

Dear Members, notes from today's DEFRA Joint Stakeholder Forum – Topics Circular Economy Strategy development and future consultations (covering England only, although they will try to co-ordinate the approach with the other devolved nations), Emissions Trading Scheme expansion including Waste Incineration or heat treatment of waste. **Includes cost recovery from producers of the waste that can't be recycled.** Clinical Waste possibly in future scope, currently out of scope, with current focus on Local Authority Engagement. Simpler Recycling -reminder that this introduces obligations to businesses to segregate waste for recycling including separate food waste collection. PackUK update and new appointments (overseeing the setting of pEPR rules, including the RAMS). pEPR update including the reminder that there is active enforcement ongoing, and reporting of non-compliance is encouraged.

Agenda

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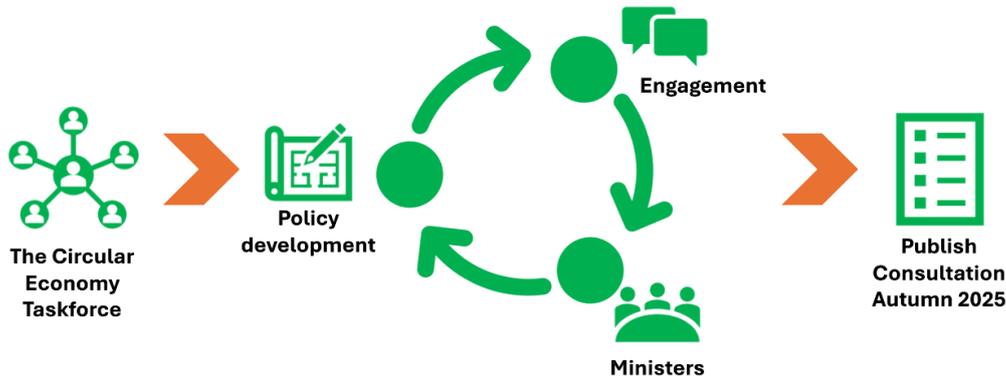
14:30 - 14:35	Welcome and Introduction	Joseph Shields – Engagement lead, Defra
14:35-14:45	Circular Economy Strategy update	Alex Rennison Mavis McKenzie-Cecil
14:45-14:50	Gov Buying Standards / CE Green Paper update	George Miller Alistair Paul
14:50-15:05	UK Emissions Trading Scheme Scope Expansion to Waste - Interim Authority Response	Tony Laing (ETS)
15:05-15:25	Simpler Recycling Collections - WRAP update on local authority procurement support	Alan Johnson Sue Horrobin, WRAP

Alex Rennison Circular Economy lead

How we will deliver the Circular Economy Transition



The Government committed in its manifesto to reducing waste by moving to a circular economy. To map that transition, the Government will publish a **Circular Economy Strategy for England**.



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The Strategy will set out...



The Government's vision for a circular economy;



Potential new targets to galvanise action across the economy;



Our approach to economy-wide enablers to drive investment into circular business models and critical infrastructure, stimulate behaviour change, and encourage innovation;



Collaborative delivery with local places, academia, industry, investors and civil society; and



Sector-based roadmaps that set out the interventions the Government will make.



The Circular Economy Strategy will be England only in scope (aside from policy areas that are reserved competence, e.g. waste exports), but we will be actively looking for opportunities to work collaboratively and closely across the 4 Nations.

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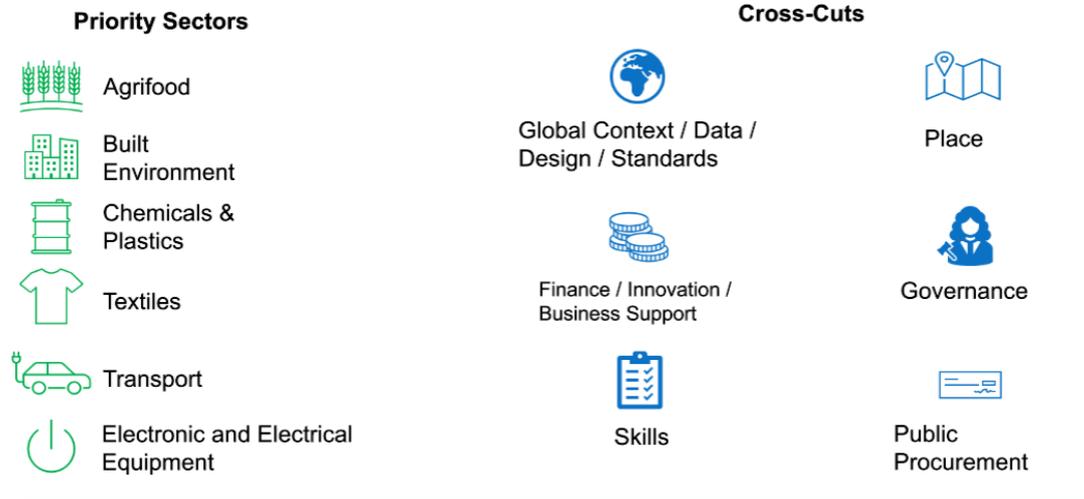
England only! – Will cover 6 sectors – Six priority sectors – Chemicals and EEE will impact our sector alongside initiatives taken impacting Design / Standards.

