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The Waste Information Today

A Quarterly newsletter that is aimed at communicating the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) Branch: **Chemicals and Waste Management projects.**



ENQUIRIES

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DEA COLLABORATING WITH KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT FOR BETTER MANAGEMENT OF CHEMICALS

The Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) swiftly acted on a request made by the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs for the workshop on regulations administered and implemented by the Department, the Polychlorinated Biphenyl (PCB) Regulations (Regulations for the Prohibition of PCB materials and PCB contaminated materials) and Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS) Regulations (Regulations to phase out the use of Ozone Depleting Substances). Both these Regulations were promulgated in 2014 to address chemicals controlled by the Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) specifically the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants and Montreal Protocol on the substances that deplete the Ozone Layer.

This request was in response to the queries the Provincial Government was receiving on matters relating to PCBs and ODSs and since Regulatory Frameworks relating these matters are a responsibility of DEA, it was sensible for the Provincial Government to seek guidance or capacity building on how to handle such queries. DEA, used this opportunity to fulfil the Provincial Department training needs so as to enable the Province to effectively implement the tools since they operate closer to industries and municipalities. The province of KwaZulu-Natal is the only province that has been capacitated thus far and the Department holds the view that this capacity building needs to be rolled out throughout the country in order to facilitate and strengthen better management of chemicals in the country.

The content of the Workshop

In the workshop, Ms Mangaka Mahlako provided a broad overview on the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants with specific focus on polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), whilst Mr Mfanwenkosi Mathebula outlined and clarified the Registration process as stipulated in the PCB Regulations, submission of phase out plans and the importance of awareness raising in communities to refrain from using the used or contaminated PCB oil usually sold in taxi ranks (usually known as transformer oil) as it could pose a hazard to their health and could lead to environmental pollution if not handled properly.



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ODS Regulations: In her presentation, Ms Lutendo Ndhlovu highlighted the obligations that South Africa has under the Montreal Protocol and how they are implemented through the Regulations regarding the Phase-out and Management of Ozone Depleting Substances. Impacts of the depleted Ozone layer were also highlighted and how officials can assist industry when it comes to dealing to these substances.

Where these chemicals are mostly found?

PCBs were added to oils used in electrical equipment such as transformers, capacitors, mini-substations, switch gears, etc

ODSs are also found in cooling systems i.e. refrigeration and, air conditioning systems, fire extinguishers, foam products and some chemicals used as fumigants

Any queries on matters relating to PCBs and Ozone Depleting substances may be directed to the Directorate Hazardous Chemicals Management at:

Ms Mangaka Mahlako at mmahlako@environment.gov.za

Mr Lubabalo Maweni at lmaweni@environment.gov.za.

Waste Classification and Management Regulations

The Waste Classification & Management Regulations with associated Norms & Standards were promulgated on 23 August 2013. The Regulation had important requirements with timeframes for implementation. The requirement for a Waste Manifest came into effect on 23 August 2014. From 23 August 2016 all the transitional arrangements of the Waste Classification and Management Regulations (Government Notice R634, 23 August 2013) have lapsed.

The following are in effect on the management of hazardous waste:

- Any waste that was classified in terms of the 2nd Edition Minimum Requirements on Handling, Classification and Disposal of Hazardous Waste or by an alternative classification that was approved by the Departments of Water Affairs or Environmental Affairs must be classified in terms of the Regulation 4(2) of the Regulations and, if destined for disposal, it must be assessed in terms of the Norms and Standards for Assessment of Waste for Landfill Disposal (Government Notice R635, 23 August 2013).
- No transporter may transport hazardous waste without a Waste Manifest.
- All waste storage areas and storage containers must be labelled in accordance with the Regulations.
- All wastes must be classified according to SANS 10234 (excluding municipal waste and wastes appearing in Annexure 1 of the Regulations).
- Safety Data Sheets must be prepared in accordance with SANS 10234.
- All wastes destined for landfill disposal must be assessed in accordance to the Norms & Standards for Assessment of Waste for Landfill Disposal (excluding municipal waste and wastes appearing in Annexure 1 of the Regulations).
- No waste manager may accept waste without a Waste Classification or Waste Manifest.
- No waste may be accepted by a landfill for disposal without a landfill disposal assessment.
- Labelling, or where labelling is not possible, records kept must include details of the classification of the waste in terms of Regulation 4.

All records relating to waste must be kept for a minimum period of 5 years



EYE ON IT

The Minister of Environmental Affairs, Ms Bomo Edith Edna Molewa published the following documents:

The National Pricing Strategy for Waste Management, developed in terms of Section 13A of the National Environmental Management: Waste Act, 2008 (Act No. 59 of 2008).

Proposed Amendments to the Waste Tyre Regulations, 2009 in terms of Section 71(3)(a) read with sections 73 and 80(2) of the National Environmental Management: Waste Act, 2008 (Act No. 59 of 2008)

Section 28 notice (Government Gazette 40207) read with section 28(5) of the National Environmental Management: Waste Act, 2008 (Act No. 59 of 2008), to the Paper and Packaging Industry, Electrical and Electronic Equipment Industry and Lighting Industry to prepare and submit their industry waste management plans for approval.

Withdrawal of notice (Government Gazette 40207) to the Paper and Packaging Industry, Electrical and Electronic Equipment Industry to prepare and submit to the Minister Industry waste management plans for approval.

New Notice for comment published on 12 September 2016.

The following wastes cannot be disposed to landfill:

- Waste which, in the conditions of a landfill, is explosive, corrosive, oxidizing (according to SANS 10234 or SANS10228).
- Waste with a pH value of <6 or >12.
- Flammable waste with a closed cup flashpoint lower than 61 degrees Celsius.
- Reactive waste that may react with water, air, acids or components of the waste, or that could generate unacceptable amounts of toxic gases within the landfill.
- Waste compressed gases (according to SANS 10234 or SANS 10228).
- Untreated Healthcare Risk Waste (HCRW).
- Infectious animal carcasses and animal waste.

Update on the Landfill Disposal Restrictions

Hazardous Waste Electric and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) – Lamps (including crushed or treated lamps):

From 23 August 2016, in line with the waste disposal restrictions of Section 5 of the *National Norms and Standards for Disposal of Waste to Landfill* (Government Notice R636, 23 August 2013) lamps may no longer be sent to landfill for disposal but must be recycled or treated prior to landfill. This restriction includes crushed lamps, i.e. crushed lamps are not considered treated or recycled and hence may not be sent to landfill.

Currently there are two lamp recycling facilities that are licensed to recycle lamps. The details are as follows:

- eWaste Africa, Kwazulu-Natal Province
- Reclite, Gauteng Province

Details of the facilities may be found on sawic.environment.gov.za. For more information on the E-waste conference, please contact Ms Sharon Mogomotsi at Tel: 012 399 9767 or email: SMogomotsi@environment.gov.za.