



....Legislation....

New Legislation and Regulations

In Force	Manual Section	Title and Summary
September 2013	Energy (Section 3.7.6)	<p>The Energy Performance of Buildings (England and Wales) etc. (Amendment) Regulations 2013 No.10</p> <p>The Energy Performance of Buildings (Certificates and Inspections) Regulations 2007 has been amended following the recent recast Energy Performance of Building Directive in early 2013. The changes predominantly affect the domestic property market as well as public buildings. However, commercial building above 500m2 are still required to display energy performance certificates where they exist previously.</p>
October 2013	DIRECTIVE STAGE AT PRESENT	<p>Packaging Directive 2013 2013/2/EU</p> <p>The revised Packaging Directive came into force on 30th September 2013. As an EU Directive, the UK government are required to transpose these changes into UK legislation. The majority of these revisions are unlikely to affect the UK; although, there are three areas where materials have been incorporated into the scope of the Packaging Directive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Industrial rolls, tubes and cylinders around which flexible material, e.g. film, is wound. • Safety matchboxes • Refillable steel cylinders <p>From October 2013, businesses who handle these items will need to ensure that they have records on the tonnage handled annually. If companies are registered as a producer they will also need to include this information on their packaging submissions. Companies who are not presently registered will need to review their calculations in light of these changes to determine if they exceed the threshold. The packaging regulations define a producer as an individual or company who handles more than 50 tonnes of packaging during a calendar year with a turnover in excess of £2M per year. If you are handling packaging and you exceed the thresholds as outlined above you will need to register as a packaging producer.</p>

New and Forthcoming Regulations

In Force	Manual Section	Title and Summary
January 2014	Hazardous Substances (Section 3.4.2)	<p>WEEE Regulations 2014</p> <p>The WEEE Regulations will be amended in the UK in response to the recast WEEE Directive (2012/19/EU), published in July 2012. The revised regulations will implement the new strategy for the collection and recovery of waste electrical and electronic equipment</p>

....Green News & Updates....

Site Waste Management Plans Repealed

In September, the Government confirmed that the Site Waste Management Plans (SWMP) Regulations were to be repealed from December 2013. Since 2008 the SWMP Regulations have obligated construction projects above £300,000 in value to implement a dedicated plan for the removal, disposal and recovery of waste from sites. These changes are in response to feedback from the 'Red Tape Challenge' regulatory review, with approximately 49% of respondents backing the Government's plans to repeal the obligation. Although, 49% of respondents wanted SWMP to be retained. There will be no changes to the requirement in Scotland or Northern Ireland; however, the Welsh Government are currently proposing to implement SWMPs for all construction projects in Wales. It should also be noted that SWMPs will still be a requirement for certain projects, namely the Code for Sustainable Homes and BREEAM.

Environmental Additions to Company Reports

From October 2013, the newly amended Companies Act 2006 (Strategic Report and Directors' Report) Regulations 2013 will require all UK quoted companies to issue reports on their greenhouse gas emissions profiles as part of annual Directors' Reports. This will affect all UK incorporated companies listed on the London Stock Exchange, European Economic Area, New York Stock Exchange and NASDAQ markets. Other companies are also encouraged to issue similar reports, although this is not yet mandatory. A useful guide for SME businesses to assist with measuring and reporting greenhouse gas emissions is available here:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/69494/pb13310-ghg-small-business-guide.pdf

1st Meeting of the EU Ecolabel for Furniture

The 1st *Ad Hoc* Working Group (AHWG) Meeting for the Revision of the EU Ecolabel and Green Public Procurement Criteria for Furniture was held in Seville on 7th October 2013. Attended by over 30 delegates representing various manufacturers, research associations, trade federations and Ecolabel competent bodies, the meeting provided the first opportunity for stakeholders to discuss the proposed amendments to the Ecolabel criteria. Key points from the meeting were as follows:

- General agreement between stakeholders concerning extending the product scope to incorporate all types of furniture. Correspondingly, criteria would be set for other materials.
- Objections were raised to setting thresholds for certain criteria and treating all with a uniform approach. Instead stakeholders agreed that criteria should be material specific and reflect environmental impact.
- Stakeholders were in agreement on a horizontal approach towards hazardous substances and alignment with other environmental standards. The JRC also confirmed that they would not exclude whole groups of substances unless underpinned by scientific and technical evidence.
- Contention remains over setting percentage of wood based materials. Although, stakeholders accepted that 100% of wood materials should be sustainably sourced.
- It is proposed that products comprised of more than 10% plastics that at least 50% (by weight) of this plastic must be recycled materials, whilst products comprised of more than 50% metals that at least 50% (by weight) of this metal must be recycled if steel or aluminium, or 20% if other metal.

....Green News & Updates....

EUTR 'Placing on the Market' clarified

The EU Timber Regulation (EUTR) came into force in March 2013, prohibiting the sale of illegally harvested timber and timber products on the EU market. The definition of 'placing on the market' was fundamental to determining the 'Operator' (organisation first making the timber or timber product available for sale in the EU), however, there were numerous ambiguities and discrepancies which stakeholders have sought clarification on. In October the EU published a guidance document which provides a clear and consistent approach to identify operators; for timber harvested outside the EU the company acting as the importer when the goods are customs cleared will be deemed the Operator. More information is available here:

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/forests/pdf/Final%20Guidance%20document.pdf>

First UK EUTR Monitoring Organisation

Following a review by the European Commission, NEPCon have been announced as the UK's first Monitoring Organisation for the EU Timber Regulation. UK companies can now elect NEPCon to assist them in implementing due diligence systems. This is similar to how many organisations join packaging compliance schemes to meet their producer waste obligations. The European Commission will continue to review applications from other prospective Monitoring Organisations.