Due to published between end of year and June 2026. Trying to avoid consultation over the Xmas break. Autumn will be a busy period for DEFRA. Consultation typically lasts 10 to 12 weeks.

Sectors and Cross-cuts

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The Strategy will focus on the following sectors and topics:



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Next Steps

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George Miller – Government buying standards

Government Buying Standards



- GBS set mandatory minimum and best practice standards for central government departments and the wider public sector
- Covering 11 major procurement areas – AI, Cloud and Data Centres, Software, Hardware, Furniture, Textiles, Horticulture, Buildings, Fleet, Appliances, Paper
- Webinars across September, accompanied with a feedback Survey
- Links to the Webinar series and Survey are available at the Government Buying Standards GOV.UK homepage
- For queries, please contact: Government_Buying_Standards@defra.gov.uk

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- For queries, please contact: Government_Buying_Standards@defra.gov.uk

Tony Laing – Emissions Trading Scheme Team

The aim of this session is to set out the decisions made in the Authority Response on scope expansion to the waste sector

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UK ETS

MRV-only period overview

Scope of the MRV-only period

Participating in the MRV-only period

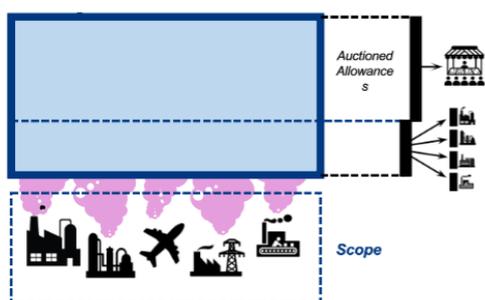
Impacts of the scheme and reducing adverse risks

Circular economy considerations

Q&A

ETS expanding to include emission from waste – Could impact our sector longer term due to incineration or temperature treatment of our hazardous waste, but currently out of scope. Drive to marry costs with Extended Producer Responsibility cost recovery, so increased financial burden on Local Authorities is paid for by cost recovery from industry that is the source of the waste in the first place.

The UK Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) puts a cap on the amount of carbon released by sectors covered by the



The ETS is a 'cap and trade' system. This means that:

- A cap is set on the total amount of certain greenhouse gases (mainly CO₂) that can be emitted by covered sectors.
- Within this cap, participants can buy emission allowances at auction or on the secondary market, which they can trade with other participants as needed.
- Each year, facilities in the scheme must surrender allowances to cover their reportable emissions.
- The cap is reduced over time, so that total emissions must fall.
- The volume of allowances to be sold at each auction is set out in the auction calendar at the start of each year.

Around a quarter of UK Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions are currently within scope of the UK ETS

