



## Glossary of Terms

**ACDP** – Advisory Committee on Dangerous Pathogens. It is an expert committee of the Department of Health (DOH) and its role is to provide scientific advice on the risks to exposure to pathogens and risk assessment advice on transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (TSEs). Its work cuts across a number of organisations, including the Health and Safety Executive (HSE), Public Health England, and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra).

**ACOP** – Approved Code of Practice. ACOPs describe preferred or recommended methods that can be used (or standards to be met) to comply with regulations and the duties imposed by the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act. Each ACOP is approved by the Health and Safety Executive, with the consent of the Secretary of State. It gives practical advice on how to comply with the law. If you follow the advice you will be doing enough to comply with the law in respect of those specific matters on which the Code gives advice. You may use alternative methods to those set out in the Code in order to comply with the law. However, the Code has a special legal status. If you are prosecuted for breach of health and safety law, and it is proved that you did not follow the relevant provisions of the Code, you will need to show that you have complied with the law in some other way or a Court will find you at fault.

**ADR** – Accord européen relatif au transport international des marchandises dangereuses par route. This is a European Agreement concerning the international carriage of dangerous goods by road. It is enforced in Great Britain by the HSE.

**BAT** – Best Available Techniques. The essence of BAT is that techniques selected to protect the environment should achieve an appropriate balance between environmental benefits and the costs incurred by Operators. However, whatever the costs involved, no installation may be permitted where its operation would cause significant pollution.

**Category A/Category B** – Classification of infectious substances in line with the Carriage of Dangerous Goods (ADR) Regulations. Category A is an infectious substance that is transported in a form that, when exposure to it occurs, is capable of causing permanent disability, life-threatening or fatal disease to humans or animals. Category B is an infectious substance that does not fall into the definition of Category A.

**CoTC** – Certificate of Technical Competence. Required to be held by operators of permitted waste sites to demonstrate competency.

**Clinical waste** – Waste that is clinical waste is defined as ‘any waste which consists wholly or partly of human or animal tissue, blood or other body fluids, excretions, drugs or other pharmaceutical products, swabs or dressings, syringes, needles or other sharp instruments, being waste which unless rendered safe may prove hazardous to any person coming into contact with it; and any other waste arising from medical, nursing, dental, veterinary, pharmaceutical or similar practice, investigation, treatment, care, teaching or research, or the collection of blood for transfusion, being waste which may cause infection to any person coming into contact with it’.

**COSHH** – Control of Substances Hazardous to Health. COSHH is enforced via the COSHH Regulations 2002, by the HSE which define the substances that are hazardous to health and set out requirements for risk assessments to be carried out when working with these.

**CQC** – Care Quality Commission. This independent body regulates health and social care services in England. It monitors, inspects and regulates services to make sure they meet fundamental standards of quality and safety.

**Cytotoxic and cytostatic** – Classification of medicinal waste used in the List of Wastes Regulations for medicinal products with one or more of the hazardous properties toxic, carcinogenic, toxic for reproduction or mutagenic.

**DGSA** – Dangerous Goods Safety Adviser. The Carriage of Dangerous Goods (ADR) requires many of those involved in the carriage of dangerous goods to appoint a DGSA. It applies to carriers, packers, fillers, loaders and unloaders. A number of exemptions apply.

**Defra** – Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. This is the UK government department responsible for safeguarding the natural environment, supporting the UK's food and farming industry and sustaining a thriving rural economy. It is a ministerial department supported by agencies and public bodies.

**DfT** – Department for Transport. This ministerial department works with other UK government agencies to support the transport network across the country.

**Duty of Care** – When used in relation to waste management, this term refers to the statutory responsibilities of individuals and organisations to correctly classify waste; register as a hazardous waste producer if applicable; or obtain a permit to store, treat, transport or dispose of waste if applicable.

**EA** – Environment Agency. The body responsible for environmental regulation in England.

**Environmental Permit** – Approval or consent issued by a regulatory body (e.g. EA for England, NRW for Wales).

**EWG** – European Waste Catalogue (also referred to as LoW, List of Waste). Prior to sending waste for recycling and/or disposal, it must be appropriately described, using a pre-defined EWG code.

**Hazardous waste** – This is waste that contains hazardous properties which, if mismanaged, has the potential to cause greater harm to the environment and human health than non-hazardous waste. Strict controls apply from the point of its production to its movement, management, and recovery/disposal. Set out in The Hazardous Waste (Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2015, for England.

**Healthcare waste** – Relates to waste that is produced by healthcare activities, and of a type specifically associated with such activities.

**HSE** – Health and Safety Executive. The HSE is responsible for shaping and reviewing regulations, producing research and statistics, and enforcing health and safety law in Great Britain.

**HSE NI** – Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland. This is the lead body responsible for the promotion and enforcement of health and safety at work standards in Northern Ireland.

**Infectious waste** – Waste that possesses the hazardous property “HP9: Infectious” (previously H9) – that is, substances containing viable microorganisms or their toxins, which are known, or reliably believed, to cause disease in man or living organisms.

**ISO** – International Organization for Standardization. The body that develops and publishes international standards such as ISO14001 (Environmental Management) and ISO9001 (Quality Management).

**LoW** – List of Wastes Regulations. See **EWG**.

**MCN** – Multiple Consignment Note. This relates to multiple collections where a single journey, by a single waste carrier, and where the waste is taken to the same consignee, is undertaken in England and Wales and comprises the collection of hazardous waste from two or more different properties.

**MHRA** – Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency. The MHRA is an executive agency, sponsored by the Department of Health, which regulates medicines, medical devices, and blood components for transfusion in the UK.

**Medicinal waste** – Medicinal waste includes expired, unused, spilt, and contaminated pharmaceutical products, drugs, vaccines, and sera that are no longer required and need to be disposed of appropriately.

**NIEA** – Northern Ireland Environment Agency. The body responsible for environmental regulation in Northern Ireland.

**NRW** – Natural Resources Wales. The body responsible for environmental regulation in Wales.

**Offensive waste** – Offensive waste is waste that is non-infectious but may cause offence due to the presence of recognisable healthcare waste items, body fluids, or odour.

**PPC Permit** – Pollution Prevention and Control Permit. Approval or consent issued by a regulatory body in Northern Ireland and Scotland. Its England and Wales’s equivalent is the **Environmental Permit**.

**RIDDOR** – Reporting of Injuries Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations. This puts duties on employers, the self-employed and people in control of work premises to report certain serious workplace accidents, occupational diseases and specified dangerous occurrences (near misses). Incidents that happen in Northern Ireland should be reported to the **HSE NI**.

**SEPA** – Scottish Environment Protection Agency. The body responsible for environmental regulation in Scotland.

**Sharps** – Sharps are items that could cause cuts or puncture wounds. They include needles, hypodermic needles, scalpels and other blades, knives, infusion sets, saws, broken glass, and nails.

**WEEE** – Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (in relation to EC Directive 2002/96/EC and the subsequent WEEE regulations).

**WFD** – Waste Framework Directive. This provides the legislative framework for the collection, transportation, recovery and disposal of waste, and includes a common definition of waste. It requires all member states to take the necessary measures to ensure waste is recovered or disposed of without endangering human health or causing harm to the environment.