

# Presentation of the Repak Yearbook

*Dick Roche, T.D., Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government and Andrew Hetherington, CEO, Repak*

Issue 1 • 2005

# review



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# Ireland gaining respect for packaging recycling at EU



Andrew Hetherington  
CEO, REPAK

*Results of Repak's 2004 activities are very positive. They confirm another top class performance, with all targets including new membership income, recycled tonnes and cost per recycled tonne being achieved – and exceeded in most cases. Avril Doyle, MEP says, 'It's now a pleasure to be a member of the EU Environment Committee and hear such glowing reports on Ireland's packaging recycling performance. This is due in no small part to Repak and its members' efforts in this regard.'*

A big 'thank you' to the members in particular for this superb outcome, and indeed, to all of Repak's staff and stakeholders for their part in this tremendous success.

- **Recycled c. 481,000 tonnes; +16% on 2003**
- Split: 81% commercial, 19% domestic
- Domestic: 92,000 tonnes; +24% on 2003
- Commercial: 389,000 tonnes; +14% on 2003
- **Recycled c. 47% of all packaging\***
- **Reduction of total cost per tonne by 30%**
- **Reduction in domestic subsidy from €127 per tonne to an average of €75 per tonne (41% reduction)**
- **Membership fees: €17.5m**
- **New membership income €2.14m (€1.56m non-recurring); through an additional 90 regular members and 200 independent members**
- **Achieved 760 new bring bank sites co-funded by Repak/DoEHLG**

**\*Based on EPA 2003 Database and Repak estimated projections**

2005 is a significant landmark year for Ireland, and by association, for Repak, inasmuch as the 50% recycling requirement kicks in this year. Having already achieved a recycling rate of c. 47% in 2004, I have no doubt that this milestone will be achieved – we have prepared the ground well and have worked with great determination towards reaching the 50% mark since 2001, when the 25% barrier was cleared.

I need hardly state that cost control is key to our future. Right throughout 2004

we relentlessly drove cost out of the business through every means possible. Over 80% of Repak's 2004 costs were allocated to subsidising tonnes, both commercial and domestic. It's no secret that 48% of Repak's recycling spend in 2004 went in support of the more costly domestic sector which yielded just 19% of total tonnes collected. It's a factor that Repak must carefully manage as the share of these costly tonnes from the domestic bin will continue to grow, year by year.

One must recognise the difficulties posed to Ireland's contracting recycling infrastructure by the closure of the Smurfit paper mill in Dublin earlier this year. Apart from the immediate loss of jobs, the closure further increases our dependence on overseas markets to an unhealthy degree. This adds greatly to the cost of verification of recycling for Repak as well as imposing high shipment costs to overseas markets for recovery operators – not the ideal situation for Ireland's recycling efforts.

In the current year Repak has a dynamic and challenging work programme lined up to ensure that we achieve Ireland's 50% overall packaging recovery target with a minimum of 15% of all materials. The programme will include:

- Playing a leading role with Government in the 6 year Strategy Group to develop an effective plan for the period 2006-2011 to ensure that Ireland meets the revised recycling targets set for 2011 under the current EU Directive on Packaging Waste
- Undertaking a comprehensive research study of members needs and attitudes to help shape the future structures of our membership communications
- Stepping up due diligence into traceability of end recycling markets

- Continuing to benchmark Repak costs against best practice in other EU compliance schemes
- Vigorously seeking further amendments to the Packaging Regulations to bring about a more equitable playing field, vis-à-vis self-compliers
- Pursuing meaningful compliance and enforcement in close co-operation with the OEE and local authorities
- Developing and implementing a plastic bottle collections strategy in conjunction with the Dublin area local authorities

For 2005, I am pleased to announce an initiative to expedite communications between Repak and all stakeholders. A new single A4 news sheet, "CEO to CEO" has been produced and circulated bi-monthly to the larger members, giving up to the minute news, views and reports on live issues and on current and planned activities involving Repak. I hope you will find it both interesting and informative.