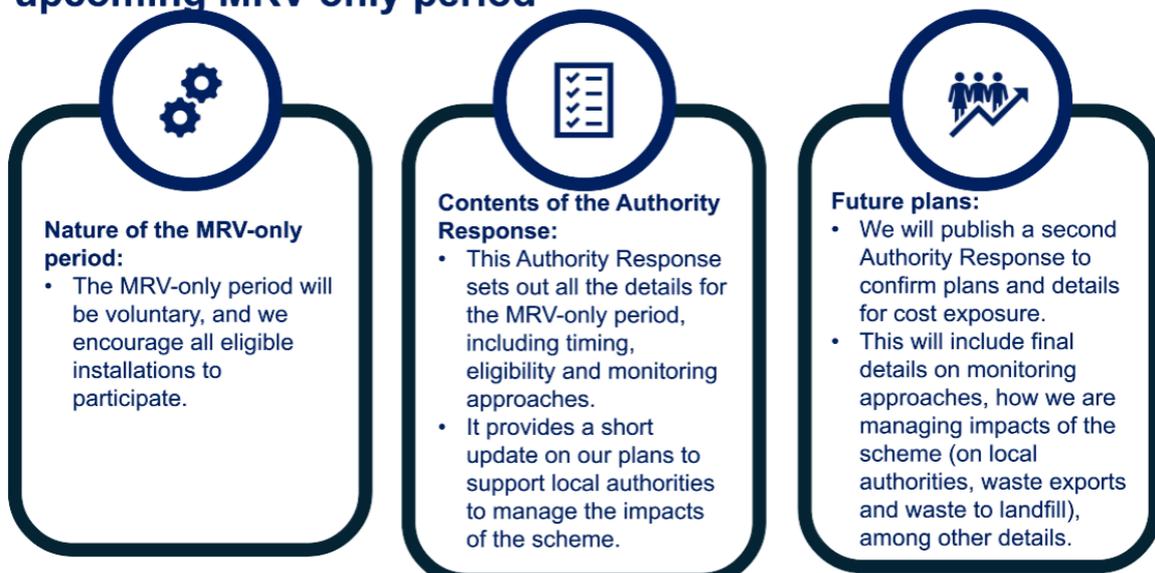
- Carbon Dioxide (CO₂) is the main GHG covered.
- Activities within scope include fossil fuel-fired electricity generation, oil and gas refining, production of cement, iron, steel, aluminium, glass, ceramics, paper and pulp, and chemicals including ammonia and hydrogen.
- In 2022, we consulted on expanding the scope of the scheme to new sectors, including maritime, waste and expanding the scope of existing sectors.

Expansion of the UK ETS to EfW and waste incineration will drive the decarbonisation of the sector



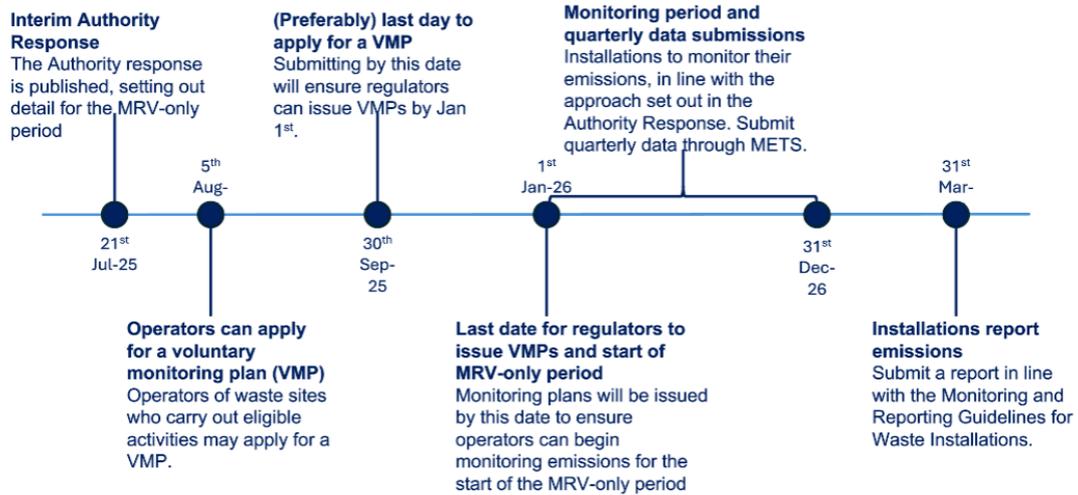
- The UK ETS is our principal mechanism for pricing the 'carbon externality' that greenhouse gas emissions represent, in line with the polluter pays principle.
- **Expanding the scheme to include EfW and waste incineration will increase the coverage of the scheme and capture more emissions and should lead to positive decarbonisation outcomes for the sector.**
- This is a significant policy intervention into the waste sector during a time of wider collection and packaging reforms - we recognise the need to ensure we are maintaining the waste hierarchy and complementing existing and upcoming environmental and waste policies across Govt and across the UK.

The Authority Response provides detail for the upcoming MRV-only period



Applies from 1st Jan 2026 – plan to align with packaging EPR cost recovery regarding packaging waste that does not enter the recycling streams.

Timings for the MRV-only period



The above process will then repeat from Jan 1st for 2027-28 (there is no need to submit a new monitoring plan each year). Further details on this process will be provided in guidance from regulators.

