



Newsletter October 2010

[WEEE Advisory Body
Closure \(follow-up on
August article\) - Transition
Plan
Amendments To
Legislation
PROSECUTIONS](#)

Dear Deb,

The Coalition Government financial changes are starting to take effect so we have articles this month on the closure of the Waste Electronic and Electrical Equipment (WEEE) Advisory Body and the closure of some quangos. We're also telling you about the first prosecution of a company for non-compliance with the WEEE Regulations. Related to this we have included information about a Packaging Data Service for obligated companies which is now available - GRIPS. There have been some slight amendments to Regulations taking some activities out of regulation and adding some in. We include the latest round-up of prosecutions as usual also.

Mandy Stoker

WEEE Advisory Body Closure (follow-up on August article) - Transition Plan



The WEEE Advisory Body (WAB) formally came to an end on 30 September following the announcement of the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation & Skills on 19 July. Responsibility and accountability for the policy development undertaken by the WAB will now return to the Department for Business Innovation and Skills (BIS). The last quarterly meeting of the WAB took place on the 22 September. The 2010/11 programme plan agreed by the members of the WAB earlier this year has been reviewed as part of the transition arrangements. Five new WEEE working groups (WWGs) have been established. These ensure that key work for the development of the UK WEEE infrastructure and its interface with the discussions in Europe on a recast Directive are continued. These are:

- a) **WWG 1 - UK System.** To provide strategic oversight and will work closely with the WEEE operational liaison group run by the Environment Agency.
- b) **WWG 2 - B2B.** To examine a range of 'Business to Business' (B2B) issues including data, duty of care and general awareness.
- c) **WWG 3 - IPR.** To continue studying the feasibility of moving the WEEE system closer to one of 'Individual Producer Responsibility' (IPR), but now involving a wider range of industry and other stakeholders.
- d) **WWG 4 - Reuse.** A BSI Publicly Available Specification on Reuse (PAS 141) is nearing the final stages of its development. This group will take that project through to its conclusion.
- e) **WWG 5 - EC Recast.** To act as a sounding board within the industry and provide expert advice on developments within the negotiations on the European Commission's proposals for a recast of

the WEEE Directive as they arise.

A BIS official now takes responsibility for each working group, and participation within the working groups will feature a broad base of stakeholders.

Obligated Producers can finally get to GRIPS with their packaging Waste Obligations.

Wastepack UK has launched a new fully fledged Packaging Waste Data Gathering Service , designed to cater to the needs of Obligated Companies who are required to register an obligation under the packaging regulations. Accurate data is the key requirement that underpins effective compliance to the packaging regulations. While most participants have become familiar with the process of compliance and the costs associated with this, many businesses struggle with gathering the necessary data in order to make an accurate declaration. Reporting requirements are becoming more onerous yet very few firms can retain the specialist staff required to keep abreast of these regulations. For this reason outsourcing becomes more attractive.

To find out more about the service click [here](#) , email info@wastepack.co.uk or contact the Wastepack UK Customer Service team on 01279 620000.



Amendments To Legislation

The Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 2010 amends 2010/675.

This deregulates from local authority control certain activities involving the melting of non-ferrous metals and manufacture of powder coating materials. They also add the drying of green crops to the list of activities excluded from regulation.

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2010/2172/contents/made>

EU Regulation 756/2010 on persistent organic pollutants amends 850/2004.

This adds a further 9 polluting substances whose production and use has to be controlled. <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2010:223:0020:0028:EN:PDF>

Quango Changes

The Government proposes to reform 481 Non-Departmental Public Bodies (NDPBs). Of these 192 will cease to be public bodies and their functions will either be brought back into Government, devolved to local government, moved out of Government or abolished altogether. The full list of reforms to the Government's Public Bodies can be found on the Cabinet Office website. Some of the key ones affecting environmental concerns include:-

- Environment Agency - to be retained but with substantial reform. Further announcements to be made after the spending review mid October.
- WAB - see article above about functions being transferred to the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.
- Advisory Committees on Hazardous Substances / Packaging / Pesticides - each is reconstituted as a Committee of experts
- Advisory Committees on Organic Standards - abolished.
- Advisory Committees on Releases to the Environment - retained.



PROSECUTIONS

First UK prosecution for WEEE producer

Aston and Fincher Ltd, Birmingham, a hairdressing supplies wholesaler pleaded guilty to 31 charges relating to failure to comply with packaging

waste regulations and failing to register as a producer of electrical and electronic waste. The charges were brought by the Environment Agency under the Producer Responsibility legislation. Aston and Fincher Ltd was fined £20,150, ordered to pay compensation of £7,135 to the Environment Agency for loss of registration fees and costs of £3,605.11 and a victim surcharge of £15.

Producer Responsibility for packaging and WEEE exists to ensure that businesses take on responsibility for recovering and recycling a proportion of waste electrical products and packaging waste. The packaging regulations have been in force since 1997 and have contributed to the doubling of the amount of packaging waste recycled in the UK, which is now 60%. This equates to 6.6 million tonnes of packaging waste being diverted from landfill into recycling each year. The regulations demand that companies who handle packaging as manufacturers, pack fillers, sellers, importers or leasing companies are registered each year and provide evidence that they have recycled packaging.

Water Pollution

The food and drinks manufacturer **Daniels Chilled Foods** has been fined £28,000, plus £4,000 in costs, for polluting the River Beult, a tributary to the River Medway near Headcorn in Kent. Slimy pollution was seen to be discharging from two separate areas into the River Beult, which joins the Medway at Yalding in May 2009. The waste was identified as ammonia and solid waste, which posed a potential threat to wildlife.

Anglian Water Services was fined £27,000 and ordered to pay costs of £27,837 for polluting a stretch of the River Crouch in Wickford, Essex. The river flows through protected environments with local, national and international conservation status.

Owing to a pump failure at the Long Meadow Drive Sewage Pumping Station, hundreds of fish, including eels, a protected species potentially in danger of decline, and thousands of shrimp were killed by a sewage leak into the river.

Sewage was seen by a member of the public overflowing from a manhole and discharging under the nearby A132 road bridge. Environment Agency officer David Free said: 'This incident was one of the most serious types of incidents we deal with, causing a major impact on the fish and invertebrate populations in the river.'

Waste and Water Pollution

The waste carrier DS Holdings Ltd, trading as Envirogreen, was fined £23,600 and ordered to pay £15,000 costs and £8,170 compensation for offences relating to hazardous waste and water pollution. The company's director was fined £14,000.

A tanker belonging to DS Holdings Ltd carrying hazardous wastes, including cleaning products and liquid soaps accidentally discharged approximately 4,500 litres of chemicals into the Chalvey Ditch in Cippenham. Nearly all the fish in the watercourse as far as the River Thames were killed.

Environment Agency officers also found that the company was storing hazardous waste substances on their site in Slough without an environmental permit.

The company admitted causing pollutants to enter the Chalvey Ditch, operating a regulated facility without an environmental permit, failing to keep a record of the hazardous waste transported and failing to complete a hazardous waste consignment note.

Quick Links...

- [Register Now](#)
- [More About Us](#)
- [Additional Services](#)
- [Last Month's Newsletter](#)

email: ajs@e4environment.co.uk

phone: 01743 343403

web: <http://www.e4e-manager.co.uk>