

Legislation Outlook

October 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's Legislation Outlook sees a new requirement for Scottish exporters of plants and plant products and important findings from the HSE on gaps in workplace hearing protection.

Upcoming Standard-Related Legislation

ISO 14001

Plant Health (Export Certification) (Scotland) Amendment Order 2025

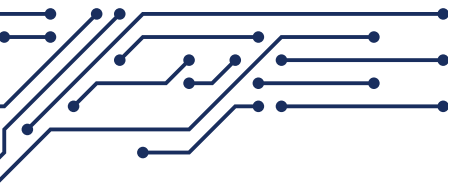
This Order comes into force on 13th November and amends the Plant Health (Export Certification) (Scotland) Order 2018 to introduce a requirement to pay a fee for phytosanitary certificates relating to consignments of plants and plant products being shipped from Scotland to Northern Ireland.

Previously, such consignments were not required to pay a fee, but this exemption will now cease and, from 13th November, exporters in Scotland of plants and plant products to Northern Ireland will be required to pay the fee.

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News

The Health and Safety Executive has identified ‘serious gaps’ in workplace hearing protection during a recent inspection campaign, particularly around training and equipment management.

A quarter of workplaces had noise levels requiring mandatory protection, yet most employers failed to ensure proper use. Over three-quarters of employees in high noise workplaces lacked knowledge on storing or checking equipment, nearly two-thirds had not been told of the need for continuous use in noisy areas, and 80% had no training on correct fitting.

Critically, 95% of employers had not confirmed whether workers could still hear vital alarms and safety signals while wearing protection. In order to correct these issues, the HSE is promoting the CUFF checking system: Condition (equipment integrity), Use (proper deployment when needed), Fit the ear (correct wearing), and Fit for purpose (appropriate specification).



Guidance

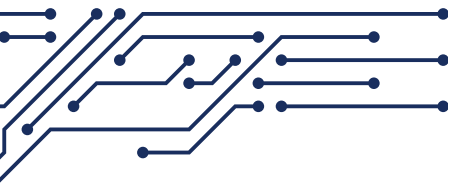
Finalised Encryption Guidance

The Information Commissioner’s Office has finalised its [guidance](#) on the use of encryption to aid GDPR compliance following a public consultation earlier this year. The guidance includes definitions on encryption and data protection, how to store encrypted data and how to securely transfer it. It also offers explanations for how to implement encryption and scenarios that require its application.

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Consultations

Standard Rules Permit for Storage of Asbestos Waste

The Environment Agency has launched a [consultation](#) seeking views on its revised standard rules permit for storage of asbestos waste to improve the design and operation of permitted facilities in the asbestos waste sector. Changes in the revised permit include:

- prohibiting:
 - the transfer of asbestos between different bulk containers;
 - the storage of asbestos loose or in bays;
 - the storage of asbestos on site for more than 6 months;
 - stacking of bulk containers; and
 - the use mechanical equipment, for example loading shovels, chutes and conveyors to move asbestos waste; and
- introducing a new condition (3.1.1) on point source emissions to water, air, or land, previously covered in the introductory note.

The consultation closes on 22nd December 2025.

Standard Rules Permit for Medium Combustion Plant and Specified Generators

The Environment Agency has launched a [consultation](#) seeking views on its proposals to change the standard rules permits for medium combustion plant and specified generators. The changes include:

- removing specific standard rules sets which are currently underused;
- correcting errors in tables in other standard rules;
- adding gas oil substitutes and hydrogen as a fuel; and
- removing the restriction on caps and cowls and horizontal stacks.

The consultation closes on 9th November 2025.

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