

REGULATORY POSITION STATEMENT

Exports of “treated” Residual Municipal Waste to Europe for Energy Recovery.

Issue

Local authorities and their waste contractors have identified an opportunity to export waste derived from the treatment of residual municipal waste to energy from waste plants in mainland Europe for recovery. Apparently overcapacity there coupled with pressures here to divert municipal waste from landfill have made such exports increasingly attractive.

Exports of such waste are subject to the prior written notification and consent procedure set down in the Waste Shipment Regulation (WSR) and can only proceed legally with our and the destination authorities prior written consent.

A combination of provisions within the WSR and the UK Plan for Shipments of Waste, effectively prohibit exports of municipal waste for recovery, however this prohibition does not extend to treated residual municipal waste from waste management facilities. The rules are unclear on the extent of treatment that municipal waste must undergo to remove it from the scope of the prohibition.

Our Approach

- Exports of municipal waste are prohibited
- Exports of treated residual municipal waste from a waste management facility are potentially permitted
- We do not prescribe the level of treatment required; however the waste must have undergone some sort of treatment. This may comprise physical treatment such as shredding, sorting and compaction.
- The waste destined for export must meet the requirements of the destination facility
- The waste must be destined for recovery, not disposal.
- New provisions within the revised Waste Framework Directive may result in more stringent controls and more restrictive controls once its requirements are in force, we are currently liaising with the Department regarding those provisions.

If you require any further guidance on International Shipments of Waste please contact us on: +44 (0) 2890569742.