## Repak Realities

- **The Repak model is a successful one with a proven track record of achievement**
- **The challenges facing us are not insurmountable**
- **Opportunities are there to be grasped**
- **We are controlling our costs**
- **Stakeholder solidarity is key**
- **2005 landmark targets will be achieved**

# Repak Green Christmas

*The Repak Green Christmas campaign has been running for the last three years in conjunction with local authorities around Ireland.*



In 2001, 11 local authorities participated in the campaign. In 2004 Repak worked with 31 local authorities and co-funded the promotion of over 80 Green Christmas Recycling Centres which were open to the public. Race Against Waste again agreed to support Repak Green Christmas by providing additional funding to all participating local authorities. In total over 17,297 tonnes of used packaging were recycled between December 2004 and January 2005.

The overall aim of the Repak Green Christmas initiative is to encourage householders to embrace the recycling habit by making it as easy as possible to recycle the 30% extra cardboard, paper, glass, plastic and cans generated over the Christmas period. The initiative

aims to persuade people to make a firm New Year's resolution to keep recycling.

The Repak Green Christmas Campaign was supported by a nationwide awareness programme on TV and local press in conjunction with local authorities. In addition there were full details of opening hours of the Green Christmas centres and materials handled available on our website [www.repak.ie](http://www.repak.ie), building banners on the Repak offices and a comprehensive national and local PR campaign.

Repak members with significant staff numbers and large sites were asked to allocate an area for temporary recycling facilities at their premises for employee use. The aim of this was to provide a convenient outlet for employees to recycle their excess holiday packaging, thus minimising the strain placed on recycling facilities in the local area and maximising the amount of used packaging collected over the Christmas period.



#### Statistical Training Clinics \*

May 19th  
June 2nd, 16th & 30th  
July 14th & 28th  
August 11th & 25th  
September 8th & 22nd  
October 6th & 20th  
November 3rd & 17th  
December 1st & 15th

#### Service Providers' Conference

Wednesday, 25th May 2005  
Tullamore Court Hotel

#### Repak Members' Conference

Thursday, 30th June 2005  
Great Southern Hotel, Dublin Airport

#### Statistical Returns Deadline – 1st half 2005

31st July 2005

#### Repak Recycling Awards

Wednesday, 5th October 2005  
Four Seasons Hotel, Dublin

#### Repak Recycling Week

3rd - 10th October

\* Repak Statistical Training Clinics take place @ the Repak offices from 10am to 12.30pm approx. Please note these dates are subject to change and require advance booking to secure a place.

## Repak Members' Conference 2005

The 2005 Repak Members' Conference will be held in the Great Southern Hotel, Dublin Airport on Thursday, 30th of June and all members are welcome to attend. Further details will be provided on the content and speakers over the coming weeks and we look forward to meeting you all there.

2005 is a landmark year in ensuring that the EU target of 50% of packaging is recovered/recycled. Repak are confident that this will be achieved. In meeting Ireland's targets, Repak's 2,000 members should be proud of their achievements.

# 'Eggsactly' what Ireland needs

## - 5 Million Easter Eggs Recycled

- *Irish households eat over 1 million kg of chocolate over the Easter period*
- *375,000 kg of used Easter egg packaging was generated*

This year over 5 million Easter eggs were bought as presents while Easter festivities saw 15 million beverage cans and 1 million bottles of wine consumed. Repak carried out research in March amongst 1,200 Irish adults in advance of the launch of the Repak Easter packaging recycling campaign which revealed the following purchasing patterns amongst Irish consumers:

- 7 out of 10 people viewed Easter eggs as the most popular Easter gift
- Just over half of all Easter eggs are bought for children or teenagers under 18 years of age, a third are

bought for adults and 17% buy Easter eggs for themselves.