Scope and eligibility for the MRV-only period



The following will be in scope of the MRV-only period:

- Direct emissions from energy from waste and waste incineration processes.
- Advanced thermal treatments and advanced conversion technologies (ATT and ACT), facilities that produce fuels and chemical recycling.
- Installations that exceed a tonnage-based throughput threshold based on the Small Waste Incineration Plant (SWIP):
 - incineration of hazardous waste with a capacity exceeding 10 tonnes per day, or
 - incineration of non-hazardous waste with a capacity exceeding 3 tonnes per hour.

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Includes chemicals recycling using thermal treatments

What's not in scope

Scope and eligibility for the MRV-only period



The following will be **out** of scope of the MRV-only period

- installations which incinerate hazardous waste at an operating temperature of 1,100°C for 2 seconds and whose waste input comprises:
 - at least [80%] hazardous waste; and
 - no more than [20%] hazardous and non-hazardous healthcare waste; and
 - no more than [1%] hazardous waste wood
- Facilities in Northern Ireland under the terms of Article 9 and Annex 4 to the Windsor Framework are part of the EU ETS and the EU MRV-only period.



We have committed to **further work** on:

- Chemical recycling facilities will be included in the MRV-only period. However, the Authority is considering how to subtract emissions associated with recycling outputs from reportable emissions ahead of full cost exposure.
- While we have designed the MRV-only period to mirror our expected scope for cost exposure, these positions are subject to change. In particular, we have committed to review our position on clinical waste.

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Note - Northern Ireland – EU ETS applies!

DEFRA team are looking closer at clinical waste! – Currently exempt, but looking at future inclusion within scope.

Impacts of the scheme and reducing adverse risks

What we've said in this response:

- We do not anticipate that there will be adverse risks for local authorities, landfill or waste exports as a result of the MRV-only period.
- We are continuing to explore these issues and data from the MRV-only period may help to inform this policy making.
- We have confirmed that LAs will not be expected to cover full ETS costs.
- Work is taking place across all four nations to explore decarbonisation options for waste where there is not currently a clear pathway to decarbonise.

Next steps

- We know that local authorities are particularly concerned about costs.
- We will be speaking to local authorities over the summer to gather more information and explore solutions to this issue.
- We will continue to work across government to address risks of increased waste to landfill and export.
- We will set out detail on how we are addressing these issues in a second Authority Response.

Looking to avoid local authorities not picking up total costs, looking at potential cost recovery!

Waste Sector and Circular Economy Considerations



pEPR looking to make sure costs are recovered as part of the pEPR cost recovery from industry!

Further work on difficult to decarbonise waste streams

Contact the UK Emissions Trading Scheme reporting helpdesk

If you need help accessing or using the UK Emissions Trading Scheme reporting service, please contact your regulator.

Environment Agency: etswaste@environment-agency.gov.uk

Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA): emission.trading@sepa.org.uk

Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA): emissions.trading@daera-ni.gov.uk

Natural Resources Wales (NRW): GHGHelp@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk / GHGHelp@naturalresourceswales.gov.uk

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Alan Johnson – Simpler Recycling in England

Simpler Recycling in England

Recap:

- Simpler Recycling now in force for workplaces with 10 or more employees
- Local authority collections from households required by 31 Mar 2026.
- Micro-firm (<10 employees) and plastic film collections required by 31 Mar 2027
- Gov.uk guidance published for workplaces, LAs and other waste collectors. Additional tools and guidance for LAs provided via WRAP

Looking ahead:

- We plan to notify LAs of 2025/26 payments for transitional resource funding for food waste as soon as possible.
- Funding for ongoing food waste collections will be provided through the Local Government Finance. The provisional settlement will be provided later this year.
- Developing government communications approach and understanding where further guidance or support is needed
- Working closely with key delivery partners including local authority and waste industry representative groups, infrastructure representatives and business sector trade associations

Call for case studies

Workplaces:

We want to showcase examples of Simpler Recycling best practice within workplaces. If you are interested to speak at the forum or be part of a written case study, please contact recycling@defra.gov.uk

Local authorities:

We welcome examples of good practice that could help other authorities as they roll out new recycling collection services. Please feedback via your waste networks or contact recycling@defra.gov.uk

*Weekly food waste collections required for all households except where transitional arrangements apply (affected local authorities have a later implementation date for food waste in regulations)

Applies from 31st March 2025, LA collections due from 31st March 2026, Applies to Micro businesses from 31st March 2027 – Requires segregation of waste for recycling. Sets Mandatory minimum waste types to be segregated, recovered and recycled.

