

Legislation Outlook

August 2024



This monthly legislation briefing will help you plan for the maintenance of your ISO 14001, 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.

The new government has set out its policy goals in the King's Speech; we have provided details of incoming legislation that will affect the standards in the News section of this update. We also provide details in the Focus section of the new EU Directive on corporate sustainability due diligence, which is likely to impact those organisations that supply into the EU.

Updated Standard-Related Legislation

ISO 14001

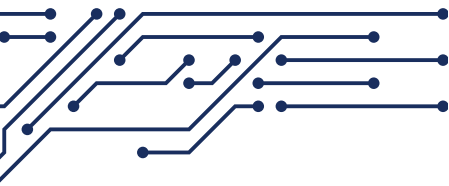
Waste (Materials Facilities) (Scotland) Regulations 2024

These Regulations amend the [Pollution Prevention and Control \(Scotland\) Regulations 2012](#) and the [Waste Management Licensing \(Scotland\) Regulations 2011](#). The amendments are required following the introduction of the Code of Practice on Sampling and Reporting at Materials Facilities issued by the Scottish Ministers on 24th June 2024, replacing the previous Code issued on 2nd March 2015, and in order to expand the scope of facilities required to comply with the terms of the Materials Facilities Code.

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News

The King's Speech

The 2024 King's Speech was held on 17th July 2024 and opened the first session of the new Parliament since the general election. The speech and accompanying memorandum included 40 bills, of which two were carried over from the previous parliamentary session.

This is the highest number of bills to appear in a speech from the throne since 2005, and the second highest since 1997.

The following are a few of the bills which will likely produce further legislation that could affect ISO compliance. We will provide more information on these Bills as they are passed into law.

Product Safety and Metrology Bill

This Bill will provide government powers to update product regulation. As it currently stands, the majority of the UK's product safety and metrology framework is derived from EU law developed over the past four decades. This Bill will allow for the government to make the sovereign choice to mirror or diverge from updated EU rules regarding product regulations.

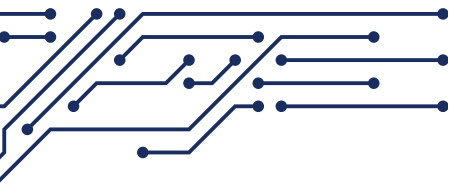
Great British Energy Bill

This Bill aims to support the new government's aim to establish Great British Energy; a public body that will own and operate clean power projects across the UK. It gives the Secretary of State the ability to provide Great British Energy with the financial backing needed for it to meet its aims and ambitions. The Secretary of State will be required to prepare a strategic priorities statement for Great British Energy, to ensure it focuses its efforts on Government priorities to achieve their 2030 clean power target.

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Sustainable Aviation Fuel (Revenue Support Mechanism) Bill

This Bill will support Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) production in the UK by providing revenue certainty to encourage investment in the construction of SAF plants across the UK and introduces a revenue certainty mechanism for SAF producers who are looking to invest in new plants in the UK. This builds on the SAF mandate, which will create demand for SAF by setting targets on fuel suppliers to use a proportion of SAF.

Water (Special Measures) Bill

This Bill aims to regulate water companies to clean up rivers, lakes and coastal waters in the UK, by strengthening regulation to ensure directors of water companies face personal criminal liability for lawbreaking. It gives the water regulator new powers to ban the payment of bonuses if environmental standards are not met, boosts accountability for water executives through a new 'code of conduct' for water companies, so customers can summon board members and hold executives to account, introduces new powers to bring automatic and severe fines, and require water companies to install real-time monitors at every sewage outlet with data independently scrutinised by the water regulators.

Cyber Security and Resilience Bill

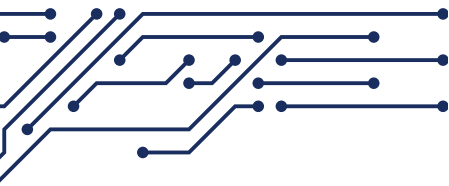
This Bill aims to strengthen the UK's defences and ensure that more essential digital services than ever before are protected, by expanding the remit of the existing regulation, putting regulators on a stronger footing, and increasing reporting requirements to build a better picture in government of cyber threats. Post Brexit the UK's cyber security legislation has been deemed to require urgent update. This Bill will make such updates to the regulatory framework by expanding the remit of the regulation to protect more digital services and supply chains which are an increasingly attractive threat vector for attackers.

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Digital Information and Smart Data Bill

This Bill will enable new innovative uses of data to be safely developed and deployed and will improve people's lives by making public services work better by reforming data sharing and standards; help scientists and researchers make more life enhancing discoveries by improving our data laws; and ensure your data is well protected by giving the ICO new, stronger powers and a more modern structure.

Focus

EU Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive

On 25th July 2024, the EU published [Directive \(EU\) 2024/1760 on corporate sustainability due diligence](#). EU Member States will have two years to implement the Directive into national law. EU law is normally outside the scope of this Legislation Outlook, but we thought it would be useful to include some information due to the impact on those clients that supply into the EU.

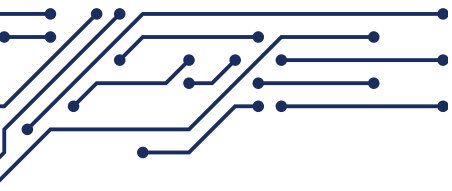
The aim of this Directive is to foster sustainable and responsible corporate behaviour in companies' operations and across their global value chains. The new rules will ensure that EU companies in scope identify and address adverse human rights and environmental impacts of their actions inside and outside Europe. Large companies domiciled in the EU and foreign companies generating significant revenues in the EU will be obliged to comply with the new sustainability due diligence obligations.

The Directive has two key objectives: to require companies to carry out due diligence to avoid adverse environmental and human rights impacts and to ensure accountability in case of actual adverse impacts being caused.

It requires companies to carry out risk-based due diligence, in particular, to:

- integrate due diligence into their policies and risk management systems;
- identify, assess and (where necessary) prioritise potential and actual adverse impacts;
- prevent and mitigate potential adverse impacts;
- bring actual adverse impacts to an end, or minimise their extent;
- remediate actual adverse impacts;
- carry out meaningful engagement with stakeholders;
- establish and maintain a notification mechanism and complaints procedure;
- monitor the effectiveness of due diligence policy and measures; and
- communicate publicly on due diligence.

This is likely to have a significant impact on suppliers to those companies caught within the scope of the Directive, as these due diligence obligations will flow down the supply chain. There are also likely to be differences of approach in how each EU Member State implements their own legislation in relation to the obligations set out in the Directive. Organisations that supply into the EU are advised keep abreast of the Directive's implementation and ensure that they are compliant prior to 25th July 2026. Further information on the Directive can be found [here](#).



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