

Waste collection authorities - contingency planning

If you comply with the requirements below, we will allow waste collection authorities to collect household wastes at temporary sites without the need for an environmental permit.

Background

Waste collection authorities¹ may very occasionally not be able to carry out normal household waste collections, for example due to bad weather conditions. They may need to ask householders to deliver their household wastes to a temporary Household Waste Collection centre where they can deposit it into large containers that can then be delivered into the usual waste management system. This regulatory position statement will allow waste collection authorities to operate additional collection sites without the need for environmental permits.

Our approach

We will not require the waste collection authority to apply for an environmental permit to collect household waste at additional collection centres where:

- The list of additional sites to be used and the start and finish dates have been agreed in writing with the local area office in advance of any waste being accepted.
- The site is manned during operational hours.
- No asbestos or oil is accepted - these waste types must be taken to a suitably permitted site.
- Waste is placed directly into containers and not stored on the ground.
- No waste remains on site overnight.
- The site is secure².
- You meet the relevant objectives of the Waste Framework Directive;
'... ensuring that waste is recovered or disposed of without endangering human health and without using processes or methods which could harm the environment and in particular without –
(i) risk to water, air, soil, plants or animals; or

¹ or their contracted agents

² a container, location or other place is secure in relation to waste kept in it if:

(a) all reasonable precautions are taken to ensure that the waste cannot escape from it; and

(b) members of the public are unable to gain access to the waste

- (ii) causing nuisance through noise or odours; or
- (iii) adversely affecting the countryside or places of special interest.'

Enforcement

In not pursuing an application for a permit this means we will not normally take enforcement action unless the activity has caused, or is likely to cause, pollution or harm to health. For a more detailed explanation of this enforcement position, please refer to the Public Interest Factors in our *Guidance for the Enforcement and Prosecution Policy*. This can be found on the 'How we regulate you' page in the Business & Industry section of our web site.

This regulatory position will be reviewed by December 2012.

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