



PRE-TREATMENT OF NON-HAZARDOUS WASTE

can you afford to bury
the problem?

 **VEOLIA**
ENVIRONMENTAL
SERVICES

How will the
new Europe-wide
legislation affect
your business?



UK businesses produce over 75 million tonnes per annum of commercial and industrial waste, and from 30th October 2007 under European-wide legislation, all non-hazardous waste must be pre-treated.

The Environment Agency is placing this responsibility on waste producers, which means that you are obliged to manage your waste disposal more effectively and to ensure that it is pre-treated. If you are already pre-treating your waste or if your waste is not taken directly to landfill, then the new legislation will not impact on you and no further measures need to be taken.

PRE-TREATMENT REGULATIONS

Pre-treatment will need to meet the 'three point test'.

- o It must be a physical, thermal or biological process
- o It must change the characteristics of the waste
- o It must do so in order to:
 - Reduce its volume; or
 - Reduce its hazardous nature; or
 - Facilitate its handling; or
 - Enhance recovery.

All three criteria must be satisfied for all the waste to have been pre-treated. Compaction is not regarded as a form of treatment.

The new legislation will require landfill operators to ensure that the waste they receive has been pre-treated and they will have a duty to reject any material if this is not proven. If in doubt the landfill operator will presume the waste is not treated. When reaching such a decision they will check the Duty of Care paperwork, inspect the load and audit the waste producer's pre-treatment arrangements.

As the UK's largest provider of waste management services, Veolia Environmental Services is committed to helping you to make sure that your business is prepared for increasing environmental challenges and that you are equipped to meet the requirements of new legislation. Your dedicated Account Manager can help you to audit your waste and to select the most effective treatment or disposal option based on the amount and types of waste that you generate.

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THE OPTIONS:

Pre-treat at source, typically by source segregation, which may be as simple as sorting out recyclables (e.g. paper, cardboard, plastics, metal or glass) for separate collection and recycling. If you choose to pre-treat yourself you will need to satisfy your waste management provider that all of the waste has been pre-treated (not just a portion of it) and that the treatment meets the requirements stated opposite. The evidence you provide will form an important part of your Duty of Care documentation and fulfil your obligations under the regulations to ensure that the purpose of the legislation is met. Failure to comply may result in enforcement action by the Environment Agency.



OR

Arrange for your waste management provider to pre-treat the waste on your behalf at a licensed waste transfer station or Materials Recovery Facility.



Call the UK's largest provider of waste management services on:

0845 6060 460

Frequently Asked Questions

WHAT MUST I DO TO ENSURE THAT MY BUSINESS IS COMPLIANT WITH THE NEW LEGISLATION?

You need to assess the amount and type of waste you produce and decide whether to treat it at source (typically by segregating recyclables) or arrange for your waste manager to do this for you. The Environment Agency has placed responsibility for this on the waste producer.

IF I CHOOSE TO SOURCE SEGREGATE, WHAT TYPES OF MATERIALS CAN I SEPARATE OUT AND HOW WILL THESE BE HANDLED?

Depending on your business type, a variety of materials can be recovered from your waste stream including card, paper, wood, glass, plastic, green waste, metals and waste electrical & electronic equipment (WEEE). Your Veolia Account Manager will be able to advise you, arrange for separate collections and send the materials for appropriate recycling.

HOW CAN I PROVE THAT MY WASTE HAS BEEN TREATED?

As part of your legal Duty of Care you will need to provide your waste manager/carrier with a written declaration of which treatment method you have employed.

WHAT EVIDENCE OF SEGREGATION DO I NEED TO PROVIDE?

This evidence should include:

- o the type of treatment that has occurred
- o the types of waste segregated
- o the types of waste sent for recovery or recycling
- o the percentage of waste sent for recovery/recycling.

I DON'T HAVE THE BUSINESS INFRASTRUCTURE TO FACILITATE SEPARATE WASTE STREAMS OR MORE COLLECTIONS. WHAT IS THE OPTION?

Veolia can collect your waste as usual and endeavour to arrange pre-treatment through a compliant Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) or transfer station. However, local environmental and economic factors may preclude this, in which case it will be necessary to re-examine on-site recycling options - segregating just one waste stream will ensure that you are complying with the law.

WHAT OTHER TYPES OF TREATMENT ARE AVAILABLE?

Thermal treatment (including incineration), mechanical biological treatment (MBT) and anaerobic digestion (AD) are all treatment methods which comply with the new regulations because they treat the entire waste stream. However, a number of factors will need to be considered when assessing their potential including technical difficulty; suitability; environmental, political and social constraints; local availability versus transport costs and their environmental impact; reliability. Whilst an increasing number of these plants are being commissioned and developed, many are only available to the public sector.

IF I SELECT FOR MY WASTE MANAGER TO PRE-TREAT ON MY BEHALF, HOW DO I KNOW THIS WILL BE DONE?

Upon collection, your waste manager/carrier will become responsible for satisfying the landfill operator that the waste is compliant. Under the new legislation, landfill operators must ensure that waste has been treated and reject any material of which they are unsure.

WHAT WILL BE THE EFFECT OF THE REGULATIONS ON MY BOTTOM LINE?

The availability (supply) of landfill is gradually declining which will increasingly place upward price pressure on landfill disposal and in addition the Government has already published its intentions to increase landfill tax. At the same time, waste will have to travel a greater distance for final disposal or further processing which will also increase costs. For those businesses that choose not to treat waste at source, disposal bills will increase in the medium term. Introducing segregation and recycling systems as part of your business operation can potentially reduce medium term costs and at the very least minimise any increases. Your Veolia Account Manager will be able to help you identify opportunities for cost-effective waste treatment and disposal.



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