- According to 6 out of 10 people, chocolate quantity is the number one factor that determines choice of Easter eggs, while 1 in 3 opt for presentation.
- The packaging element most likely to be recycled is the cardboard (7 in 10), followed by plastic (almost 1 in 2) and foil (about a quarter).

According to Darrell Crowe, Marketing Manager, Repak, "Easter is a special time of celebration and gift giving, but as a result a lot of additional used packaging is generated. Our research showed that three quarters of those who give Easter eggs claim they recycle some part of their packaging. We are calling on

everyone to make a special effort this Easter to recycle as much used packaging as possible either through household dry recyclable collection bins, bring banks or at the nearest bring centre or civic amenity site."

Repak issued a press release prior to Easter detailing the above research results urging all households to prevent valuable materials ending up in landfill and to recycle as much used packaging as possible. The release featured in the following: The Irish Times, The Examiner, The Star, The Sun, The Mirror and Morning Ireland.



## Repak's 2005 Sponsorship of Tidy Towns

*The Tidy Towns competition has been running in Ireland for over 50 years and each year attracts more than 700 local communities who compete for a cash award and the title of "Ireland's Tidiest Town".*



This year Repak are delighted to be sponsoring a new category called 'Best Presented Bring Bank' in which there will be seven regional winners and one overall winner. In addition, on behalf of its members, Repak will continue to sponsor the seven overall regional Tidy Towns awards.

It has been 10 years since the competition was taken over by the Department of the Environment, Heritage & Local Government and to mark this special anniversary, the total prize money has increased by almost 20% to over €180,000 – the largest prize fund ever.

## National Spring Clean 2005

National Spring Clean is Ireland's largest anti-litter initiative. Supported by An Taisce and funded by the Department of the Environment, Heritage & Local Government, Repak, on behalf of its members, are proud sponsors of the campaign. 2005 looks set to break all past records with over 1,000 groups already registered to participate in this year's campaign.

All groups participating in National Spring Clean are issued with a free clean up kit which contains information and materials that are helpful when organising a clean up. Included in the kit are colour-coded refuse sacks provided by Repak for collecting recyclables such as cans and plastic bottles. Last year due to the colour-coded bags supplied by Repak, over 23% of the material collected was recycled.



Gary Miller, The Wrigley Company; Batt O'Keeffe, T.D. Minister of State at the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government; Patricia Oliver, Chairperson of NSC; Mo Durkan, Coca-Cola Bottlers Ireland; Belinda Byrne, Repak

# 2004 Recovery Performance

Table 1 below displays the used packaging recovery performance to date in terms of tonnes per material type. This material is collected from two source sectors; industry's back door and the domestic waste stream (bring and household kerbside collection networks).

**Table 1: 2004 Waste Packaging Recovery and Recycling Performance**

Waste Packaging Material Type	2004 Est. Waste Arising Tonnes adjusted for contam <sup>1</sup>	15% Min. Recovery Guideline Target/material <sup>2</sup>	RPS tonnes recovered	% Recovery /Material <sup>3</sup>
Paper & cardboard	483,211	74,995	200,523	42
Glass	139,226	20,961	87,717	63
Plastic	186,468	33,286	39,000	21
Metals	92,561	14,818	45,653	49
Wood/Textiles	112,114	16,817	106,019	95
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,013,579</b>		<b>478,912</b>	<b>47</b>

<sup>1</sup> 2004 Waste packaging arising based on the EPA published 2003 NWDR extrapolated for population growth per 2002 CSO data.

<sup>2</sup> The figures in column 2 are only guideline targets at this stage. They are not mandatory until 31st December 2005.

<sup>3</sup> The final recovery figure is a forecast figure as the EPA are due to report the 2004 waste arising figures by December 2005.

The 2004 used packaging recovery figures continue to show improvement. Recovery for recycling from industry's back door has seen a 15% increase over 2003 figures and used household packaging has increased by 24%.

