

Legislation Outlook

April 2026



This monthly legislation briefing will help you plan for the maintenance of your ISO 14001, ISO 22301, ISO 27001, ISO 45001 and ISO 50001 systems. We will provide advance warning about important legislation that will affect compliance with these standards, including relevant news, newly published guidance and government consultations, and any other significant legislation beyond the scope of the standards listed, which may potentially impact your organisation. We don't waste your time on items such as an increase in administrative fees, we only report on items of value.

This month sees amendments to permitted development rights, the introduction of new measures to protect and improve the environment in Scotland, proposed changes to the PRN/PERN system for waste and recycling, and a consultation on the proposals for permitted development rights for onshore wind turbines.

Upcoming Standard-Related Legislation

ISO 14001

Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (Amendment) (Wales) Order 2026

This Order comes into force partially on 1st June 2026 and amends the permitted development rights in Schedule 2 to the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 to:

- introduce Class BA, Part 4, a new permitted development right for temporary recreational campsites, which is subject to conditions and limitations;
- update Part 40 (installation of domestic microgeneration equipment). For air source heat pumps (Class G), size and number limits are adjusted and the circumstances in which installations can count as permitted development are expanded, including for blocks of flats. It also changes the condition so that a heat pump must not be used solely for cooling, meaning mixed heating and cooling use is allowed; and

0333 301 9003

legal@myactiv.co.uk

myactiv.co.uk



- update the definitions for dwellinghouse, flat, block of flats, detached and detached dwellinghouse (paragraph J, Part 40).

The remaining provisions of this Order come into force on 1st September 2026 to update Class B, Part 4 (temporary buildings and uses) so that land cannot generally be used for siting caravans unless the caravan is a motor vehicle adapted for habitation and is used in connection with a festival. It also makes clear that camping is not allowed under Class B unless linked to a festival.

Natural Environment (Scotland) Act 2026

The aim of this Act of the Scottish Parliament is to prevent and counter nature loss in Scotland in various ways. These include:

- a mandatory requirement on the Scottish Ministers to set legally binding targets for nature restoration;
- giving the Scottish Ministers powers to make regulations to help national parks restore and regenerate biodiversity;
- increased powers for NatureScot to intervene in deer management for nature restoration;
- strengthening of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 to better manage seas in the face of climate change, including updating a number of criminal offences relating to fisheries;
- introducing a requirement on the Scottish Ministers to make regulations within 12 months of the coming into force of the relevant provision of the Act making provisions for the installation of swift nest boxes in the buildings identified within the regulations; and
- measures to address unsustainable levels of deer populations to protect forests and peatlands.

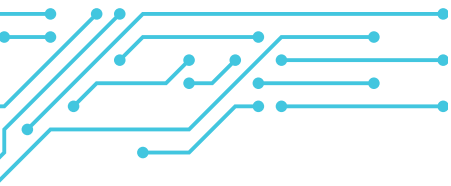
A commencement date for the Act has not yet been published.

Consultations

Reforming the Packing Waste Recycling Note (PRN) System

DEFRA has published a consultation seeking views on the PRN/PERN system for waste and recycling in order to create a new fit and proper person test, increase regulatory charges, detailed reporting requirements and provisions relating to the 'recyclable proportion' of waste. They are looking to reform the following areas:

- ensuring that the recyclable proportion, upon which PRNs/PERNs are raised, is consistently measured at the same point in the recycling process to ensure that there is a level playing field between domestic re-processors and exporters;



- ensuring national protocols and Agency Agreed Industry Grades (AAIGs) remain up to date by requiring them to be regularly reviewed and updated or withdrawn from use;
- cancelling illegitimately issued PRNs and PERNs to increase due diligence of compliance schemes and producers when purchasing evidence to help drive down fraud;
- introducing a compliance mechanism for use in exceptional circumstances where it is clear that there will be an unavoidable market shortage of PRN/PERN, meaning compliance with recycling targets will not be possible;
- enhancing data transparency by publishing supplementary information regarding the suspension or cancellation of an accreditation, and requiring trading platforms and brokers to register with regulators and report data.

This consultation closes on 5th May 2026.

Permitted Development Rights for Onshore Wind Turbines in England

The Department for Energy Security and Net Zero has published a [consultation](#) seeking views on several proposals for permitted development rights (PDRs) for onshore wind in England to support small-scale onshore wind deployment. This is to be achieved by increasing flexibilities in planning for businesses, farm and public sector organisations only.

This consultation will close on 10th June 2026.

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