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### The Waste Information Today

Quarterly newsletter is aimed at communicating the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) Chief Directorate: Pollution and Waste Management projects.



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### Workshop about Part 8 of the Waste Act and Waste Management

On 07 November 2016, the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) hosted a Workshop on Part 8 of the National Environment Management; Waste Act, Act No 59 of 2008 (Part 8 of Waste Act) targeting Environmental Assessment Practitioners, Municipal Officials and Waste Management Industry to ensure that the requirements for land remediation management and waste regulations are understood by the regulated community in order to facilitate better management of contaminated land and waste.

#### The following presentations were made at the workshop:

Part 8 of the Waste Act: it came into effect on 02 May 2014 and it provides a framework for management of contaminated land in the country and is founded on Risk-Based Approach that embraces Source-Pathway Receptor Model in the management of contaminated land. It ensures that mitigation measures are applied where there is site contamination and furthermore it further provides a clear set of approaches in the Identification of investigation areas and outline the processes that must be followed in the management of contaminated land in the country. It also sets out information required in tools for management of contaminated land. It also allows the Minister to establish Contaminated Land Register that provides a list of potentially contaminated land in the country and sites that are being remediated and progress relating to remediation.

**Waste Classification and Management Regulations:** these regulations ensure that correct procedures are followed when classifying waste. All waste generators must ensure that their waste is classified in accordance with South African National Standards (SANS) 10234 within 180 days of generation, and must be separated from the source for the purposes of classification and must not be mixed prior to classification. It further emphasises the importance of the keeping of accurate and up to date waste management records.



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Workshop about Part 8 of the Waste Act continues...

These records must reflect the classification of the waste, the quantity of each waste generated, expressed in tons or cubic metres per month and the quantities of each waste that has either been re-used, recycled, recovered, treated or disposed of; and by whom the waste was managed.

**Licensing of Waste Management Activities:** An applicant must ensure that the activity to be conducted is listed and furthermore a determination needs to be made as to whether the activity is listed in category A or B or C. Category A requires a Basic Assessment process, Category B requires Scoping-Environment Impact Assessment process while Category C requires application of standards and to ensure that timeframes provided in Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations are complied with.

**Recycling Enterprise Support Programme (RESP):** This is a broad approach aimed at promoting recycling in the country. The purpose of this programme is to create job opportunities from recyclable waste, achieve the diversion of recyclable waste from landfill and consequently saving landfill airspace.

**Section 30 and 30A of National Environmental Management Act:** These are provisions in the National Environmental Management Act that provide approach followed by Department of Environmental Affairs and Provincial Environmental Affairs to handle incident and emergency situations.

**Education and Awareness on asbestos and Draft Concept on Asbestos Strategy:** It spells out the intention of the Department to provide an integrated approach on the management of asbestos in the country and the problem statement that informed the draft National Asbestos Strategy.

For more information, please contact Mr Matjelele Phaladi @ 012 399 9852 or [MPhaladi@environment.gov.za](mailto:MPhaladi@environment.gov.za).

## **Brown march to a clean environment 2016**

An awareness campaign initiative was held on the 25<sup>th</sup> November 2016 at Brits, it was hosted by the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA), Bojanala Platinum District Municipality (BPDM) and Madibeng Local Municipality (MLM). The campaign started with a fun walk for a clean environment that commenced at the Oukasie Township and proceeded towards the Brits Sportsground where it was followed by formal proceedings led by councillors of the BPDM and MLM.

The fun walk was held under the theme "Brown March to a clean environment 2016" with the aim of raising awareness to the communities about the impacts of waste on their health and well-being and to encourage them to be responsible for the cleanliness of their environment.

Poor infrastructure and lack of knowledge are contributing factors to illegal dumping and littering. Population growth, poverty and life styles also act as catalysts for illegal dumping and littering. For many the priority is just to have a roof over their head and thus do not care much about illegal dumping and littering, others tend to have a misconception that littering is creating jobs for others. Those that are environmentally conscious are let down by the lack of infrastructure within their areas to take recyclables. On the other hand, there are culprits of illegal dumping who avoid spending on proper disposal of waste at authorised facilities or getting storage containers for waste generated within their dwellings for municipal collection.

Prevention is better than cure and we can prevent illegal dumping and littering by implementing the following:

- Dispose waste in proper disposal facilities such as landfill sites and drop off centres.
- Re-use waste and create innovation products (e.g. arts and crafts).



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- Separating recyclables from waste streams by putting recyclables in a separate bag for municipal collection or take recyclables to the buy-back centres and material recovery facilities.
- Using the bin to throw in waste or rather carry a bag when travelling and dispose of the waste where there is a bin.

The festive periods lead to an increase in the generation of waste. But the correct disposal of waste will contribute towards keeping our communities and environment clean and safe. Citizens throughout the country are therefore urged to promote waste prevention, re-use and recycling in their day to day activities.

Any enquiries relating to awareness raising and capacity building on waste management can contact the Directorate General Waste Management at: Ms Berneditte Moitse at 012 399 9824 or [bmoitse@environment.gov.za](mailto:bmoitse@environment.gov.za).

## **ODS Training for Customs and Enforcement Officers at Ports of Entry**

South Africa is party to both the Vienna Convention for the protection of Ozone Layer and the Montreal Protocol on Substances that deplete the ozone layer. The Montreal Protocol (herein referred to as the Protocol) requires that parties set out control measures for the phase-out or reduction of ozone depleting substances. Ozone depleting substances (ODSs) with high ozone depleting potential have more stringent phase-out target dates, e.g. the phase-out target for Methyl Bromide was 2015 and for Hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs) is 2040 with annual consumption percentage reductions from 2009/10.

