

Repak Clarifies Offering to Newly Obligated Companies Under Changes to Waste Regulations

(April 2007) Repak, the industry funded used packaging compliance scheme, has announced that it is offering newly obligated companies a compliance option that is cheaper than the registration cost of self compliance with Local Authorities.

Changes to the Waste Packaging Regulations, that are expected to be introduced by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, will see a lowering of the De Minimis or threshold for obligation from 25 tonnes to 10 tonnes. Under the new rules many Irish companies, who produce over 10 tonnes of used packaging and have a turnover of over 1 million, will have a legal duty to ensure the recycling of the packaging waste they put on the market.

The reduction in the tonnage threshold to 10 tonnes is currently in the final stages of consideration by government on foot of a recommendation by the Fitzpatrick Report for the National Waste Strategy Group on Packaging Waste Recycling. The report recommended the total removal of the tonnage threshold in order to bring more companies into the funding net and to make enforcement of the Packaging Regulations easier for Local Authorities. The changes will also help to spread the funding net wider than the existing 2,300 companies currently funding packaging recycling through Repak or Self Compliance. Repak has estimated that it alone will need approximately €45 million per year in revenue by 2011 to met future packaging recycling costs.

Newly obligated companies have two options to ensure they comply with the law: to either join Repak or to self comply.

In order to make compliance easier for the newly obligated companies Repak has developed an attractive single payment offer for scheduled member's i.e Independent retailers, hardware stores, hotels and SME's etc who are not brandholder/importers. This simple payment of a flat annual fee is possible as Repak gets most of its revenue from the primary packaging producers e.g. Brandholders/Importers. According to the organisation the annual fee will be less than the cost of registering with a local authority under self compliance.

The new offer from Repak includes:

- Flat Annual Fee of 400 euros.
- No joining fee or back fee for newly obligated companies
- Annual fee increases to be capped at a maximum of 5% for 3 years.

- Immediate Compliance under the Packaging Regulations
- No statistical reporting for scheduled members,
- Corporate and Social Responsibility Certification

(Full details in Notes to Editor)

Repak is working with respective trade bodies to develop tailored packaging audit matrixes for non brandholder/importers to help newly obligated companies determine if they exceed the 10 tonne De Minimis. Repak will charge a flat administration fee of €75.00 plus VAT, to provide a statement of opinion as to a company's potential obligation under the newly amended packaging regulations. The fee is fully refundable against Repak membership if a business is obligated and they subsequently decide to join Repak.

Commenting on the offer Andrew Hetherington, CEO, Repak said "The government changes to the legislation will mean that more companies will be brought into the net for funding packaging recycling in Ireland as part of producer obligation. This new funding will be critical to ensuring that Ireland meets its future EU Packaging Waste Recycling targets. Although much has been achieved to date, the future targets mean digging deeper and funding more packaging recycling particularly from household collections, which is extremely expensive. Many of the new companies who will be joining will be brandholder/importers who were not previously obligated. The Repak model is based on the principle of shared responsibility and levies the greatest charges on the primary producers i.e. Brandholders/importers who pay 80% of the fees into Repak. Our offer to newly obligated companies who are not Brandholder/importers is designed to make compliance as simple as possible while reflecting their position in the packaging chain."

Notes to the Editor

Full details of the Repak offer to newly obligated companies are:

- Annual Fees of 400 euros.
- No joining fee or back fee for newly obligated companies
- Annual fee increases to be capped at a maximum of 5% for 3 years.
- Immediate Compliance under the Regulations

- No statistical reporting for scheduled members,
- Repak are committed to working with trade and industry associations to develop and agree sectoral Ready Reckoners to assess the potential liability of a newly obligated businesses.
- There will be no charge to businesses which take the new Repak Ready Reckoner and subsequently join Repak or prove to be under 10 tonnes
- Corporate and Social Responsibility Certification
- Access to all Repak services and programmes (Best Practice Awards, Packaging Prevention Programme, Tidy Towns, National Spring Clean, Further Roll Out of Bring Bank Initiative, Carbon Footprinting)

About Repak

Repak is a not-for-profit voluntary member's based packaging recycling scheme established under a voluntary agreement between industry and the Department of the Environment and Local Government. It was established as industry's response to the obligations placed on Ireland by the EU directive on Packaging Waste (94/62/EC) and is the only government approved packaging compliance scheme under the Waste Management (Packaging) Regulations 1997. Repak succeeded in reaching and exceeding Ireland's EU National Packaging Recovery and Recycling Target of 25% of packaging waste in 2001 and also achieved and exceed Irelands' 2005 EU packaging recovery target of 50%, having achieved a packaging recycling rate of 56% in 2004 according to the EPA 2004 database.

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