Sue Horrobin – WRAP – Main focus is on supporting recyclers and the Local Authorities to prepare for the changes to waste recovery. – Didn't post the slides as focused on the Local Authorities preparations and how WRAP can assist.

Esther Carter – Chief Strategy Officer – Ex McKinsey / Tesco etc. Plus global experience / Jez Blake – CEO Pack UK formerly with Waste Management and Recycling and packaging manufacturer

Sophia Goode - PackUK

Scheme Administrator Steering Group (SASG) Member Application Deadline Extended



We have extended the application deadline for members of the next SASG until **12pm 12 September 2025** for the following seats:

- producers, producer organisations and trade association representatives
- compliance schemes
- waste management organisations
- environmental non-government organisations (NGOs)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/cag-value-chain-representatives-to-join-the-administrator-steering-group-sasg>

Please find the role specification and information about how to apply at this link [Call for packaging value chain representatives to join the pEPR Scheme Administrator Steering Group \(SASG\) - GOV.UK](#) and contact SASteeringgroup@defra.gov.uk if you have any questions.

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Application deadline extended – 4 seats

Lucy Duffy – Environment Agency Update (England)

Guidance on application for roles under the new regulations – Current Focus on the roles and obligations of Reprocessors and Exporters

Reprocessor & Exporter Guidance Updates

GOV.UK guidance pages for reprocessors and exporters were updated in August. Updates include:

- Updated guidance for reprocessors and exporters ([Main page](#))
- Application forms for 2026 and corresponding instructions are now available on a [New page](#)

These pages provide up to date information on the process for registration and accreditation.

Forms

The forms are now live and you're able to apply. There are three forms to submit:

- Organisation form (step 1 – mandatory)
- Registration application form (step 2 – mandatory)
- Accreditation form (step 3 – optional)

Note: you will need to make sure you select the correct form for your relevant regulator.

Questions

After reading the guidance, if you still have questions, please contact your environmental regulator:

- [Environment Agency \(England\)](#)
- [Scottish Environment Protection Agency \(Scotland\)](#)
- [Northern Ireland Environment Agency \(Northern Ireland\)](#)
- [Natural Resources Wales \(Wales\)](#)

Timelines and Process

How it works

- 1 Submit an organisation details form and you will receive an organisation ID and system reference number by email - you need both of these for the other forms.
 - 2 Submit a mandatory registration form for each material you're reprocessing or exporting, and for each site if you're a reprocessor.
 - 3 Submit an accreditation form for each material you're reprocessing or exporting, and for each site if you're a reprocessor.
 - 4 Pay the application charge or charges.
- Apply for registration by 01 October
 - Apply for accreditation by 01 October if you want to be able to issue PRNs/ PERNs from 01 January
 - Regulators have 12 weeks in which to determine applications. The 12 weeks will start from the date that a completed application has been submitted and paid for.

Sampling And Inspection Plans & ORS Log

Reprocessors and exporters will also need to upload additional documents and templates with their applications such as [Sampling and Inspection Plan \(SIP\)](#) and, if an exporter, their [overseas reprocessing site \(ORS\) log](#) and BES documentation.

Guidance in relation to application forms for 2026 is now available on [Gov.uk](#).

- For **registration** use reprocessor/ exporter sampling and inspection plan: **part 1**, for each material (& site)
- For **accreditation** use reprocessor/ exporter sampling and inspection plan: **part 2**, for each material (& site)
- For exporters, fill in the ORS log to provide at registration and accreditation then provide any broadly equivalent evidence to your regulator as specified in the guidance.
- Answer questions to the best of your ability, if the regulator has further questions about your application they will be in touch to ask.

Tips For Completing The Application Forms

- Read the guidance and **prepare all your information before starting the form**. Once you have started a form, you must complete this in one sitting as there is no save and return function. You do not have to do all the forms in one go – you can take a break between completing the organisation, registration and accreditation.
- You **must complete an org form** - you only need to do this once. If you are already using RPD, you will still need to complete a new org form. This will generate an orgID number which is required for completing the registration and accreditation forms.
- An **individual application form must be completed for each material, at each site**. This applies to both registration and accreditation.
- Before you submit your applications, you will see a 'check your answers' page. We suggest you **keep a record of your responses** (screenshot/save page) to refer back to as needed.
- Payment details - **Keep track of what you need to pay for each application**. You will need to ensure you have made the correct payment to your regulator before they can assess and determine your application. A full list of charges for reprocessors and exporters, and information on how to make payment to your regulator, can be found on GOV.UK.

