

## GUIDANCE NOTE

### HAZARDOUS AND NON HAZARDOUS WASTES

The Following guidance note provides information on the safe disposal of hazardous and non hazardous wastes. It is not definitive and should not preclude anyone from seeking further advice/guidance, specific to their particular circumstances.

#### HAZARDOUS WASTES

On 16 July 2005, new controls on hazardous wastes came into force. These replaced the previous Special Waste regime. There are a number of differences between the two regimes such as, the term “Hazardous Waste” now replaces “Special Waste” and **more wastes are now classified as Hazardous Waste than was previously the case.**

For example:

- Fluorescent light tubes
- Televisions & Computer Monitors/CRTs
- Fridge/Freezers
- Paints
- Aerosols
- Printer & Toner Cartridges
- Batteries : Lead Acid, Ni-Cd and Mercury
- End-of-Life Vehicles
- Tyres
- Dental Amalgam
- Oil Filters & Contaminated Rags

All these wastes, and many more, are classified as hazardous. Further information regarding hazardous wastes can be obtained from the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) in the first instance.

**As a waste producer you have a legal duty to ensure that your waste is managed in accordance with current legislation and that you are complying with the law.**

#### What will this mean for your business?

The implications of the new regulations is that there is likely to be an increase in the number of “producers” of hazardous wastes, eg Offices, Schools, Church Halls, Restaurants, Carry-outs, Garages, Residential Homes, Dentists, etc. You could be one of these producers!

You have a duty of care to ensure that your waste is managed in an environmentally friendly manner and in accordance with current legislation. You should therefore audit your waste to identify any waste that could be classified as hazardous. If you produce any hazardous wastes then you must take immediate steps to ensure that it is stored and disposed of in the appropriate manner. Hazardous wastes unlike non-hazardous wastes **must be consigned** to a licensed facility. The co-disposal of hazardous wastes with non-hazardous wastes was banned from 16 July 2004. As such, the collection, transportation, treatment and disposal of hazardous wastes is strictly controlled through the use of “Consignment Notes”.

## **Can I use the Council's Commercial Waste Collection or Skip Hire Services for disposing of Hazardous Waste?**

**No.** You **must not** dispose of any hazardous wastes in your bin or skip. Bins or skips found to be contaminated with such wastes will not be emptied. It will be the customer's responsibility to have such waste removed before emptying. You are advised to contact the Council's Technical & Environmental Services to ensure your wastes are acceptable. To ensure continued compliance, we will be carrying out random checks. Persistent offenders will have the service withdrawn.

## **What do I do with my hazardous wastes?**

You should arrange for a licensed contractor to collect your hazardous waste and for it to be taken to an authorised facility. There will most likely be increased costs for your business. The NIEA should be able to provide you with a list of licensed contractors and authorised facilities.

## **Are there fines for breaking the rules?**

Yes – if a court convicts you of not complying with the Regulations you could face a fine of up to £5,000 and/or 2 years in prison. The Regulator (the NIEA) can also issue Fixed Penalty Fines for specific offences.

## **NON HAZARDOUS WASTES - SUBSTANCES AND MATERIALS BANNED FROM LANDFILL**

### **Liquid Waste**

Non-hazardous liquid wastes have been banned from landfill since 2007. There are special arrangements for dealing with hazardous liquid wastes.

## **Can I use the Council's Commercial Waste Collection or Skip Hire Services for disposing of liquid wastes?**

**No.** You **must not** dispose of any liquid waste in either your bin or skip. You should contact a private contractor to arrange for the safe treatment/disposal of any liquid wastes.

### **Plasterboard**

New guidance from the NIEA, effective 1 April 2009, now prohibits the disposal of plasterboard in landfill due to its gypsum content and the negative impact this has on landfills. Alternative arrangements must now be made for the treatment/disposal of plasterboard.

## **Can I use the Council's Commercial Waste Collection or Skip Hire Services for the disposal of plasterboard?**

**No.** You **must not** dispose of plasterboard in either your bin or skip. Bins or skips found to contain such waste will not be emptied. It will be the customer's responsibility to have any such waste removed before the bin or skip is emptied. You should contact a private contractor to organise the safe treatment/disposal of plasterboard.

Should you have any queries regarding the Council's Commercial Waste Collection or Skip Hire Services, please do not hesitate to contact the Council's Technical & Environmental Services on 0928 9049 4600. If you require further information or guidance on hazardous wastes, please contact the NIEA, Hazardous Wastes Section, on 028 90 569710.

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