Continued support and funding by Repak, together with recent government legislative and enforcement improvements will see the achievement of the 2005 landmark packaging waste recovery and recycling targets.



## 2005 Packaging Recovery Targets

Table 2 below display the Repak recovery targets for used packaging in 2005.

**Table 2: 2005 Repak Recovery Targets of Used Packaging**

Material	Back Door	Household	Material Targets
Paper+cardboard	202,000	44,925	246,925
Glass	40,000	54,375	94,375
Plastic	32,000	6,000	38,000
Metals	39,400	5,700	45,100
Wood/Textiles	110,600	0	110,600
<b>Total(s)</b>	<b>424,000</b>	<b>111,000</b>	<b>535,000</b>

The amount of used packaging that needs to be recovered to satisfy the national 50% recovery target is undetermined by the EPA at this time. The EPA publishes the National Waste Database Report every three years. Interim reports are published after the first 18 months. Repak estimates that approx. 535,000 tonnes of used packaging need to be recovered to contribute towards the achievement of the 50% recovery target. Additional contributions of tonnage recovery will come from the increasing number of self-compliers who report to local authorities. Repak are confident that the 2005 national recovery targets will be satisfied.

# 6-Year Strategy Group Update



*The NSGPWR (National Strategy Group on Packaging Waste Recycling) had its first meeting in October 2004 with a mandate to develop an effective programme for the period 2006-2011 to ensure that Ireland will meet the revised recycling targets set for 2011 under the current EU Directive on Packaging Waste.*

The strategy group is co-chaired by Adrian Goodrich, Chairman of Repak and Tom O'Mahoney, Assistant Secretary of the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government. Representatives from both industry and the public sector are members of the NSGPWR and the model is based on partnership with all key stakeholders working together to ensure that Ireland's objectives are achieved. This replicates the model which has worked successfully with the current Five Year Strategy Group (2001-2005), with Ireland currently positioned to meet its targets for 2005.

The initial task undertaken by the NSGPWR was to review and amend the Packaging Regulations. It was decided to do this review in two phases. The first phase focused on a number of key areas which needed to be tightened up. This phase was completed on 30th December 2004, with the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government signing off on a number of amendments to the regulations. Phase two of the review process involves a comprehensive policy review of a number of areas; self-compliance registration fees and arrangements

relating to the purchase of packaging waste by self compliers. This review is ongoing and it was the main item on the agenda of the NSGPWR when they held their first meeting of 2005 on Wednesday 9th of March. It was a lively debate with strong views being expressed on all sides. Steady progress was made but there are still some difficult issues to be resolved. On a positive note however, all participants are of the view that it is essential that at the end of the current review process we will have robust regulations which will ensure a level playing field for all.

At their recent meeting, the NSGPWR also outlined a programme of work and a timeframe to develop and sign off the strategy before year end. It is envisaged that the new strategy for 2006-2011 will be launched by the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government in December 2005.

## NSGPWR Industry Representatives

REPRESENTATIVE	ORGANISATION
John O'Loughlin	Smurfit Corrugated Ireland
Eugene Heary	Batchelors Limited
David Ramsay	C&C Ireland
Tony Keohane	Tesco Ireland
John Curran	Musgrave Group
Kieran Mullins	Onyx Ireland Limited



*This new development in assisting Irish industry to help identify methods of improving environmental performance is a symptom of the issues facing companies today.*

Topical and current issues such as obtaining outlets for waste; rising costs; increasing legislative burdens and tightening limits on water and air emissions; growing customer demands for minimum product consequences are exercising the minds of Irish business and environmental professionals.

Lack of formal knowledge and technical skills in this regard are

key barriers to waste prevention and minimisation. IBEC, in conjunction with the EPA and the Clean Technology Centre (CTC) have developed a new certified programme to address this need. This programme is primarily aimed at individuals, at either a technical or supervisory level, charged with waste prevention or minimisation strategies within their own organisation or for clients. A certain level of relevant experience or technical knowledge of waste management issues will be required.

