

Legislation Outlook

December 2025



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.

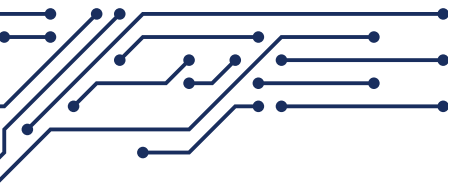
This month sees legislation published that may impact organisations certified to ISO 14001 and ISO 45001, including forthcoming restrictions on plastic-containing wet wipes, new building safety levies, and strengthened fire safety requirements. Our next Outlook will be published slightly later than normal following the festive holidays; in the meantime, the team wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Upcoming Standard-Related Legislation

ISO 14001

Environmental Protection (Wet Wipes Containing Plastic) (England) Regulations 2025 and Environmental Protection (Wet Wipes Containing Plastic) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2025

These Regulations come into force in England and Northern Ireland to ban the supply and sale of wet wipes containing plastic, with exemptions for medical and industrial usage. The prohibitions will come into force in May 2027. Similar legislation is expected to be published by the Scottish Government and Welsh Government soon.



ISO 45001

Building Safety Levy (England) Regulations 2025

These Regulations come into force on 1st October 2026 to impose a levy in England on applications of building control approval for new residential development made after that date. Certain types of residential buildings will be exempt from the levy, including social and supported housing, hospitals, hotels, care homes, school accommodation, temporary accommodation for homeless people, domestic abuse refuges and sites of fewer than 10 dwellings (or fewer than 30 bedspaces for PBSA).

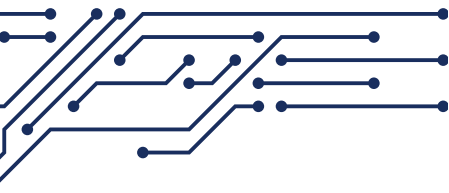
The levy forms part of a package of measures brought forward after the Grenfell Tower fire in 2017 to fund the remediation of building safety defects in residential buildings. The levy rate per metre squared of floorspace for each local authority in England is set out in Schedule 3 to the Regulations.

Building (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2025

These Regulations come into force on 6th April 2026 and amend the Building (Scotland) Regulations 2004 to extend the scope of the installation of automatic fire suppression systems in traditional building converted to hotel use and extend the ban of combustible external wall cladding systems to include hotels, guest houses, hostels and boarding houses. It also extends the list of exemptions to the ban of combustible external wall cladding systems to include:

- components associated with a solar shading device excluding components whose primary function is to provide shade or deflect sunlight such as the awning curtain or slats; and
- materials which form the top horizontal floor layer of a balcony which are of European Classification A1fl or A2fl-s1 (classified in accordance with the reaction to fire classification) provided that the entire layer has an impermeate substrate under it.

The advertisement features a dark blue background on the left with the British Assessment Bureau logo and the text 'Boost Your Business Efficiency with Expert ISO and IOSH Training'. A red button labeled 'View courses' is positioned below the text. On the right, a photograph shows a man and a woman in a professional setting, looking at a laptop screen together.



Consultations

Asbestos

The Health and Safety Executive has launched a [consultation](#) seeking views on its proposals to:

- amend the Control of Asbestos Regulations 2012;
- drive up the standard of asbestos surveys; and
- improve guidance relating to notifiable non-licensed work.

The consultation closes on 9th January 2026.

Data Protection Enforcement

The Information Commissioner's Office has launched a [consultation](#) seeking views on new guidance about the process followed by the ICO when carrying out investigations and taking enforcement action under the UK GDPR and the Data Protection Act 2018. It provides a detailed description of the different stages of the ICO's investigations, from opening an investigation through to taking a final decision.

The consultation closes on 23rd January 2026.

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