

Legislation Outlook

March 2021

This monthly legislation briefing is a **supplement** to your Activ Comply service to help you to **plan ahead** for maintenance of your ISO 14001, OHSAS 18001/ISO 45001, ISO 50001 and ISO 27001 systems. In addition to giving you advance warning about important legislation that will affect your compliance with the standards, we'll provide news, newly-published guidance and government consultations that you might find useful, as well as any other significant legislation beyond the scope of the standards listed that will potentially impact your organisation. Unlike other services, we only report items of value: we don't waste your time on items such as an increase in administrative fees or changes that only affect enforcement agencies.

When legislative changes are announced with short notice (<1 month) they are not reported here. All changes are automatically delivered direct into your [Activ Comply](#) system as they come into effect so you can be confident that you are always 100% up to date.

Spring is in the air, vaccines are being administered at an astonishing rate and coronavirus infection rates are dropping. Is normality finally returning? The UK Government and devolved administrations are taking a cautious approach to reducing restrictions – Activ Comply will keep you informed over the coming months as regulations and guidance change.

Upcoming Standard-Related Legislation

ISO 14001

Bee Diseases and Pests Control (Scotland) Amendment Order 2021

This [Order](#) comes into force on 21 April 2021. It requires persons responsible for bee hives to report the presence of Varroa mites to the Scottish Ministers. Varroa mites are an ectoparasite of honey bees and cause varroosis, an endemic disease in the UK and present in most bee hives in Scotland. It also makes provision for the sending of samples to the Scottish Ministers for identification. The Scottish Government hopes that reporting the presence of Varroa mites will provide an opportunity to gather information to inform future policy, make strategic decisions on controls for Varroa and reduce its incidence as well as its spread.

Heather and Grass etc. Burning (England) Regulations 2021

These [Regulations](#) come into force on 1 May 2021. They prohibit a person from burning any heather, rough grass, bracken, gorse or vaccinium on areas of peat over 40 centimetres deep in a site that is both:

- a site of special scientific interest as specified in the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981; and
- a European site as specified in the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017,

unless an exception set out in the Regulations applies, or the burning is carried out under, and in accordance with, a licence issued by the Secretary of State.

Remember: short-notice changes to legislation are not reported in this briefing; all changes are delivered direct into your Activ Comply system as they come into effect.

Guidance

First Aid

The Health and Safety Executive have updated their [guidance](#) on First Aid at Work (FAW) and Emergency First Aid at Work (EFAW) training to temporarily omit rescue breaths while coronavirus infection rates remain high. The temporary omission of rescue breaths has been supported by the Resuscitation Council UK in relation to most FAW and EFAW courses. However, training providers who are satisfied that they are able to safely deliver practical teaching and assessment of rescue breaths may continue to do so.

Employers should ensure that any FAW or EFAW training course that does not include practical teaching of rescue breaths includes:

- a practical demonstration by the trainer themselves and/or a video demonstration of rescue breath techniques;
- full training in the theory for giving rescue breaths; and
- assurance from the training provider that the student is competent to give rescue breaths, as far as can be expected without being assessed in practice.

Consultations

Chemicals

The Health and Safety Executive, acting in their capacity as the UK REACH Agency, are seeking views on their [draft statement](#) outlining their approach to gathering and using independent scientific knowledge and advice (ISA) to inform relevant Agency opinions. A short [survey](#) about the ISA statement will be available until 10 March 2021.

Clean Heat Grant

The Department of Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy have issued a [consultation](#) seeking views on further policy proposals for the Clean Heat Grant before the final scheme design is confirmed later this year. The proposals covered in the consultation are:

- minimum insulation requirements;
- biomass eligibility and 'hard to treat' buildings;
- voucher application process; and
- clarification on their approach to new-build eligibility.

The consultation ends on 5 March 2021.

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