

# Legislation Outlook

July 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 a lot of legislation published that is relevant to the standards covered by Activ Comply, but the most important to the majority of our clients will be the coming into force of the Data (Use and Access) Act 2025, which will impact nearly everyone's data protection obligations.

## Upcoming Standard-Related Legislation

### ISO 14001

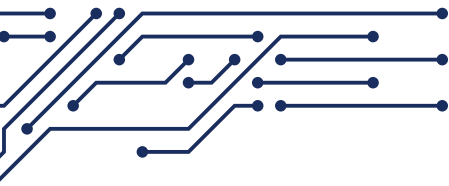
#### Deposit and Return Scheme for Scotland Amendment Regulations 2025

These Regulations come into force on 20th June 2025 and postpone the full implementation date for Scotland's Deposit Return Scheme from 1st October 2025 to 1st October 2027 in order to align with schemes due to be introduced in England and Northern Ireland on the same date.

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## Environmental Authorisations (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2025

These Regulations come into force on 1st November 2025 and amend the Environmental Authorisations (Scotland) Regulations 2018 to extend the scope of the environmental regulatory framework contained in the 2018 Regulations.

Currently, the 2018 Regulations only apply to radioactive substances activities; the amendments will bring industrial emissions activities, other emissions activities, waste activities, and water activities within scope of the new regulatory regime. This will create a single integrated approach to the authorisation, procedural and enforcement arrangements relating to the environmental regulation of these activities in Scotland, and replace the current separate regimes currently controlled by legislation such as the Pollution Prevention and Control (Scotland) Regulations 2012, the Water Environment (Controlled Activities) Regulations 2015 and the Waste Management Licensing (Scotland) Regulations 2011.

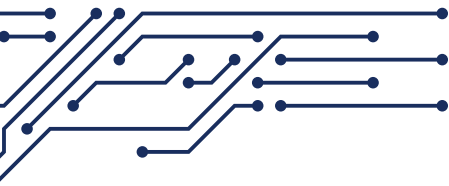
The new Regulations will also bring carbon capture activities and non-waste anaerobic digestion activities into scope of the new regulatory regime, as well as improving the regulation of the application of sewage sludge and other waste to land for soil improvement and extending the environmental controls to combustion plants that generate electricity and aggregate to 1 MWth or more at the same location.



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## Environmental Protection (Single-use Plastic Products) (Wet Wipes) (Wales) Regulations 2025

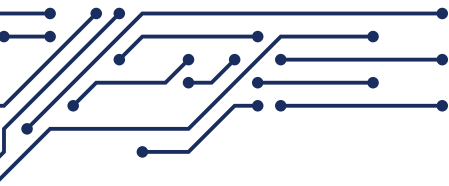
These Regulations come into force on 18th December 2026 and adds 'wet wipes' to the list of single-use plastic products whose sale is prohibited in Wales, although there will be an exemption for those wipes used for medical care or treatment.

### ISO 45001

## Building (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 2025

These Regulations come into force on 20th December 2025 and amend the Building Regulations 2010 in relation to their application in Wales. The changes aim to improve the fire safety of buildings in Wales by:

- reducing the height threshold at which paragraph B4(1) (external fire spread—walls) of Schedule 1 applies from 15m to 11m where there has been a material change of use;
- prohibiting metal composite materials which have a gross calorific value of more than 35 MJ/kg when tested in accordance with BS EN ISO 1716:2018 from being used as part of the external wall or as a balcony, solar shade or solar panel when building work is undertaken;
- amending the list of exemptions from the requirement for materials forming part of the external wall or an external attachment to meet the reaction to fire classification standard by adding fibre optic cables, components of solar shading devices (excluding those whose primary function is to provide shade or deflect sunlight such as awning curtains or slats), and materials which form the top horizontal floor layer of a balcony which are of European Classification A1fl or A2fl-s1 provided that the entire layer has an impermeate substrate under it. It also extends the existing exemption on insulation and waterproofing materials used below ground level to such materials used up to 300mm above that level; and
- expanding the categories of building to which the above requirements apply to include hostels, hotels, and boarding houses.



