

Waste management regulation summarised

LEGISLATION	OBLIGATIONS IMPOSED
The Environmental Protection Act 1990 (Part 2)	<p>Unless a waste management licence or appropriate permit has been issued which authorises the operation in question, it is an offence to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• deposit controlled waste, knowingly cause or permit controlled waste to be deposited in or on land or by means of any mobile plant• treat, keep or dispose of controlled waste, or knowingly cause or knowingly permit controlled waste to be treated, kept or disposed of in or on any land, or by means of any mobile plant. <p>It is also an offence to keep, treat or dispose of controlled waste in a manner likely to cause pollution of the environment or harm to human health. (This applies whether a waste management licence has been issued or not.)</p>
Waste Management Licensing Regulations 1994	Sets out the regime for the issue of waste management licences including provisions for appealing.
Landfill Tax Regulations 1996	<p>If waste is disposed of at a landfill site, then the material is liable for landfill tax. This is intended to discourage disposal of waste by landfill. There are two rates of tax:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lower rate (for inactive waste): £2 per tonne• Standard rate: £21 per tonne (2006/2007) and £24 per tonne (2007/2008) with the rate increasing by £3 per tonne each subsequent tax year until it reaches £35 per tonne.
The Landfill (England & Wales) Regulations 2002	The regulations require that all landfill sites are classified as hazardous, non-hazardous or inert according to the class of waste accepted and specify waste acceptance criteria and waste acceptance procedures for the different types of landfill sites. The regulations specify monitoring and post landfill closure requirements and ban the landfilling of substances such as liquid waste and infectious clinical waste.
Hazardous Waste (England & Wales) Regulations 2005	<p>It is an offence for hazardous waste to be collected from a site that has not been registered unless it is exempt. Hazardous waste includes PC monitors, PC base units, TVs and fluorescent tubes.</p> <p>The regulations prohibit the mixing of different categories of hazardous waste or the mixing of hazardous waste with non hazardous waste or other substances and materials by anyone, including the producer, unless the mixing is authorised by a permit or exemption.</p> <p>Hazardous waste must be pre-treated before disposal, by, for example, compaction, containerisation, wetting or dilution.</p> <p>Since 2005, the number of landfill sites accepting hazardous waste has been reduced. Certain hazardous wastes may no longer be land filled at all, such as contaminated soil at brown field sites which are to be removed, any liquid wastes, explosives, corrosive, highly inflammable wastes, medical waste, fluorescent tubes, televisions and computer monitors.</p>
Waste Electrical & Electronic Equipment Regulations 2006	The WEEE Regulations aim to minimise the impact of electrical and electronic goods (EEE) on the environment, by increasing re-use and recycling and reducing the amount of EEE going to landfill. It seeks to achieve this by making producers responsible for financing the collection, treatment, and recovery of waste electrical equipment from 1st July 2007, and by obliging distributors to allow consumers to return their waste equipment free of charge. The regulations do not apply to electrical goods that are part of the fabric of a building such as lifts but do apply to, for example, CCTV security cameras installed into buildings.