



ENVIRONMENTAL FACT FILE 04

Waste Management General (inc. Hazardous)

1. Applicability

This Environmental Fact File is intended to give a brief overview of the current legislative controls on general waste issues that affect Fire Protection companies. It applies to all companies in this sector, in particular manufacturers, servicers and distributors of equipment responsible for producing, keeping, transporting, recycling, recovering or disposing of waste. Issues surrounding Waste Electric and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) and disposal of powder and foam fire extinguishers are covered in other FIA Fact Files.

2. Background

As consumption and population numbers increase, so does the waste produced in the UK. There is increasing pressure on raw materials supplying industry, as well as concern as to what we are going to do with all the waste. Therefore the UK Waste Regulations have been implemented under the EU Waste Directive to encourage organisations to manage their waste more effectively. The regulations are based on the Polluter Pays Principle – i.e. the environmental and economic costs of the waste should be met by the organisation or individuals that are responsible for its creation. The main exclusion relevant to this industry is Radioactive Waste which is dealt with separately.

3. Overview

The revised Waste Framework Directive places emphasis on the waste hierarchy to ensure that waste is dealt with in priority order:



4. Action Required

- Look at the waste hierarchy as it applies to your business. You can produce information specific to your requirements through an online tool on the [WRAP](#) website.
- Prevent waste through improving product longevity, reducing volumes of materials (especially hazardous/harmful) used, reducing the negative impacts of generated waste on health and the environment.
- From 1st January 2015 waste paper, metal, plastic and glass will need to be collected, stored and transported separately where technically, environmentally and economically practical.

- Keep records associated with the movement and disposal of waste (transfer notes) for at least two years. These should contain waste type, quantity, containment, time and place of transfer, the SIC code of the transferer, addresses of both parties and their relationship to the waste. It should also include a confirmation that the waste hierarchy has been applied.
- Make sure you are using a registered waste carrier, or if you are removing waste products from site yourself, that you are registered as a waste carrier with the Environment Agency. Most Fire Safety companies will be registered as 'Upper Tier' but you can check this with the [Environment Agency](#)

Hazardous Waste:

- You need to ensure that waste you are carrying isn't Hazardous. If it is, you need to take further steps to manage and dispose of this waste. Guidance on what is hazardous is available in the appendix and on the Environment Agency's [website](#).
- Hazardous Waste must be separated from all other wastes.
- Premises that handle 500kg of hazardous waste in one year must register that site as a producer. They must not remove hazardous waste from any site without an approved hazardous waste consignment note, which must be kept and reported to the Environment Agency. The Environment Agency charge a fee of £10 per consignment note. Documents to be kept for at least three years.
- If you are storing hazardous waste, you will need a licence.
- If you receive hazardous waste, you are required to send the Environment Agency a Consignee Return on a quarterly basis. Receipts of up to five lead acid batteries or five fluorescent tubes can be combined into a single receipt on the return.
- Servicing or maintenance companies may be able to operate under the "Mobile service" provisions within the Hazardous waste regulations. You will need to register your main premises with the Environment Agency and still produce consignment notes. However, if a customer is producing over 500kg in any 12 months the customer must register their own premises with the EA; Full details, including restrictions are available in HWR07 Mobile Service (see link in Sect. 7).

5. Relevant Legislation

Waste (England & Wales) Regulations 2011
(Came into force in April 2011)

6. Further Information

[Quick Guide for Waste Producers and Businesses](#)

[Environment Agency Guidance](#)

[Hazardous Waste Guidance](#)

[EA Waste Definitions](#)

[WRAP Waste Hierarchy Guidance for Businesses](#)

HWR07 Mobile Services guidance available [here](#)

Appendix: Hazardous Waste

(Also refer to EA Document [‘HWR01 What is Hazardous Waste?’](#))

- ‘Explosive’: substances and preparations which may explode under the effect of flame or which are more sensitive to shocks or friction than dinitrobenzene.
- ‘Oxidizing’: substances and preparations which exhibit highly exothermic reactions when in contact with other substances, particularly flammable substances.
- ‘Highly flammable’: liquid substances and preparations having a flash point below 21 °C (including extremely flammable liquids), or substances and preparations which may become hot and finally catch fire in contact with air at ambient temperature without any application of energy, or solid substances and preparations which may readily catch fire after brief contact with a source of ignition and which continue to burn or to be consumed after removal of the source of ignition, or gaseous substances and preparations which are flammable in air at normal pressure, or substances and preparations which, in contact with water or damp air, evolve highly flammable gases in dangerous quantities.
- ‘Flammable’: liquid substances and preparations having a flash point equal to or greater than 21 °C and less than or equal to 55 °C.
- ‘Irritant’: non-corrosive substances and preparations which, through immediate, prolonged or repeated contact with the skin or mucous membrane, can cause inflammation.
- ‘Harmful’: substances and preparations which, if they are inhaled or ingested or if they penetrate the skin, may involve limited health risks.
- ‘Toxic’: substances and preparations (including very toxic substances and preparations) which, if they are inhaled or ingested or if they penetrate the skin, may involve serious, acute or chronic health risks and even death.
- ‘Carcinogenic’: substances and preparations which, if they are inhaled or ingested or if they penetrate the skin, may induce cancer or increase its incidence.
- ‘Corrosive’: substances and preparations which may destroy living tissue on contact.
- ‘Infectious’: substances and preparations containing viable micro-organisms or their toxins which are known or reliably believed to cause disease in man or other living organisms.
- ‘Toxic for reproduction’: substances and preparations which, if they are inhaled or ingested or if they penetrate the skin, may induce non-hereditary congenital malformations or increase their incidence.
- ‘Mutagenic’: substances and preparations which, if they are inhaled or ingested or if they penetrate the skin, may induce hereditary genetic defects or increase their incidence.
- Waste which releases toxic or very toxic gases in contact with water, air or an acid.
- ‘Sensitizing’: substances and preparations which, if they are inhaled or if they penetrate the skin, are capable of eliciting a reaction of hypersensitisation such that on further exposure to the substance or preparation, characteristic adverse effects are produced.
- ‘Ecotoxic’: waste which presents or may present immediate or delayed risks for one or more sectors of the environment.