



environmental
services
association

PRESS RELEASE

Position on waste transfer notes “common sense” approach by regulator

LONDON, 20 April 2020 – For immediate release

The Environmental Services Association (ESA), the voice of the UK’s recycling and waste management industry, has welcomed the Regulatory Position Statement (RPSC8) issued today by the Environment Agency (EA), describing it as a “common sense” approach to help maintain social distancing during routine waste transfer activities.

RPS C8 temporarily removes the need for physical signatures on paper waste transfer and consignment notes, helping to keep both parties safe from transmission of infection during transactions.

Executive Director of the Environmental Services Association (ESA), Jacob Hayler, said: *“This position statement is a common sense approach that will be welcomed by the sector, although, it has perhaps taken a little longer to arrive than was desirable, bearing in mind that strict social-distancing regulations have been in place for a month now.”*

This regulatory statement was published amid a number of additional EA positions affecting the recycling and resource management sector including RPS C9, which removes penalties for packaging producers who were unable to re-register with a compliance scheme during the crisis; RPS C4, which permits the incineration of some infectious healthcare waste in municipal Energy-from-Waste facilities; and RPS C7 which allows a degree of flexibility around monitoring of emissions.

Jacob added: *“Alongside its members, the ESA has been working through a risk management strategy to address multiple areas which are, or may become, under stress while COVID-19 restrictions are in place – many of which have subsequently been addressed. We are grateful to the Agency, and relevant Government Departments, for enacting the measures we have asked for to protect operators and ease the burden of some regulatory activities during a time of unprecedented pressure. It is important to stress that these are temporary relaxations to avoid unfairly penalising legitimate operators trying to safely carry out vital services, and not a license to relax important environmental protections in the long term.”*

ENDS

Notes to editors:

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