As a background it should be noted that HCFCs are ODSs that deplete the ozone layer that are widely used in refrigeration and air conditioning, foam blowing and solvent applications. Action on HCFCs is important in that these chemicals have an impact on both ozone depletion and climate change. In terms of direct impact, the most commonly-used HCFCs have ozone depleting potentials (ODPs) ranging from 0.02 (HCFC-123) to 0.11 (HCFC-141b) and global warming potentials (GWPs) ranging from 76 (HCFC-123) to 2270 (HCFC-142b). Equipment can also indirectly cause the GHGs through its consumption of energy. Prior to CFC phase-out (1 January 2010) the refrigeration and air conditioning (RAC) sector was the biggest consumer of CFCs, and today the sector has become one of the primary consumers HCFCs. HCFCs should be completely phase-out from non-essential use by 1 January 2040.

To ensure full phase-out of ODSs, South Africa has developed the “Regulations Regarding the Phasing-out and Management of Ozone-Depleting Substances”, Regulation 351 of 8 May 2014. This regulations were promulgated by the Minister of the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) to monitor and control consumption of ODS’s in the country. The International Trade Administration Commission (ITAC) issues a permit upon recommendation by the DEA National Ozone Unit (NOU). The Department of Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries (DAFF), the NOU and ITAC work together for importation of methyl bromide and issuance of permit(s). In addition, SARS’ Customs and Excise have allocated tariff codes to identify ODSs. The same tariff codes are used by NOU for recommendations to ITAC and when issuing import and export permits. Therefore, by controlling and monitoring the imports into the country ODS’s consumption is expected to decrease.

The first segment of the customs training was conducted at the Durban port in November 2014 and it took over the period of 3 days and the second segment of the training was undertaken between October and November 2015 at all 4 sea ports (Durban, Cape Town, Port Elizabeth and East London) as well as 1 land border post (Beitbridge) and 1 dry port (Johannesburg). Training of the trainers was also undertaken to train the SARS trainers, ITAC inspectors, DEA NOU and Inspectors were trained to be trainers. In 2016 training was organised and undertaken at four (4) identified land borders Lebombo in Mpumalanga province, Kopfontein in North West Province, Grobler’s bridge in Limpopo Province and Vioolsdrift in Northern Cape Province.

### **The ODS training aims to achieve the following objectives:**

- To strengthen the control ODSs and other related refrigerants imported and exported through South African sea ports of entries.
- To strengthen the implementation and enforcement of ODS Regulations at the ports of entries.
- To provide an overview on the management of ODSs which include the licensing system and quota allocations
- To introduce the background, provisions and phase-out schedules of the Montreal Protocol.
- To provide trainees with the skills and equipment to safely inspect consignments.
- To train inspectors on the practical use of Refrigerant Identifiers and Tariff heading quick tool document.
- To train Customs inspectors on the identification method of imported and exported hazardous waste.

The refresher/ follow up training will resume in the 2017/18 financial year to the sea ports and the following institutions/persons will be trained: South African Revenue Services (SARS) trainers, Department of Labour (DoL) and the National Regulator for Compulsory Specifications (NRCS). This will ensure that not only Customs but other government Departments or role players are well equipped. when facilitating refrigerants trades all over the country.

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

A notice of intention to require any person or category of persons who transport waste for gain to register with the Department in terms of section 25(1) read with sections 72 and 73 of the National Environmental Management Waste Act, 2008 (Act 59 of 2008)

Proposed amendments to the National Waste Information Regulations in terms of section 69 (l) (y), (t), (aa) and (ee) read with sections 72 and 73 of the National Environmental Management Waste Act, 2008 (Act No 59 of 2008).

These documents can be accessed at <http://sawic.environment.gov.za> under "Draft documents for comment"



## **International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer 2016** **Upington, Northern Cape**

International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer was held on the 21<sup>st</sup> September 2016 this year. The Department along with the community members of Upington in Northern Cape Province could be seen raising awareness of the issues at hand. The department showcased their efforts in raising the awareness on Ozone depleting substances. Being the least populated and containing the largest area, the Northern Cape Province has extreme climate conditions, highest and lowest recorded temperatures, with lowest recorded rainfall across South Africa. The campaign recognized allied efforts over the past three decades from the Vienna Convention and Montreal Protocol towards ozone restoration and combatting of climate change.

The theme for the 2016 celebrations is, "Ozone and climate: Restored by a world united the theme is supported by the slogan, "Working towards reducing global-warming HFCs under the Montreal Protocol." Ms. Tiny Chotelo, Member of the Executive Council (MEC) for Environment Nature and Conservation indicated that it's our endeavour to ensure that individuals at Primary, Intermediate and High Schools are educated and empowered with sufficient knowledge on the ozone layer preservation and chemicals management.

MEC Chotelo emphasised that as a country, we aspire to have more specialists and researchers in environmental management, chemicals management, climate change and waste management. She further informed people of the community of practical exercises that can help protect the ozone layer and themselves as individuals.

Approximately 10 schools and their learners from grade 8 to 10 participated in the awareness campaign based on Ozone layer protection and climate.

Department of Education Regional office in liaison with Provincial Department of Environment Nature and Conservation conducted the campaign. Government and industry collaborated towards the holding of the awareness event. The Department of Environmental Affairs, United Nations Industrial Development Organization, Department of Education (district sector), Provincial Department of Environment Nature and Conservation, ZF Mgcawu District Municipality, Dawid Kruijer Local Municipality and sponsors A-GAS South Africa (Pty) Ltd collaborated towards the holding of the awareness event.