

## Materials and engineering Hot Issues. Issue 6: July 2003

URN No: 03/415d

Thank you for taking time to look at our latest newsletter. Issues in this edition include: Waste Prevention and Recycling, R&D Tax Credits, Pensions, Emissions Trading, Information & Consultation and Dispute Resolutions.

The purpose of this newsletter is to stimulate a two-way dialogue on issues where there is an opportunity to influence the policy process and also to alert you to some of the issues which are likely to arise over the coming months. By working with you on these policy issues to present more robust evidence of the potential impact on your company/sector this will assist us in being more effective in influencing the policy debate.

Suggestions for subjects you wish to be covered in future issues are always welcome. Please e-mail [Ambert.Prospier@dti.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Ambert.Prospier@dti.gsi.gov.uk) . If you would find it helpful, the Influence and Impact Team is happy to meet you to discuss the issues impacting on your company/sector. Please contact your relationship manager to arrange a convenient time.

Terry Martin  
Assistant Director, Influence and Impact Section  
Materials and Engineering Sector Unit

## Issue: Emissions Trading Scheme

### Main Points:

The European Parliament has now agreed the EU Emissions Trading Directive (EU ETS), meaning that EU emissions trading will now begin from 1 January 2005. Member States must submit a National Allocation Plan (NAP) to the European Commission by 31 March 2004. A Key element of the agreed scheme is mandatory trading to initially cover CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from certain sectors, including steel production and processing and a host of other sectors which have a combustion plant (or combined plants) over a thermal input threshold of 20MW. The first phase of the scheme will run from January 2005-December 2007; then a second five year phase from 2008-2012.

The Government will be undertaking a two-stage public consultation in order to arrive at the UK's NAP. There will be an initial consultation on methodology options, which is due to start in August. A second consultation on the proposed allocations will take place later in the year. It is crucial that our sectors have an active input into this process. We will ensure that you receive individual notification and appropriate links to the first Consultation Document as soon as it is published.

The Directive requires that the overall cap on emissions in the NAP should be consistent with our Kyoto target (12.5% emissions reduction), but the Government also needs to consider its own climate change policy goal of reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 20%. The DTI is engaged in provision of revised energy and emissions projections for use in the development of the UK's NAP. A process note for this work is available on the SEPN website, at the link below.

The process note provides information on the initial key assumptions and timetable for this work. Please feel free to register any comments on this document, and other documents relating to the revised emissions projection work which will also be posted on the SEPN website as work progresses. The DTI modelling team welcomes comments from industries especially those directly involved in EU emissions trading. Also if you have any industry contributions (on future growth, output, energy use, opportunities for further energy or emissions reductions and their costs, etc) that you are able to share with the modelling team in their work, please

either contact Peter D'Souza directly (copying to us) or just send to us for passing on.

Deadline for input: ASAP but see process note on projections timetable.

Hot links (to further information/consultation documents):

<http://www.dti.gov.uk/energy/sepn/euets/projections.pdf>

Contact us at: [Peter.Dsouza@dti.gov.uk](mailto:Peter.Dsouza@dti.gov.uk)  
[Keith.Avis@dti.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Keith.Avis@dti.gsi.gov.uk)

Issue: EU Environmental Liability Directive

Main Points:

Framework political agreement was reached at June 13 Environment Council on a number of contentious aspects of the Environmental Liability Directive; this was despite early UK concerns about reaching political agreement on the Directive at this stage. The UK was able to take the opportunity to ensure our key concerns were addressed:

- A compulsory financial security regime has been avoided, with a voluntary approach agreed instead.
- A form of permit and 'state of the art' exception has also been agreed

These specific outcomes represent a far better result than could have previously been envisaged. We look forward to the continuing support of stakeholders as we move towards the second reading in the European Parliament, with a view to building on this encouraging base.

We hope you will welcome this more pragmatic approach to ensuring remediation of environmental damage. We will keep in contact with you as we progress towards the second reading in European Parliament. It is expected the second reading will take place in early 2004.

Deadline for input: Ongoing

Hot links (to further information/consultation documents):

Environment Council minutes:

<http://ue.eu.int/newsroom/loadbook.asp?BID=89&LANG=1>

DG Environment site:

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/liability/>

Contact us at: [Terry.Martin@dti.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Terry.Martin@dti.gsi.gov.uk)

Issue: Working Time Directive – Excluded Sectors

Main Points:

A number of sectors - road, rail, air, sea, inland waterway and lake transport, sea fishing, "other work at sea" (essentially offshore oil and gas exploitation) and the activities of doctors in training – were excluded from Working Time Directive 93/104 (WTD) when it came into force in October 1998, because the Commission and member states agreed that these sectors would require their own special rules. Five measures to extend Working Time to these sectors have now formally been adopted. The main proposal, the Horizontal Amending Directive will come into effect on 1 August 2003.

Horizontal Amending Directive (HAD)

The existing Working Time Regulations will be extended in full to non-mobile workers (e.g. clerical/administrative personnel). Mobile workers not subject to the Road Transport Directive (RTD) – including all drivers not covered by EC drivers hours regulation 3820/85 (tachograph rules): for example, people carriers, couriers, taxis, white vans – will be entitled to an average 48-hour working week, four weeks paid annual leave, health assessments if working nights and adequate rest but the HAD does not extend the Working Time Regulations on breaks and rest periods to mobile workers in this sector.