This certified course will provide participants with an opportunity to network with other companies on waste prevention issues and the ability to identify and quantify the causes and effects of waste

generation from their processes, products and services throughout their life cycle.

The course is run over an eight-month period from April to November 2005. The programme will be delivered through seven days of face to face tuition, 60 hours of directed self-study and a workplace based project with two associated tutorial days. Following successful completion of the course, participants will be provided with certification by Cork Institute of Technology.

For further enquiries contact: Catherine Dolan or Erik O'Donovan in IBEC (Tel: 01-6051605, Fax: 01-6381605 or e-mail: [catherine.dolan@ibec.ie](mailto:catherine.dolan@ibec.ie)/[erik.o'donovan@ibec.ie](mailto:erik.o'donovan@ibec.ie))

## OEE Update

*Late in 2004, responsibility for the administration of the Local Authority Enforcement Network was transferred from the DOEHLG to the Office of Environmental Enforcement (OEE); the new dedicated body established within the EPA to monitor the implementation and enforcement of environmental legislation in Ireland. In effect, the OEE now oversees enforcement of the Packaging Regulations, via the local authorities.*

One of the first tasks undertaken by the OEE was the establishment of a Packaging Waste Working Group charged with drawing up a protocol to guide local authorities in the enforcement of the Packaging Regulations. This body comprised representatives from the OEE, local authorities and Repak, and completed work on drawing up the protocol in November 2004 after a series of preparatory meetings.

Regular meetings of the Local Authority Enforcement Network are now held under the chairmanship of Andy Fanning of the OEE. At these meetings, enforcement officers drawn from the 34 local authorities report on progress against lists of prospective, obligated non-compliers based on intelligence gathered from a variety of sources.

To date, good progress has been made by the network in identifying major producers who are operating outside the law and Repak will continue to press for more action in this area. Most of these non-compliers are now getting the clear message from the Enforcement Network - to simply do nothing is no longer an option. To judge from the volume of membership enquiries flowing into Repak, this new strategy by the statutory enforcement authorities is moving in the right direction.



*JFC Manufacturing Co. has been manufacturing quality plastic products at their plant in Tuam, Co. Galway since 1987.*

Through its plants in Tuam and Stratford-upon-Avon and their plastic recycling plant in St. Helens, Merseyside, JFC has closed the loop on recycling plastic bottles. JFC recycle the plastic HDPE bottles

used to manufacture JFC CorriPipe, which is made from 100% post-consumer recycled plastic. They even make bottle banks in which to collect the bottles!



The JFC CorriPipe is a twin wall high density polyethylene (HDPE) drainage pipe manufactured by a twin extrusion process. Two high-density polyethylene pipes are extruded simultaneously, one inside

the other and heat-welded together in one continuous process. The outer wall is corrugated while the inner wall is smooth finished. It is a combination of the corrugations and the heat

welding of the two walls that give CorriPipe its unique strength necessary in a lightweight pipe which can be installed up to 10 metres deep while its smoother inner wall ensures increased flow capacity. It benefits the environment both in its production and installation.

JFC is providing a guaranteed sustainable end market for collected waste plastic bottles in the production of JFC CorriPipe. With backing from Enterprise Ireland, an investment of €2.5 million will be made in a research and development unit and in the expansion of the production of the CorriPipe at its Tuam plant.

The lifecycle of a plastic bottle continues once it's deposited in a bottle bank. Its journey then takes it to the JFC state-of-the-art recycling plant at St. Helens. Several Irish firms were involved in collecting the 5,000 tonnes of plastic bottles recovered last year and are selling them on to JFC. Once bottles are debaled and washed, they are further sorted into two independent process lines, one for recovering polyethylene terephthalate (PET) and another for HDPE. The bottles are then processed into

granules. They are broken down into two forms – HDPE pellets and PET flake. The flake goes onto garment manufacturers while the pellets go to the Tuam and Stratford plants to manufacture JFC CorriPipe.

