

## Crushing or Piercing of Waste Aerosol Cans for the purposes of recovery

### SEPA Position

**If you comply with the requirements below, you can store, crush or pierce waste aerosol cans using specialist treatment equipment so that the metal can be recovered, at the place of production only, without the need for an environmental authorisation.**

### Purpose

This regulatory position statement is for SEPA staff and those involved in the 'crushing or piercing of waste aerosol cans, using specialist equipment, at the site of production, for the purposes of 'recovery'.

### Waste Management Licensing Framework:

Generally a waste management licence is required if you are treating and storing waste. However, some activities involving waste can be carried out without a waste management licence, if they meet the requirements detailed in Regulation 17 of the Waste Management Licensing (Scotland) Regulations 2011 ("the Regulations").

Schedule I to the Regulations specifies a number of exempt activities. However none of these cover the treatment by crushing or piercing of waste aerosol cans and their ancillary storage at the place of production'. SEPA recognises that requiring a waste management licence for this activity may be disproportionate, and a barrier to recovery of the metals therefore has decided to adopt this regulatory position to enable the activity to take place at the site of production.

### Conditions that apply

SEPA will not seek to take enforcement action where waste aerosol cans are punctured or crushed using specialist treatment equipment so that the metal can be recovered, provided the following requirements are met:

1. The only waste aerosol cans which may be treated are pressure containers which contained 16 05 04\* gases (including halons) containing hazardous substances MH or 16 05 05 gases other than those mentioned in 16 05 04 MN
2. The treatment must take place, at the site of production, for the purposes of recycling.
3. The treatment must be carried out using equipment designed for the purpose which ensures the:
  - Collection and secure storage of cans for recycling
  - Collection and secure storage of residues for disposal or recycling, and
  - Filtering of gas and solvents through carbon filters which are approved to a suitable British standard.
4. No more than 3,000 cans can be stored or treated in a calendar year.
5. All treatment must be carried out in a well-ventilated area
6. All waste must be stored in a secure location in vented containers before being treated.
7. The treatment and storage of waste aerosol cans in the circumstances set out above must meet the 'relevant objectives' of the Waste Directive, ensuring that waste management is carried out without endangering human health or the environment. In particular they must not :
  - cause a risk to water, air, soil, plants or animals
  - cause a nuisance through noise or odours, or
  - adversely affect the countryside or places of special interest.

Please note that this position statement applies only when waste aerosol cans are treated and stored at the site of production however will also apply where a large fleet of vehicles are ran out of a single depot and the empty de-icer cans are collected and treated at that depot.

Please note this position will not apply if you collect waste aerosol cans from outlying facilities and take them back to a central location for treatment.

Please note that the disposal of any residues collected, waste filters or non-recyclable material, which may include hazardous wastes, must be carried out in compliance with existing waste management legislation.

This position statement does not apply to sites, which have activities regulated under the PPC Scotland (Scotland) Regulations 2012.

### **Limitations**

This statement applies only in Scotland. The terms of this statement may be subject to periodical review and be changed or withdrawn in light of technological developments, regulatory or legislative changes, future government guidance or experience of its use. SEPA reserves its discretion to depart from the position outlined in this statement and to take appropriate action to avoid any risk of pollution or harm to human health or the environment.