

Factsheet: Your Duty of Care: A Guide for Businesses and Householders.



HIPPOWASTE™ is an authorised waste carrier. By using a HIPPOBAG™ and the subsequent collection service, businesses and domestic users alike can rest assured that their Duty of Care obligations are actively supported as we take, transport, recycle and dispose of their waste with no harm to human health and in an environmentally-respectful way.

All companies that produce waste are affected by the legislation outlined in the Environmental Protection Act 1990. This legislation extends beyond those businesses traditionally associated with generating waste to encompass schools, hospitals, shops, and offices. No business or company is exempt from an unlimited fine should they not take all reasonable measures to keep the waste they generate safe.

In 2004, around half a million fly-tipping incidents involved rubbish generated from households. In an attempt to help reduce the thousands of tonnes of household rubbish which are fly-tipped each year and curb such environmentally-damaging practice, new waste regulations extending Duty of Care obligations to householders have now come into force.

From 21st November 2005, all householders in England have a responsibility to ensure their rubbish is passed on to an authorised waste carrier. When hiring companies or individuals to

take materials away from their property, if these materials become fly-tipped, the householders (as well as the fly-tipper) are now liable for a fine of up to £5,000. Since fly-tipping is estimated to cost £100-£150 million of tax payer's money each year, they may also be charged for the clean up operation. Predominantly laid down to protect the environment, the legislation also protects the producer of waste from disreputable waste disposal firms.

If the waste carrier can not produce a certificate and is not registered by the Environment Agency, the householder should refuse the service and report the incident. Waste disposal is an expensive exercise. The associated costs continue to rise and although rogue traders may often offer the cheapest solution to the disposal of household waste, it is worth sparing a thought for where the waste may ultimately come to rest and the possible detrimental effects on the environment.

By refusing to use a rogue trader, it is hoped that this new regulation will not only protect the householder against a potentially hefty fine, but that it will also have a direct impact on the number of fly-tipping incidents across the UK.





By kind permission of www.recyclenow.com

Even once the waste has been removed from their premises, if it ends up in a ditch, the waste producer can also be prosecuted, not just the individual fly tipping it.

Business: Responsibilities under Duty of Care:
[Environmental Protection Act 1990,
section 34 (1) and (2)]

- Store waste safely in a suitable container.
When giving waste to a third party to dispose of, check their waste carrier's registration documents.
- Describe the waste fully and accurately.
- Complete and sign a waste transfer note.
- Report offences to the Environment Agency.

Householders: Responsibilities under Duty of Care:
[Environmental Protection Act 1990,
section 34 (2A)]

- Ask to see the company's waste carrier registration documents and make a note of the number or ring the Environment Agency for an Instant Waste Carrier Validation Check.
- Keep a copy of the Duty of Care waste transfer note.
- Take a note of the vehicle's registration number.
- Report offences to the Environment Agency.

Contact us:

Call: 0845 850 0 850
visit: www.hippowaste.co.uk
email: info@hippowaste.co.uk