



## **Manual of European Environmental Policy**

The following pages are a section from the Manual of European Environmental Policy written by the Institute for European Environmental Policy.

The Manual was published by Earthscan/Routledge from 2010 to 2012. It was designed as an on-line interactive reference work and annual printed versions were also produced.

This section is the text of the Manual as published in 2012. It is therefore important to note the following:

- The contents have not been updated since 2012 and no guarantee is given of the accuracy of the contents given potential subsequent developments.
- The sections include links to external websites (e.g. to legal texts). These links continue to work as long as those links are not broken by those websites.
- The sections also include the original links that enabled interactivity within the published on-line version of the Manual. These links no longer work.

© Copyright IEEP 2014

The Manual should be cited as follows:

Farmer, A.M. (2012) (Editor). Manual of European Environmental Policy. 1043pp. Routledge, London.



# Related legislation: Waste

The EU waste legislation set out in this chapter of the Manual of European Environmental Policy is not the only EU legislation which contains provisions relating to waste. There are several other measures, which are described here.

- The Packaging Directive [94/62/EC](#) aims to reduce the impact of packaging on the environment; to harmonize national measures in order to prevent distortions to competition; and to ensure the free movement of packaged goods. The environmental objective is to limit the amount of packaging waste going to final disposal through reuse and recovery. The Directive seeks to achieve its objectives by: requiring Member States to establish return, collection and recovery systems; by setting a number of targets for recovery and recycling; and by guaranteeing free circulation within the EC of packaging which meets certain essential requirements.
- Directive [91/157/EEC](#) on batteries and accumulators containing certain dangerous substances is intended to reduce the amount of pollution from used batteries containing lead, mercury or cadmium. It established maximum levels of certain substances and bans the marketing of any batteries or accumulators containing excess levels of these. It should also encourage recycling and the production of batteries containing lower levels of these metals, and harmonize national measures.
- The End-of-Life Vehicles Directive [2000/53/EC](#) seeks to reduce the amount of waste, and therefore the adverse environmental effects, resulting from the disposal of vehicles at the end of their useful life. It also aims to improve the environmental performance of all the operators involved at each stage of a vehicle's life, but, in particular, those involved in the treatment of end-of-life vehicles (ELVs). It limits the amount of certain hazardous substances that vehicles may contain, encourages the use of recycled materials, and encourages the design and production of vehicles to facilitate their dismantling and the reuse and recovery of materials.

The **Waste Electronic and Electrical Equipment (WEEE) Directive** [2002/96/EC](#) seeks to prevent WEEE and increase the rates of its reuse, recycling and recovery. It also aims to improve the environmental performance of producers, distributors and consumers involved in the life cycle of electrical and electronic equipment (EEE). It establishes producer responsibility and requires collection systems for WEEE to be set up. It also encourages the design and production of electronic and electrical equipment to take into account, and facilitate, its eventual reuse, recycling and recovery.

- Directive [2002/95/EC](#) **on the restriction of the use of certain hazardous substances in electrical and electronic equipment**, commonly known as the **ROHS Directive**, contributes to the objectives of the WEEE Directive by ensuring that substances that cause major problems during the waste management phase are not used in electrical and electronic equipment (EEE). It places a ban on the use of several hazardous substances, including: lead, mercury, cadmium,

hexavalent chromium, polybrominated biphenyls or polybrominated diphenyl ethers and applies to a very wide range of EEE.

The **Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control Directive [2008/1/EC](#)** requires Member States to set conditions in permits for specified industrial installations based on the determination of Best Available Techniques. The aim (Article 3) is that ‘all the appropriate preventive measures are taken against pollution’ and that ‘no significant pollution is caused’. Directive 2008/1/EC requires installation to address waste arising in the operation of installations. Also landfill sites are among the activities included as installations regulated under the Directive.

- Directive [2000/76/EC](#) on the incineration of waste aims to prevent, or limit as much as possible, the negative effects on the environment resulting from the incineration and co-incineration of waste. The Directive is particularly concerned with emissions to air, soil, groundwater and surface water and the resulting risks to human health. The Directive sets down requirements for waste incineration and co-incineration plants, including: limit values for emissions to air and discharges to water, methods for the delivery and reception of waste, operating requirements and provisions for control and monitoring at plants.

**Regulation (EC) No [1907/2006](#) concerning the Registration, Evaluation, Authorization and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH)** is the longest, most detailed and most complicated item of EU environmental legislation. It ultimately aims to limit damage to the environment caused by chemicals. Its essential elements can be stated as follows:

- All chemical substances manufactured or imported in quantities of 1 tonne or more must be registered with the European Chemicals Agency by the manufacturer/importer.
- The registration contains a dossier with information to enable the substance to be used safely.
- The Agency can evaluate dossiers and substances.
- Downstream users are to contribute to the dossier.
- Substances of very high concern are not to be used unless authorized.
- Companies will be required to make efforts to find safer substitutes as part of the authorization procedure.
- Manufacture, marketing and use of substances can be restricted.

The **Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Directive [87/337/EEC](#)** takes a preventative approach to environmental protection. Before consent is given for certain development projects – such as large-scale industrial or infrastructure projects – an assessment is to be made of the effects they may have on the environment so that the competent authority that grants consent is aware of the consequences. This includes consideration of waste management issues.

The EU Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS) is governed by the **Regulation (EC) No [1221/2009](#) on the voluntary participation by organizations in a Community eco-management and audit scheme**. It is a management tool which aids companies and organizations in the evaluation, reporting and improvement of

their environmental performance. It includes the consideration of waste management issues.

**The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive [2001/42/EC](#)** requires the identification and assessment of the environmental implications of certain plans and programmes during their preparation and before they are adopted. It differs from Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) – SEA applies to higher level planning and programmes (carried out by regional/local public authorities); EIA applies to specific projects. SEA includes the consideration of waste management issues.

Each section of each chapter of The Manual also contains a related legislation section specific to that section.