

DEFRA Consults on the Controls on the Handling, Transfer and Transport of Waste

January 2009



The Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs in England and Wales has published a consultation on the controls on the handling, transfer and transport of waste. This consultation is aimed at modernising and simplifying the waste duty of care and waste carrier/broker registration regimes.

Proposals within the consultation include:

- a proposal to separate waste carriers into simple registrations for lower risk waste carriers and registrations with compliance assessment for higher risk carriers;
- the introduction of an offence for all waste carriers and brokers to fail to inform the Environment Agency within 28 days of a change in registration details;
- giving the Environment Agency and local authorities greater flexibility when enforcing against certain waste control offences including new power to issue fixed penalty notices; and
- the introduction of a system where waste carriers and brokers complete a full registration once, followed by an annual charge and simple declaration with updates of details if required.

A summary of the responses to the consultation was published in December 2008 and is available on the DEFRA website.

Although the consultation is proposing changes to the regulatory framework in England and Wales, it is likely that similar legislative reform will affect Northern Ireland in the future.

Please note: The content of this article is for information purposes only and further advice should be sought from a professional advisor before any action is taken.