

## Workplace Recycling Regulations: General Guidance – webinar

26 September 2023

### Q&As

This document presents WRAP Cymru's answers to the questions delegates asked during the webinar.

#### Access issues:

- How are businesses with no access to the sides and rear of the premises going to store the separate waste containers?
- What if the collection vehicles can't access our collection point because the area is too narrow / there is limited access to the premises?
- How will businesses store the various recycling and non-recyclable waste containers if they have no external storage area/facility, and it's a fire risk to store this internally?

You will need to speak with your current waste collector to discuss how to overcome these issues.

Arranging regular collections can help prevent waste from building up, and may also mean you can use smaller containers, which would limit any fire risk. Please check Health and Safety Executive's (HSE) resources for more information ([hse.gov.uk](https://www.hse.gov.uk))

#### Communications support:

- Can we use our own graphics and icons for signage?
- Are we able to use our own assets to communicate to businesses, or wait until October when the website is ready to direct businesses to?

WRAP is producing a collection of communications materials and 'material stream icons' to help workplaces communicate the changes and get ready for the new law. You may choose to use whichever materials you feel will work better in your workplace to communicate the changes; there is no requirement to use the materials available to you produced by WRAP Cymru.

#### Cost of collections:

- We've recently received a significant increase to our waste collection costs to implement the changes required. Is there any financial support available?

There is no support available to cover the cost of the new collection service. However, we suggest you check other local service providers to discuss your requirements, as they may be able to deliver this service at a lower cost. We also anticipate that more and more waste collectors will introduce services that are compliant with the new laws as the April 2024 deadline approaches, which will mean the market will become more competitive in its pricing.

#### Materials collected:

- Does the plastic waste stream include "soft plastics" (polythene)?

Plastic bags and wrapping (or 'soft plastics') are not currently included in the list of materials to be collected as part of this new law.

- If our current waste collector does not collect an item, can it be placed in the general waste bin?
- If waste collectors do not have a service, will the local authority pick the "difficult" waste up?

No. If a material is on the list of materials to be collected separately as part of this new law, it must be collected and recycled.

If your current contractor does not accept any of the materials on the list, you will need to seek alternative collection arrangements, which could include contacting your local authority.

#### Sectors:

- Have any of the large national fast-food restaurants, such as McDonalds, indicated the changes they will be making to ensure they are compliant with the new law?

Welsh Government has been liaising with national fast-food outlets to ensure they're aware of their obligations.

- Could you clarify the requirements for construction sites? Should all welfare waste be segregated from general construction waste?

Household-like waste produced must be collected separately from all other wastes, such as construction waste. For example, if items are delivered to your business packaged in cardboard, that cardboard must be separated to be recycled and can be recycled with any other paper and card your business has to be recycled (for example from the offices or the welfare facilities).

#### Containers:

- Where can I acquire get the bins for the separate waste streams?

There are many bin suppliers that will be able to provide containers to meet the law's requirements. For internal bins, we advise you choose containers that meet your workplace's needs in terms of size and style. Your waste collector may be able to advise and supply you with external bins.

If you've any further questions about either subject matter presented during the webinar, please send an email to [WalesRecycles@wrap.org.uk](mailto:WalesRecycles@wrap.org.uk) or [CymruYnAilgylchu@wrap.org.uk](mailto:CymruYnAilgylchu@wrap.org.uk)