
 - life sciences
 - aerospace
 - construction
 - consumer goods
 - metals and other materials
 - retail
 - automotive
 - electronics and materials
- [Exporting and sending goods outside of the UK](#)
- [Importing and bringing goods into the UK](#)
- [The customs clearance process](#)



- [Related content](#)

Northern Ireland

There is also specific guidance for businesses moving goods **into, out of or through Northern Ireland** from 1 January 2021

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/moving-goods-into-out-of-or-through-northern-ireland-from-1-january-2021>

SEPA Updates:

New Guidance: Control of plants in or near to water (October 2020)

There are occasions when plant growth in or near water is considered a problem, and there is a desire to undertake control. It is important to ensure control is appropriate, to identify suitable control methods and to ensure that the water environment is protected.

This guidance aims to help identify the appropriate approaches to control plants in or near water.

[Read more here >>>](#)

New online service to register as first time waste carrier or broker

SEPA have expanded their online registration service to allow businesses to register as first time waste carriers and brokers.

The online form aims to make the services easier to use and authorisations easier to understand.



Energy Saving Trust Updates:

The road to lower emissions starts here

The Scottish Government is planning to introduce low emission zones in Scotland's four largest cities; Aberdeen, Dundee, Edinburgh and Glasgow. Low emission zones set criteria based on vehicle Euro emission standards. In the future, vehicles that do not meet the minimum standard will face a penalty if they enter low emission zones.

The Low Emission Zone Support Fund will support eligible households and businesses with a grant to move away from older petrol and diesel vehicles.

[Read more here >>>](#)

Used Electric Vehicle loan - apply now!

The Energy saving Trust can now provide Scottish businesses of all sizes with financial support to purchase a used electric vehicle. The Used Electric Vehicle Loan can be used for the purchase of a used electric car, van, motorcycle or moped.

[Read more here >>>](#)

energy
saving
trust

Webinar: Adapting and innovating to meet NetZero target



The VIBES Scottish Environment Business Awards is holding a number of free webinars along with its partners, supporters and previous VIBES Winners. The events will enable you to learn about the benefits of good environmental practice and the support available. Previous VIBES winners will also share their case studies and answer questions.

Their second webinar focuses on Adaptation and Innovation, and is taking place on **Wednesday 18th November 2020 2:30 PM.**

The webinar will include presentations from Highlands and Islands Enterprise and Renewable Parts.

The event will soon be open for registration – look out on

www.vibes.org.uk, VIBES Social media channel or email
vibes@sepa.org.uk.

Sign up to the nature conservation event of the year!



The Nature of Scotland Awards, co-sponsored by NatureScot, are going digital with their very first virtual awards ceremony on Wednesday 25 November.

Join the party and celebrate the incredible people making an outstanding contribution to support Scotland's environment. It's FREE to join the event, all members of your household are welcome and we promise you an entertaining, inspiring and uplifting ninety minutes!

[Register here >>>](#)

Missed last month's update?

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

