

AIPOLG

Agencies' and Industry Packaging Operational Liaison Group

23rd June 2010

Hosted by Novelis at Warrington

Attendees

Industry

Jeremy Bacon (compliance scheme), Sandeep Attwal (compliance scheme), Rosemary Campbell (direct registrant), Tom Hemesley (direct registrant), Andy Doran (reprocessor).

Agencies

Sue Stocks (EA), Carly Chambers (EA), Patrick McKell (SEPA), Howard Thorp (EA) Steven Skitt (EA)

Apologies

Adrian Hawkes (compliance scheme), Jeremy Young (reprocessor), Larry Mantel (reprocessor) Nathaniel Chalamanda (SEPA), Eugene Kelly (NIEA)

1. Introductions

1.1 The industry membership of AIPOLG has been refreshed and the new members were welcomed. Andy Doran was thanked for his contribution as a leaving member and also for hosting the meeting.

1.2 Sue Stocks explained that AIPOLG was set up as a means for industry to discuss the day to day work that the agencies carry out and the way that industry is regulated under the current set of regulations.

2. Terms of reference

2.1 The amended terms of reference (v3 June 2010) were discussed and no concerns were raised.

2.1 Any amendments to the details on the representatives list (v3) and inclusion of interests to be forwarded to Steven Skitt.

Action: All

2.3 AIPOLG will be highlighted to industry by contacting all direct registrants, reproprocessors / exporters and compliance schemes by e-mail. The terms of reference, meeting notes and representatives list will be included.

Action: S Skitt

2.4 Future meetings

Thursday 9th September 2010 – Environment Agency, Sheffield

Wednesday 8th December 2010 - Telecon

3. Metrics and regulators activity

3.1 Carly Chambers gave an overview of the 2009 obligation and recycling figures for the UK and initial observations on the 2010 figures. The main points being;

2009 compliance

All 23 compliance schemes met their obligation

367 of the 378 direct registrants met their obligation.

The obligation of the 11 DR's that did not purchase all PRN's was 4,498 t. The majority of which was due to companies going into administration.

2008 v 2009 Reprocessors and exporters

2008 - 6.9 million tonnes of PRN's/PERN's were issued generating £64.1M revenue

2009 - 7.0 million tonnes of PRN's/PERN's were issued generating £84.2M revenue

The increase in revenue was mainly due to steel evidence.

2009 v 2010* obligation

2009 – 6820 producers with an obligation of 6.8 Million tonnes.

2010 – 6480 producers with an obligation of 6.7 Million tonnes.

2009 v 2010 comparison (EA only) identified that there were 256 new producers registered and there were 512 drop-offs. 262 of the drop-offs supplied a satisfactory reason and the remaining 250 are being investigated.

*2010 obligation is likely to change as new producers register throughout the year.

recovery and recycling

The total variation between recycling in Q1 2009 and Q1 2010 is negligible, with an increase of 6% reprocessed and a decrease of 6% exported.

The following specific materials did have a notable change:

glass exports ↓

steel reprocessing and exports ↑

efw ↑

paper composting ↑

wood composting ↑

3.2 EA activity for 2010

2010 registrations, assessment of compliance schemes operational plans including code of practice (CoP) routine desktop monitoring of schemes, reprocessors and exporters. Monitoring UK data, risk profiled scheme audits and continued investigation of public register drop-offs.

3.3 SEPA activity for 2010.

SEPA will undertake producer audits on basis of quarter of all Scottish based producers (84), 105 free rider monitoring activities, 6 scheme audits and 25 routine compliance inspections of accredited reprocessors and exporters.

3.4 NIEA activity for 2010.

NIEA is planning to implement its monitoring plan as published at the start of the year, which is: 4 scheme audits, 100 producer visits, 150 free rider visits, and audits to be carried out at all reprocessors and exporters.

4. Industry Feedback on Regulators Activity, Process & Guidance

Guidance

4.1 The question was raised on how do the Agencies publicise the packaging regulations, particularly to companies that go over the thresholds for the first time. It was explained that funding for campaigns comes from government and that over the last couple of years publicising the WEEE regulations has been a priority. However campaigns have been organised locally in the past and if funding is available a National campaign to promote the packaging regulations would be organised later in the year. It was thought however that contacting companies that go over the £2m threshold for the first time could be an option. It was also suggested that the Agencies contact new registrants to find out how they heard about the regulations.

Action: PRSS to contact companies house to see if it is possible to send information to companies that go over the £2M turnover PRRS

Action: Agencies to contact new registrants for information PRRS

Concern was raised over the packaging users guide on the DEFRA website, which is now 7 years old and parts of which are out of date due to changes in the regulations. This will be raised with DEFRA with a request to remove the guide off the website until a new one is produced and replaced with a link to NETREGS.

Action: request to DEFRA to remove the guide until updated and replace with a link to NETREGS Andy Doran via ACP

There is a lot of guidance on the regulations and how to register on the Agencies website at the following link: <http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/business/topics/waste/32212.aspx>

NETREGS, which is promoted to industry is also a good source of all Environmental information: <http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/netregs/>

Regulators Activity

4.1 The EA have been working with compliance schemes to introduce a Code of Practice (CoP) This is voluntary and requires compliance schemes to operate to higher standards than are currently required in the regulations. So far 10 schemes have signed up to the practice with a further 5 agreeing in principle.

Compliance schemes risk profile their members and it was thought that this information could be used for the Agencies to target their producer audits.

Action: Agencies to discuss with compliance schemes Agencies

4.2 Concern was raised about lost obligation due to contracted out packer filling, particularly manufacturers using glass bottles eg cider makers. It is common practice for companies to buy bottles and then pass to larger companies within the industry to fill them. As the "filler" does not own the bottles they would not pick up the obligation. It was thought the smaller company may not be aware of their obligations and have not registered.

Action: Nathaniel Chalamanda to investigate to see how big a problem it likely to be. Nathaniel Chalamanda

4.3 It was confirmed that when the EA audit a compliance scheme member a copy of the report will be sent to the compliance scheme. The EA will also check that an automated e-mail notification to the scheme via NPWD is generated when a re-submission has been requested.

Action: reinforce the message to all EA staff

PRRS

Action: check that NPWD automated re-submission e-mail is working

PRRS

4.4 The release of business contact details of compliance scheme members under the FOI / EIR regulations was discussed. It was noted that SEPA do not currently release this information, whereas the EA do. The EA have looked into this and legally they have to release the information and the reason why SEPA do not was probably due to a difference in case law between England and Scotland.

5. Regulatory and technical issues

No issues were raised.

6. AOB

No other items raised.