For example: Registration

- 1 material exporter registration = **£2921**
- Accreditation
 - 1 material exporter accreditation (up to 5000 tonnes) £2000, +
 - 10 overseas reprocessing sites at £216 each,

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More Information To Follow

We've received a high volume of queries directly and appreciate your patience while we work through responses. Anything additional that we can't answer from the chat today will be picked up in a future newsletter.

The application forms have been published on [GOV.UK](#). We are also continuously updating the main guidance page with more detail and clarifications. Where we receive frequently asked questions we will aim to address these in guidance updates as well.

We are planning a specific webinar for Winter 2025, including further information around waste recording and reporting. We will communicate once a sign-up link for the webinar is available.

You can stay up to date with the changes by signing up to receive the Circular Economy newsletters [here](#) and signing up for the joint stakeholder forums [here](#).

Virginia Woolley Packaging Extended Producer Responsibility

Check as medical packaging info updated, In the RAMS guidance.

Producers & Compliance Schemes Guidance Updates

1st August: Update to packaging data file spec and RAM guidance, included:

- Changes to reporting structure, incl. codes and columns incorporating RAM and subcats;
- Actions required to comply with the subcategory and RAM requirements, including medical packaging clarification

The updated guidance can be found here:

- Data specification [File specification for packaging data from 2025 - GOV.UK](#)
- Updated Data template [Extended producer responsibility for packaging: example files for packaging data - GOV.UK](#)
- Updated data file generator: [Extended producer responsibility for packaging: generate a packaging data file - GOV.UK](#)
- Recyclability Assessment Methodology: how to assess your packaging waste [Recyclability assessment methodology: how to assess your packaging waste - GOV.UK](#)

Aggregated data: Regulators last updated on 14 July 2025

- Next updated will be in September and every 2 months [Link - NPWD](#)

Regulators Agreed Positions

Agreed Positions Version 7 is being finalised. It will include amongst other updates:

- Guidance for distributors
- A definition of a Manufacturer/finished component
- Updated guidance on reusable packaging
- Mid-year changes
- All changes are summarised in the appendixes as previous

Regulators will notify you when this has been published

[Agreed positions V6](#)



Definition of manufacturer

Guidance for distributors

Based on FAQ's from stakeholders.

1st October 2025: Deadlines

Producers will need to:

- Submit application for registration (either directly or through compliance scheme) for the 2026 compliance year on RPD, using the 3-step process
- Submit January – June 2025 packaging data on RPD (either directly or through compliance scheme)
- Submission of RAM data is subject to the [RPS](#) (RD in Wales)
 - Please note that reporting of plastic packaging sub-categories is separate to the RAM and must be reported

Registrations received after 1st October 2025 will incur a late fee

H1 RAM data voluntary – However Plastic rigid and flex are still mandatory for H1 Reporting.

PRNs and EPRNs do need to be purchased.

Reporting Free Riders

Since the start of the new packaging regulations, **we have brought 2,000 suspected freeriders into compliance**

We have a specialised freerider team, dedicated to detecting waste fraud through intelligence led investigations

We take a compliance first approach however, we have several enforcement tools available if unsuccessful

We've also established a civil sanctions team dedicated to handling cases of non-compliance. Enforcement action can be taken in line with the [EA Enforcement and Sanctions Policy](#)

If you suspect a business is not complying with the regulations, and they're not on the [National Packaging Waste Database](#), please report this to the appropriate regulator:

- [Environment Agency \(England\)](#)
- [Scottish Environment Protection Agency \(Scotland\)](#)
- [Northern Ireland Environment Agency \(Northern Ireland\)](#)
- [Natural Resources Wales \(Wales\)](#)

To report via a 24-hour telephone service, please call 0800 80 70 60 for England, Scotland, Northern Ireland or 0300 065 3000 for Wales.

You can also contact [Crimestoppers](#), an independent UK charity tackling crime information in strict confidence, with the option to report anonymously.

Enforcement actively ongoing!

Circular Economy Newsletter

To keep up to date with news on Defra's Circular Economy reforms subscribe to the newsletter here



<https://tinyurl.com/2zhyh4fn>

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