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Coronavirus (COVID-19): what you need to do

Stay at home

- Only go outside for food, health reasons or work (but only if you cannot work from home)
- If you go out, stay 2 metres (6ft) away from other people at all times
- Wash your hands as soon as you get home

Do not meet others, even friends or family.

You can spread the virus even if you don't have symptoms.

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Environment
Agency

Guidance

Storing or treating COVID-19 cleansing waste at a healthcare waste management facility: RPS

Published 27 March 2020

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This COVID-19 regulatory position statement (RPS) only applies to waste from cleaning people or places infected or potentially infected with COVID-19.

If you have a permit to store healthcare waste coded 18 01 03* and you comply with the conditions in this COVID-19RPS, you can store waste coded 15 02 02* with HP9 infectious properties.

If you have a permit to treat healthcare waste coded 18 01 03* and you comply with the conditions in this COVID-19RPS, you can treat waste coded 15 02 02* with HP9 infectious properties.

In both cases you do not need waste code 15 02 02* listed on your permit if the waste is infected or potentially infected with COVID-19.

You will not need to carry out a healthcare waste pre-acceptance audit for waste coded 15 02 02*.

This COVID-19 RPS does not apply to any other activity, even if it is under the same legislation. You may still need other permits or licences for other activities you carry out.

When this COVID-19 RPS applies

This COVID-19 RPS only applies to:

- facilities that are permitted to store or treat waste coded 18 01 03*
- waste coded 15 02 02* that is from cleaning people or places infected or potentially infected with COVID-19

Conditions you must comply with

You must comply with all the other requirements of your permit.

When storing and treating waste coded 15 02 02* you must comply with the requirements on your permit for storing and treating waste coded 18 01 03*.

If you are storing or treating any waste coded 15 02 02* you must include it in your assessment when assessing:

- compliance with any specific permit storage and treatment limits for waste code 18 01 03*
- compliance with any permit limits on total waste stored or treated under your permit

You must make sure your activities do not endanger human health or the environment. You must not:

- cause a risk to water, air, soil, plants or animals
- cause a nuisance through noise or odours
- adversely affect the countryside or places of special interest

Enforcement

A COVID-19 RPS means that the Environment Agency will not normally take enforcement action against you provided:

- your activity meets the description set out in this COVID-19RPS
- you comply with the conditions set out in this COVID-19RPS
- your activity does not, and is not likely to, cause environmental pollution or harm human health

When to check back

This COVID-19 RPS will be withdrawn on 30 June 2020. After this date you must have a permit authorising the activity or have removed all waste coded 15 02 02* from the site.

Contact the Environment Agency

General enquiries

National Customer Contact Centre

PO Box 544

Rotherham

S60 1BY

Email

enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk

Telephone

03708 506 506

Telephone from outside the UK (Monday to Friday, 8am to 6pm GMT)
+44 (0) 114 282 5312

Monday to Friday, 8am to 6pm.

Due to the impact of COVID-19 on our teams you may experience some delays in responses as most of our staff will be working from home. The best way to contact us is by email (enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk) rather than the postal address.

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