

To: Directors of Environmental Services in local councils and waste management companies

22 December 2014

New Waste Collection Requirements

I am writing to waste collectors in England to clarify the requirements of the Waste (England & Wales) Regulations 2011, and in particular, duties in relation to the improved use of waste as a resource.

The aim of the regulations is to help maximise the economic opportunities and environmental benefits associated with higher quality recycling.

Separate collection

New collection obligations apply from January 2015. They require the separate collection of four specific dry recyclable wastes; paper, glass, plastics and metals where:

1. it is necessary to produce high quality recyclates, and
2. it is technically, environmentally and economically practicable to do so.

Collectors are expected to ensure in all cases that their customers can avoid putting paper, plastic, metal or glass in the same collection container as their general waste. In addition, those materials should be collected separately from each other, subject to the above two tests. Separated recyclables must not be re-mixed.

We will write to collectors in 2015 asking them to submit information on current collection methods. Where you do not currently collect these materials separately, we will ask how you have applied the two tests. We will assess whether any improvements are necessary.

Responsibilities of waste producers

Regulation 13 applies to collectors, so they are obliged to offer a collection service to their customers that meets the requirements set out above. Regulation 12 applies to producers of waste. They have a responsibility to take all reasonable steps to apply the waste hierarchy shown below in descending order of desirability:

- 1) prevention
- 2) preparing for re-use
- 3) recycling
- 4) other recovery (for example energy recovery)
- 5) disposal

Further information

Attached is a briefing note which provides further information to help you understand the new regulations. It identifies the minimum that you should know and do, and provides other helpful information. Information has also been published on www.gov.uk at:

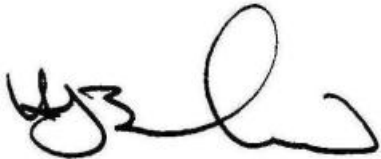
<https://www.gov.uk/separate-collection-of-waste-paper-plastic-metal-and-glass>.

If you have any queries regarding the above, please contact our National Customer Service Contact Centre:

enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk

03708 506506

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H. Bradshaw', with a large loop at the end.

Harvey Bradshaw
Director of Regulated Industry