JFC CorriPipe have been used in major road construction schemes such as the N52 Mullingar Bypass, N18 Ennis Bypass, the M1 Dundalk Western Bypass, N4 Sligo Inner Relief Road and N15 Ballyshannon/Bundoran Bypass as well as being used by various county councils.

This year 10,000 tonnes of plastic bottles will be processed by JFC, rising to 20,000 tonnes by 2008. The demand for JFC CorriPipe is growing and subsequently the need for plastic bottles to feed the pipe machines is currently in excess of 500,000 bottles per day. In the future JFC will be actively seeking to source Irish recycled plastic bottles for the manufacture of CorriPipe. JFC are well positioned to help the environment in a very positive way while creating employment and an excellent end product.

## Closure of Paper Mill

*Jefferson Smurfit Group recently announced the closure of the Smurfit Paper Mill in Dublin, with the loss of 58 full-time and 12 part-time jobs. The mill has been in operation for 51 years.*

The decision follows a detailed review of the mill's operation, which has become uncompetitive due to a number of key factors, including reduced market pricing, increased energy costs, higher environmental charges and changing market requirements for packaging paper grades.

The closure of the Smurfit Paper Mill in Dublin is a significant blow for recycling in Ireland, according to Repak. The closure further erodes Ireland's ability to recycle used packaging and removes the capacity to recycle 40,000 tonnes of paper and cardboard. This equates to approximately 10% of all used packaging collected for

recycling or c.20% of the 176,000 tonnes cardboard/paper packaging in Ireland in 2003, which will now have to be exported for recycling.

According to Andrew Hetherington, CEO, Repak, "This announcement further increases our reliance on overseas markets, which diminishes our control and increases the complexity and costs of recycling. The combined closure of Irish Glass and Smurfit's reduces our indigenous recycling capacity by approximately 90,000 tonnes per annum. However, Ireland is still well positioned to meet our next round of EU packaging recycling targets and although we have few indigenous recyclers left, the collection and processing function continues to grow in strength. The reality is that cardboard and paper collected will continue to be recycled but now unfortunately, recycled abroad."

*Ireland's municipal waste management is undergoing fundamental change, moving quickly from a primitive one-dimensional approach historically dependant on landfill towards ever improving achievements in recycling, recovery, minimisation and prevention.*

There are many factors driving this change as outlined in the previous newsletter. To remind you these include:

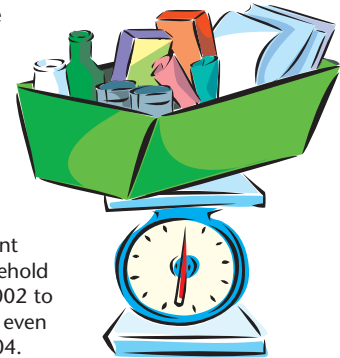
- **Growing levels of municipal waste being produced (up 233% from 1986-2003 levels)**
- **High dependency on landfill**
- **Landfill capacity is diminishing rapidly**
- **Increased cost of landfill disposal (c. €100-€200/tonne)**
- **Low recycling rates (13% - 2003 NWDR figures)**

As from 1st January this year Pay by Weight systems for household waste have been introduced nationwide. This means that in some parts of Ireland, householders now pay an annual service charge of up to €140 per annum for the provision of collections services for their residual waste. In addition they must pay €0.33/kg for the residual waste they deposit in their bins.

A critical element of the acceptance and use of the system is the engagement and support of the householder. Pay by Weight systems place greater emphasis on waste education showing increased recycling rates and providing strong financial incentives to recycle. Recycling awareness information programmes such as Repak National Recycling Week, Repak Green Christmas, the ongoing government Race Against Waste campaign and Repak's support

of the local authority Environmental Awareness Officer network will all assist in the enlightenment the public.