Changes to Scrap Metal Regulations

From October 2013 the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 will come into effect, creating a new regulatory regime for scrap metal recycling and vehicle disassembly. The metal recycling industry in the UK is significant, particularly with the increasing cost of scrap metals. However, thefts of lead and copper from roofing, piping and guttering as well as utilities and transport infrastructure have resulted in the need for tightened rules around scrap metal dealing. Individuals or companies collecting and handling scrap metal or salvaging motor vehicles must have a licence from the local authority in England and Wales. Moreover, increased documentation and security checks, coupled with a ban on cash payments, will discourage the trade in illegal scrap.

Industrial Emissions Directive: A Reminder

From 7th January 2014 the Industrial Emissions Directive will apply to all installation permits. Certain waste management processes, particularly hazardous wastes, are likely to require a permit from July 2015. Consequently, the applications for permitted processes would need to begin from next year. Please be advised that the Environment Agency have committed to writing to companies in Autumn 2013 to determine if any site activities will come under the scope of these changes.

Updated Hazardous Waste Guidance

The Environment Agency have published new technical guidance for companies who produce and manage hazardous wastes. The guidance is aligned with all recent changes to both European and national hazardous waste legislation and provides key support on classifying waste streams. Further information is available here:

<http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/business/topics/waste/32180>

....Green Spotlight....

SKA Ratings

Developed by the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (RICS), the 'SKA Rating' is an environmental assessment method, benchmark and standard for non-domestic fit-outs including retail, food and office premises. In essence, SKA Rating enables landlords and tenants to assess the environmental performance of fit-out projects against numerous sustainability criteria covering energy, waste, materials, CO2 emissions, pollution, water, wellbeing and transportation.



Estimates suggest that the average building will have 30-40 fit-outs during its life. SKA Rating was created in response to industry feedback that established tools for assessing the environmental impact of whole buildings e.g. BREEAM in the UK were unsuitable for specific fit-out projects. Therefore, SKA Rating is designed to be purely project driven, labelling fit-outs irrespective of the base building. Moreover, it is currently a free online tool and businesses only pay if they require formal certification.

SKA comprises over a hundred GPM (Good Practice Measures) covering a range of environmental aspects such as waste and energy management, materials efficiency and sustainable timber. Each GPM is provided in a datasheet together with the criteria that must be met. GPMs are only listed against a project according to 'measures of scope'; the most relevant environmental aspects. Typically, projects will have between 30-60 GPMs aligned against them, whilst scoring is ranked to 'bronze', 'silver' and 'gold' thresholds. The following GPMs are applicable to furniture products:

Waste GPMs

- D15: Reduce workstations to landfill
- D16: Reduce chairs to landfill
- D17: Reduce storage to landfill
- D18: Reduce loose furniture to landfill

Materials GPMs

- M19: Workstations
- M20: Chairs
- M21: Storage
- M22: Loose furniture



SKA Ratings for furniture have increasingly been requested over the past 12 months, particularly in large private sector tenders. Following discussions with the SKA Technical Committee, from July 2013, FISP membership has been formally added to the SKA Rating criteria listing.

....FYI....

TRAINING COURSE DIARY

EU Timber Regulation Awareness Course	Chain of Custody Workshop	Flammability Course
Tuesday 3 rd December 2013	Thursday 23 rd January 2014	Tuesday 10 th Dec. 2013
Thursday 9 th January 2014	Thursday 27 th February 2014	

Furniture Industry Environment Committee (FIEC) Meeting- Thursday 16th January 2014

The next meeting of the Furniture Industry Environment Committee (FIEC) is scheduled to be held on **Thursday 16th January 2014** at Senator International in Accrington, Lancashire.

Established in 2002, the Furniture Industry Environment Committee (FIEC) aims to facilitate and promote communication and action on key environmental issues facing the furniture industry. Ultimately, this enables FIEC to engage with the Government and regulators on behalf of the industry. The Committee meets every 6 months to identify and address a variety of issues affecting the furniture industry. Notably, a recent prominent issue has been the detrimental impact of the 'Biomass Subsidy', which has dramatically increased the price of wood and has very dubious environmental benefits. Significantly, the Committee was also instrumental in the development of the Furniture Industry Sustainability Programme (FISP), which now has over 60 members internationally.

FIEC is comprised of representatives from all major Trade Federations in the furniture and associated industries, larger UK manufacturers and other interested parties such as the Environment Agency. The Committee is keen to welcome new members and actively encourages involvement from any interested organisations. For further information please contact James Bell.

Wishing you a (premature) Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

....Contact....

If you have any questions or require further assistance on any environmental management issue I would be very happy to help.



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....Comments & Feedback....

Any comments and feedback on the newly revised Club Green Newsletter or Club Green Manual are most welcome. Suggestions on how we can continue to improve the service are particularly encouraged.

....Next Issue....

Your next Club Green Newsletter will be issued on **Monday 13th January 2014**