

Packaging Regulations

Waste legislation can be complex and difficult to comprehend. Our straight talking, no nonsense guides to make it easier to understand how each law affects you. Compliance comes as standard in everything we do, protecting your organisation every step of the way.



1. Overview

Implements European legislation designed to pass the environmental impact of end-of-life disposal of packaging back up the chain. In place in UK since 1997. Revised in 2008 with new targets set in 2012 for 2013-2017.

2. Are you affected?

If your company handles more than 50 tonnes of packaging a year in the UK and had a turnover >£2m in your last audited accounts, you are required to register annually.

3. Summary

- 'Handling' means importing packaging or packaged goods, producing the raw materials that are used for packaging, converting these into packaging, packaging goods or selling packaged goods to the person removing the packaging.
- Obligated companies have two registration options:
 - Register direct with the EA, SEPA or NIEA
 - Register with a compliance scheme

- Registration is required by early April with data on the weight of packaging placed onto the market in the previous year in relation to each of the 4 parts of the chain of supply.
- Recycling targets are set by the Government for each year which are met through the purchase of Packaging Recovery Notes from packaging waste reprocessors and exporters.
- Approximately 6,800 businesses are registered.

4. What next?

The government is reviewing these Regulations (along with WEEE and Batteries) with a view to a consultation in 2013 on further changes.

5. More information

- Producer Responsibility Obligations (Packaging Waste) Regulations
- EA Packaging Regulations website
- National Packaging Waste database.