

FACTSHEET



Site Waste Management Plans: What you need to know

Site Waste Management Plans (SWMPs) are a planning tool forming part of new legislation designed to reduce not only the amount of waste produced on construction sites but also reduce the volume of this material currently sent to landfill. They are likely to become compulsory for all construction projects costing over £300,000 from April 2008.

A SWMP will provide a focus on planning waste generation and disposal both before and during all stages of the construction process. Typically, the SWMP will identify:

- Who will be responsible for resource management
- What types and quantities of waste will be produced by a project
- How these waste materials will be managed in terms of re-use, recycling or recovery
- Which contractors will be appointed to handle the waste management process
- How the waste will be recorded and measured

Why are SWMPs being introduced?

Every year the construction industry creates 72 million tonnes of waste, the equivalent of 1.45 tonnes for every person in the UK (source CIRIA).

Site waste is harmful to the environment and costs the construction industry money.

A SWMP will help ensure legal obligations are met, work towards less waste materials being created and ultimately sent to landfill, ensure materials can be measured and managed more effectively (which will help drive cost savings), and provide valuable information for future project planning.

“SWMPs are a good tool for planning particularly where you have limited space such as on city centre projects.”

Vicky Walsh, Sir Robert McAlpine



If they aren't legislation until 2008, why use SWMPs now?

Not only does planning a comprehensive waste management strategy for construction projects demonstrate best practice, but there is also a strong corporate and financial business case for early compliance to the legislation that will ultimately cut costs from the bottom line and provide a forward thinking, competitive edge.

When the legislation is introduced, there are likely to be penalties for anyone failing to comply with them. For example, if a construction company fails to keep, produce or forge a SWMP they are likely to face a criminal conviction. Planning now helps you to be ahead of the game.

Who will SWMPs affect?

- Construction projects costing more than £300,000
- Everyone involved in the construction process throughout the supply chain – from design, to supply, to client, to construction company, to waste management company
- Environmental regulators e.g. Environment Agency and local authorities

What will SWMPs change?

The introduction of compulsory SWMPs is likely to change the way waste is handled, planned, measured and reported on. Hopefully incidents of waste crime will decrease, waste arisings will be reduced, more materials will be recycled, reused or used as energy sources, and less waste will be landfilled! Construction companies are likely to become more resource and waste aware and ideally, communication and early engagement between waste management companies and contractors should improve.

“If you are going to have to do it anyway, you may as well use it to make it work for you.”

Mervyn Jones, WRAP

Where to start – the 9 SWMP steps

1. Assign Responsibility	Identify who is responsible for the SWMP Who are the on-site champions
2. Identify Waste	Types and quantities likely Timings – when will waste be created Identify relevant EWC codes
3. Define Waste Management Options	Consider waste hierarchy (reduce, re-use, recover, recycle) Consider on or off-site options for handling waste
4. Identify Waste Management Services	Identify waste contractors Ensure legal compliance Define contractual requirements
5. Plan Waste Handling	Plan for efficient materials handling Consider segregation options Set targets
6. SWMP Communications and Training	Inductions and toolbox talks In-house and sub-contractor training
7. Measure Your Waste	Measure type, quantity, volume and tonnage of waste Record data Compare data against plan, targets and KPIs
8. Monitor Success	Consider updating SWMP Monitor and review progress Consider further training
9. Review and Learn	Review data, identify learning points Share learnings with appropriate colleagues Improve future efficiency Advertise success

Where does HIPPOWASTE™ fit in?

HIPPOWASTE™ is a leading authority on responsible waste handling for the construction industry, committed to environmentally responsible practice. Its flexible and practical alternative to the skip – the HIPPOBAG™ – is already being used on construction sites across the UK to increase operational efficiency and improve environmental performance.

The HIPPOBAG™ solution already fits perfectly with implementing an effective SWMP. The company is a licensed waste carrier, use of which is a requirement, and the bags are an ideal container for segregating waste at source. In addition, the company is extending its offering with bespoke SWMP packages providing a platform for effective resource management. HIPPOWASTE™ is therefore well placed to advise on and provide a strong offering for complying with SWMP legislation.



For more information at this stage on what steps you need to take to prepare for the introduction of SWMP, contact HIPPOWASTE™ on 0870 880 2430

contact us

Call: 0870 880 2430

Visit: www.hippowaste.co.uk

