

A friendly and
flexible approach



to the Packaging
Waste Regulations

making compliance easier
WASTEPACK

The Producer Responsibility Obligations (Packaging Waste) Regulations were introduced in Great Britain in 1997 and in Northern Ireland in 1999. The Regulations require producers that have a **turnover above £2 million** and supply or import **over 50 tonnes of packaging** to recover and recycle packaging waste in proportion to the amount of materials they handle.

The Regulations derived from an EU directive (94/62/EC) on packaging waste, which imposes requirements on all member states to institute measures for increasing the volume of packaging waste recovered from the waste stream and diverted from landfill.

Businesses that are obligated must register annually with an appropriate Regulatory Agency (Environment Agency for England and Wales,

Scottish Environment Protection Agency, and the Northern Ireland Environment Agency). In addition, **every year** they must:

- submit a detailed compliance plan for government approval*
- supply accurate data about their packaging usage
- accurately calculate their recovery and recycling obligation
- acquire PRN evidence of recovery and recycling for each type of packaging material handled to discharge their obligation
- submit an end of year compliance certificate to the regulatory agency.

An error or omission in any part of this complex process could mean the obligated business committing a **criminal offence**.

An obligated business has two choices: it can either register directly with an appropriate regulatory agency and commit valuable time and resources to discharge its own legal requirements or...

join Wastepack



Wastepack will meet these complex requirements on your behalf. And as a government approved Compliance Scheme, Wastepack takes over the legal obligations of its members and provides *exemption from prosecution* for non compliance.

Wastepack will make compliance easy for you.

* Where the producer has a turnover of above £5m and handles 500 tonnes plus of packaging.

THE WASTEPACK PACKAGE

Wastepack believes in providing a comprehensive service to all of its members. We are professional yet informal and flexible in our approach to meeting the individual needs of our members. Wastepack guides its members through the complexities of compliance, making compliance easier:

- We take over your legal obligations so that you are free from prosecution for non compliance and free to concentrate on your business
- You will be assigned a dedicated Account Manager
- We operate a dedicated helpline and “help@” email service providing instant access to expert advice and assistance
- Annual regional workshops help our members prepare their annual packaging data submissions and understand the core requirements of the regulations
- Our team of experts provide unrivalled knowledge about the Packaging Regulations and the raft of other environmental and producer responsibility legislation
- We provide general advice and information about compliance and other environmental law developments via bulletins, seminars and periodic newsletters
- We meet your obligations as a seller to provide recycling information to your customers
- We can assist you in completing your annual data submission – from basic advice and sense checking to a complete package where you simply provide your sales data and let ‘Wastepack Data Service’ do the rest
- Where applicable we can arrange, free of charge to you, for you to be registered for the ‘Green Dot’ if you display this on your packaging in the UK
- We are available to visit you on request to give individual advice about compliance and related issues
- We can help you to prepare for an audit by the Regulatory Agencies
- We have an elected Members Committee which gives our membership a voice in discussions about key issues
- We can advise you about your wider waste management needs and examine opportunities for you to increase your own recycling.

About Wastepack

- Wastepack was one of the first schemes to be registered in the UK in 1997. A scheme set up at the request of producers for producers, it quickly established itself as one of the largest schemes, with around 1,000 businesses, representing a broad range of industries, including many household names.
- Wastepack is registered with the Environment Agency, Scottish Environment Protection Agency and Northern Ireland Environment Agency, offering coverage to all UK locations.
- As a fully registered and approved Compliance Scheme we take on the legal obligations of our members under the Regulations and achieve compliance on their behalf.
- Wastepack provided the first real alternative “voice” on the Packaging Waste Regulations. We believe compliance should be easy, simple, and achieve the environmental benefits for which it was intended. We have seen many positive changes to the Regulations over the years, a number of which were championed by Wastepack; simpler free structure, allocation method for small businesses, clarity of definitions etc. The UK’s system is unique in Europe and has delivered the lowest cost compliance of any EU member state. We want to keep it that way.
- We have a track record of delivering low cost compliance.
- We are ISO 9001 and 14001 accredited and continually looking to improve our systems and procedures.

The PRN System

Obligated businesses and compliance schemes must comply with the recovery and recycling obligation by January 31st each year. They do this by acquiring their obligated tonnage in evidence of the recycling of packaging waste in the form of Packaging Waste Recovery Notes - PRNs.

The UK government sets annual recycling targets intended to achieve the targets stipulated in the EU Directive.

PRNs are issued by reprocessors and exporters accredited by the regulatory agencies, and then traded with those that require them.

PRNs are traded in a free market so the economic drivers of supply and demand determine prices. Each year prices reflect the UK’s progress towards reaching the Directive targets. The more recycling that is carried out means a greater supply of PRNs, which will lower the price.

Conversely if more recycling is required, prices will increase thereby creating extra revenues to invest in extra capacity.

In this way the PRN system should produce the growth in recycling that the UK needs at the minimum cost to the obligated businesses.

Let Wastepack
take over your
legal obligations



so that you are
free from prosecution
for non compliance
and free to
concentrate on
your business

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www.wastepack.co.uk



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