It is too early to evaluate the success or otherwise of the Pay by Weight (PBW) system. However, research reveals that in West Cork when PBW was initially trialled, a reduction of 43% in the amount of waste sent to landfill occurred between 2002 and 2004. The amount of waste produced per household dropped from 1,300kg in 2002 to 850kg in 2003. It decreased even further then to 740kg in 2004. Presently Ireland's average waste per household is 1,240kg – a significant challenge lies ahead to reach the levels attained in West Cork. An even greater challenge would be to match the 442kg that Swedish households produce per annum.



## Are you confident you are fully compliant with Waste Management legislation?

*During the last number of months, Repak have noticed increased enforcement activity from local authorities in relation to legal obligations facing industry under the Waste Management legislation.* Such increased activity has been very welcome particularly in identifying obligated major producers who are non-compliant with the Packaging Regulations and who are neither Repak registered nor self-compliant.

In conjunction with this, there have been increased levels of spot checks of Repak members to ensure that:

- **The correct signage is on display (note the new change to the amended regulations requiring all major producers to display the A3 notice at or near the public access entrance)**
- **All business units are being declared under existing Repak membership and have the appropriate signage on display**
- **The specified materials under the Packaging Regulations are being adequately segregated and made available for recycling**

- **No illegal burning is taking place on the premises**

Repak would urge all its members to take stock of the above requirements and ensure that none of them are overlooked in order to avoid potential prosecutions by your local authority. In particular, large companies who have many subsidiaries are asked to ensure that each of them is correctly registered with Repak and is being reported for correctly through the packaging data returns. Remember, if your subsidiary company is not registered with Repak, it is not covered legally under your membership.

If you have not completed and returned your Annual Waste Management Plan, please do so now as a lot of the above items are contained in the plan and will help focus your attention to ensure nothing is being overlooked.

Should you have any doubts over your obligations relating to the above, please contact Tony or Liam in Membership Services to seek clarification. (Tel: **01-4670190** or e-mail: [tony.obrien@repak.ie](mailto:tony.obrien@repak.ie) / [liam.moloney@repak.ie](mailto:liam.moloney@repak.ie))

## Changes to the Packaging Regulations

*On December 23rd 2004 Dick Roche, TD, Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government signed new Packaging Regulations to commence with effect on December 30th 2004.*

The new regulations make a number of changes to the existing 2003 Packaging Regulations, under which 'major producers' of packaging waste are required to take steps individually to collect and recover packaging waste (i.e. self-comply) or alternatively, gain exemption from those and other prescribed obligations by contributing to and participating in a packaging waste compliance scheme approved by the Minister.

The main change in the new regulations is an increase in the registration fees payable by self-complying 'major producers' to local authorities. The previous maximum fee of €5,000 per premises from which packaging or packaging products are supplied has now been raised to €15,000 per premises.

The fee revision should be regarded as an interim arrangement pending the completion of a comprehensive policy review of the self-compliance fee structure which will include examining the 'purchase' of packaging waste for the purpose of fulfilling certain of the self-compliance obligations under the regulations.

It is expected that the new regulations will be ready for signing in late summer/early autumn.

As concluded in the Minister's press release on signing the new regulations, "Repak members have been faced with significantly increased membership fees in the last two years. In order to ensure a more level playing field, it is only fair that those 'major producers' not participating in the Repak scheme should also be faced with increased compliance costs under the Packaging Regulations".

In addition, the new regulations require self-compliers to place notices in local newspapers in March and September advertising their take-back facilities and their obligation to take back from members of the public. To supplement this new provision local authorities are also required to take out an advertisement at least once a year.

Minister Roche said that his Department will be carrying out a comprehensive policy review in relation to the self-compliance registration fees. The review will also include consideration of all aspects of the arrangements relating to the 'purchase' of packaging waste for the purpose of fulfilling certain of the self-compliance obligations under the regulations. It is expected that the new regulations will be ready for signing in late summer/early autumn.



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