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## ISO 27001

### Data (Use and Access) Act 2025

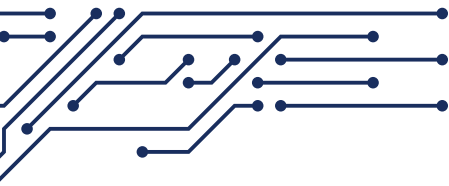
The Data (Use and Access) Act 2025 (DUAA) received Royal Assent 19th June 2025 but, as yet, no commencement date has been set. The DUAA amends, but does not replace, the UK GDPR, the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA), and the Privacy and Electronic Communications Regulations (PECR). The most important changes introduced by the DUAA:

- reforming the Information Commissioner’s Office, which will now become the Information Commission;
- pre-approval of certain activities as legitimate interests, eliminating the need for a controller to carry out a legitimate interest assessment. These include direct marketing, intra-group transfers of personal data for administrative purposes, network security and disclosure to someone carrying out a task in the public interest;
- clarifying that controllers only need to conduct a “reasonable and proportionate search” for personal data when in receipt of a subject access request, and that controllers can wait until they have verified the identity of the requestor before the time period for responding to a subject access request commences;
- narrowing the scope of the prohibition on automated decision making that produces significant legal effects so that it only applies where the processing involves special category data. This will allow decisions made by AI based on, for example, financial information or gender without requiring meaningful human involvement;

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- creating new obligations in relation to complaints received from data subjects – controllers will have to implement a complaints process, such as an electronic form, and must acknowledge complaints within 30 days;
- amending the rules on cookies and tracking technologies by exempting cookies used for collecting statistical data (analytics), website optimisation or preferences from the requirement to obtain prior consent;
- aligning the maximum fines under the Privacy and Electronic Communications (EC Directive) Regulations 2003 with those under UK GDPR;
- creating a new framework for smart data schemes to allow for sharing of customer data held by service providers, upon a customer's request, with authorised third-party providers. Authorised third parties will then be able to use this data to provide services to the customer; and
- reforming the rules in the UK governing digital verification services, such as e-signatures and e-ID.

Much of the above is set out in the DUAA as framework legislation and will require additional detailed regulations to be published before the obligations can come into effect. We will provide further guidance on the DUAA obligations as these regulations are published.

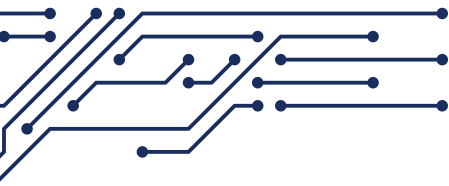
## News

### EU Extends UK Adequacy Decisions

The Commission of the European Union has adopted a six-month extension to its adequacy decision with the UK, allowing the free flow of data with the UK to continue until 27th December 2025. The Commission has also announced that it is now assessing whether the new Data (Use and Access) Act 2025 (see above) will continue to provide an adequate level of protection for personal data. On the basis of this assessment, the Commission will decide whether to renew the UK adequacy decision when it lapses at the end of the year.

### New RPS for Exceeding Waste Storage Limits at Permitted Sites

The Environment Agency (EA) has issued a new Regulatory Position Statement setting out when it is permissible to temporarily exceed the waste storage limits in an environmental permit. It only applies to baled and securely wrapped refuse derived fuel (RDF) (19 12 10), mixed municipal waste (20 03 01), and waste wood destined for incineration (19 12 07 and 20 01 38) and is subject to several conditions, including notifying of the EA and obtaining its agreement in writing.



## Consultations

### Chemicals Legislative Reform

The Health and Safety Executive has published a [consultation](#) seeking views on its proposed reforms to chemical regulation. The proposed changes include:

- changes to biocidal products regulation, such as the introduction of a system which allows the recognition of approvals and authorisations given in foreign jurisdictions with similar standards, and replacing the system of active substance renewals so that approvals would no longer have fixed expiry dates;
- changes to classification, labelling and packaging regulation, such as revoking the requirement for GB duty holders to submit notifications to the GB CLP notification database; and
- changes to “Prior Informed Consent” regulation, such as removing redundant procedures and streamlining the “waiver” process whereby the Designated National Authority can waive for one year the requirement for the explicit consent of the importing country to be in place before export takes place, so that the same conditions would apply to all qualifying chemicals.
- The consultation closes on 18th August 2025.

### Waste Battery Facilities

- The Environment Agency has published a [consultation](#) seeking views on its proposed technical guidance setting out the appropriate measures for permitted facilities that store or treat separate collections of waste batteries. The consultation closes on 8th September 2025.

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