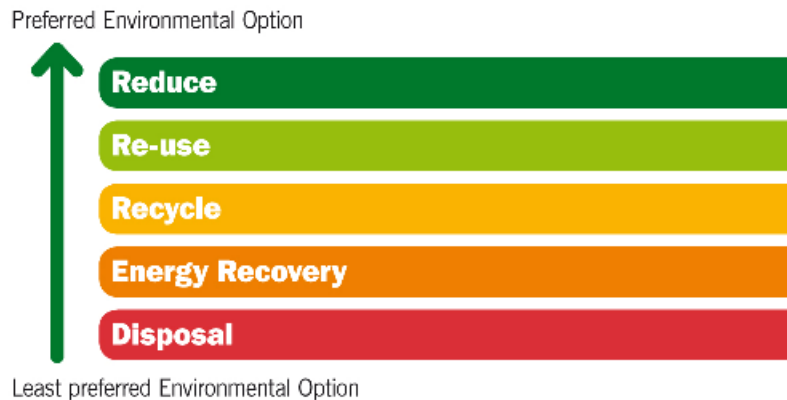


Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011

The Waste (England & Wales) Regulations 2011 - Waste Hierarchy, dealing with waste produced, and declarations on Waste Transfer Notes of Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) codes and compliance with the Waste Hierarchy.

The Waste Hierarchy



The Waste (England & Wales) Regulations 2011 were introduced on March 28th 2011, with certain sections coming into force with effect from September 28th 2011.

In addition to requirements on Government/Local Authorities for the establishment of Waste Prevention Programmes and Waste Management Plans, and new registration requirements for Waste Carriers, Brokers and Dealers, they also introduce new duties for those who import, produce, collect, transport, recover or dispose of waste, including a duty to take all reasonable measures to apply the Waste Hierarchy with regard to that waste.

The Waste Hierarchy in order of priority is as follows:

- **Prevention** – which means reducing the quantities of waste produced, as well as reducing the harmful content of products and the adverse impact of waste on the environment and health. This could be by improving efficiency and product design, keeping products for longer, and buying and selling used items as well as initiatives like reducing printing and using double sided printing, or donating equipment or products to charities for further use.
- **Preparation for Re-use** – e.g. sorting, cleaning, refurbishing or repair activities which allow for the recovery of the products or their components for re-use.
- **Recycling** – reprocessing materials or components. Covers segregating waste streams for others to collect and recycle (plastics, glass, metals, etc.) but could also include composting, or shredding paper for re-use as a packaging material for instance.
- **Other Recovery** – e.g. energy recovery such as gasification, anaerobic digestion, or possibly incineration.
- **Disposal** – Landfill, possibly incineration.

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For businesses who are producing waste it makes sense to keep records of what the organisation does to comply with the application of the Waste Hierarchy, in case you need to be able to demonstrate it to an Environmental Agency inspector, or if waste handling is part of an Environmental Permit.

Organisations transferring waste to a waste carrier are, since September 28th 2011, required to include on their Waste Transfer Notes a declaration that they have applied the Waste Hierarchy.

The other change under these Regulations with regard to the Waste Transfer Notes is for the producer to declare the 2007 SIC code for the process which gives rise to the waste. The SIC code is the Standard Industrial Classification code relevant to the business. The full list of SIC codes can be found at the Office for National Statistics website, or for an easier step-by-step approach to determining the SIC code try www.wastesupport.co.uk.

Where more than one SIC classification seems to apply then the code which should be used on the Waste Transfer notes is whichever sector description contributes most to the financial turnover of the business (which is normally the one under which they are listed with Companies House if they are a listed company).

The inclusion of SIC codes on Waste Transfer Notes has also been a requirement since September 28th 2011.

Hazardous Waste Consignment Notes

It has also been a requirement since September 28th 2011 for Hazardous Waste Consignment Notes to include a declaration that the producer/consignor has applied the Waste Hierarchy. However in the case of hazardous waste transfers you must continue to use the 2003 SIC code for the process which gave rise to the waste.