

Environment Bulletin



Simpler Recycling Regulations: England Only

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What is Simpler Recycling? The Separation of Waste (England) Regulations 2024

The Separation of Waste (England) Regulations 2024 aims to streamline waste management processes and make recycling more efficient by requiring the separation of waste where it is generated (i.e. in offices, depots, signal boxes and stations).

From **31 March 2025**, all workplaces (businesses and non-domestic premises) in **England** have a legal duty to present the following waste for separate collection:

Dry Recyclable Materials – plastic bottles, metal, glass, paper, and cardboard.

Food Waste – food leftovers, waste generated by preparing food (of any volume, including if the workplace does not serve food or have a canteen)

Residual Waste – tissues, kitchen roll, highly contaminated materials like food packaging that cannot be recycled (crisps and confectionary wrappers).

Some locations may be required to separate **Paper and Card**, and **Glass** from other dry recyclables, unless the waste collector chooses to collect them together.

Should Network Rail fail to segregate waste properly, we may experience missed collections, incur wasted journey fees, excess weight charges or contamination charges.

The Environment Agency will provide formal advice and guidance to Network Rail if we are identified as non-compliant. However, if the advice and guidance is ignored, the Environment Agency will be able to issue a compliance notice under section 45AZA or section 45AZB of the Environmental Protection Act 1990.

If Network Rail ignores or fails to comply with the compliance notice, it will be deemed an offence has been committed. This means that the Environment Agency can take legal action against Network Rail which could result in a fine.

Mitie, Reconomy and The Green Block (our Framework waste contractors) have been liaising with the Technical Authority, and both Regional and Functional representatives, to understand and prepare the additional services that are required for compliance with these regulations.

New waste bins will be delivered to Network Rail sites over the coming weeks and signage will be provided to identify what can / can't go into them.

Please note: These changes apply to England only. There are no changes in Scotland and Wales. Links to the existing regulations in Scotland and Wales have been provided in the discussions section.

Discussion points

- What kind of food waste do you produce during your working day?
- What kind of dry recyclable materials do you produce during your working day?
- How are you going to make sure that these are going to be properly separated at your place of work?

For further information on **Simpler Recycling (England) Regulations**, please click [here](#)

For further information on **The Workplace Recycling (Wales) Regulations**, please click [here](#)

For further information on **The Waste (Scotland) Regulations**, please click [here](#)

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