Deadline for input: Ongoing

Hot links (to further information/consultation documents):

[http://www.dti.gov.uk/er/work\\_time\\_regs/exsectors.htm](http://www.dti.gov.uk/er/work_time_regs/exsectors.htm)

Contact us at: [Ambert.Prospier@dti.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Ambert.Prospier@dti.gsi.gov.uk)

Issue: Defining Innovation – Government Consultation on R&D Tax Credits

Main Points:

A consultation on improving the definition of research and development (R&D) for tax credit purposes was published on 10 July. 'Defining Innovation' consults on:

- Revising the current definition of R&D for tax purposes so as to provide greater clarity and certainty for companies;
- Exploring areas where the definition might be extended, such as design, to take account of the full range of innovative activities carried on by companies: and
- Providing greater certainty over what constitutes 'consumable stores' for tax credit purposes; the extension of credits to include expenditure on licences for advanced software; and the definition of 'qualifying bodies' (to which large companies can sub-contract R&D).

The R&D tax credit is an integral part of the Government's strategy to improve productivity growth in the UK. The consultation on the definition of R&D will complement broader policy development to support innovation and growth by UK businesses, including the Lambert Review on business-university collaboration, and the DTI Innovation Review. These will both report by the Autumn.

Responses to the consultation (which can be accessed by the weblink below) should be sent to [rdconsultation@hm-treasury.gov.uk](mailto:rdconsultation@hm-treasury.gov.uk) no later than 10 October 2003. Please copy your response to Terry Martin (see below)

Deadline for input: 10 October 2003

Hot links (to further information/consultation documents):

Defining Innovation consultation document –

[www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/consultations\\_and\\_legislation/defining\\_innovation/consult\\_defininginnovation\\_index.cfm](http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/consultations_and_legislation/defining_innovation/consult_defininginnovation_index.cfm)

Contact us at: [Terry.Martin@dti.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Terry.Martin@dti.gsi.gov.uk)

Issue: Pensions Protection Fund
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Main Points:
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<p>On 11 June 2003 the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, Andrew Smith, announced new measures, designed to protect members of pensions schemes and make it easier for companies to run the schemes. These proposals have been formulated following the consultation on the Pensions Green Paper, which we covered in previous editions of Hot Issues. Key elements of the scheme are:</p>
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Pensions Protection Fund – first ever protection scheme for Defined Benefit pensions in the UK, protecting pension rights accrued when a company goes bust.</li> <li>· Full Buy Out – ensuring that where a solvent company chooses to wind up its scheme it should fully buy out members' benefits.</li> <li>· New Pensions Regulator – with new activity targeted on badly run and high-risk schemes, putting consumers first and ensuring secure schemes continue without unnecessary regulatory burden.</li> <li>· Changes to the Priority Order – guarantees remaining assets of a scheme in wind-up are distributed fairly among the workforce reflecting the length of service of employees.</li> </ul> |
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<p>Full details and a summary of the new measures can be accessed through the link to the Department for Work and Pensions website below.</p>
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Deadline for input: Ongoing
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<b>Hot links (to further information/consultation documents):</b>
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<a href="http://www.dwp.gov.uk/consultations/consult/2002/pensions/index.asp">http://www.dwp.gov.uk/consultations/consult/2002/pensions/index.asp</a>
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Contact us at: <a href="mailto:Keith.Avis@dti.gsi.gov.uk">Keith.Avis@dti.gsi.gov.uk</a>
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Issue: European Commission Communication on Waste Prevention and Recycling

Main Points:

The European Commission has adopted a Communication towards a thematic strategy on the prevention and recycling of waste. The Communication launches a broad consultation exercise on how to avoid generating waste, how to reduce the use of resources, and which waste to recycle. Some of the issues the Commission is seeking comments on are set out below:

Fixing quantitative targets for waste prevention

The Commission suggest several potential measures:

- Waste Prevention Plans – the Commission could encourage the involvement of industry sectors and individual companies in the development of such plans, which would include concrete measures
- Low-waste Production Techniques – the Commission could ensure that these are used by European industry
- Diffusing Best Practice – the Commission could identify the most effective national strategies and broaden them to EU level

Use market forces to recycle more

The Commission suggest that EU recycling policy could be improved in several ways, including:

- Setting recycling targets for materials
- Getting the prices of the different waste streams right. This could be corrected through tradable certificates, co-ordination of national landfill taxes, promoting pay-as-you-throw schemes and making producers responsible for recycling.
- Ensuring recycling is both easy and clean. In some cases, implementation of EU waste law may have led to unnecessary burdens on the recycling industry. The problems need to be identified and solved.

The Commission also invites views on the definition of waste set out in the Waste Framework Directive. The Communication can be accessed via the weblink below. All stakeholders are invited to provide comments to the Commission before 30 November 2003. The

Commission will take these into account when the Thematic Strategy is drafted. It is expected to be presented in 2004.

Deadline for input: 30 November 2003

Hot links (to further information/consultation documents):

The Commission Communication is available from  
<http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/waste/strategy.htm>

Contact us at: [Terry.Martin@dti.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Terry.Martin@dti.gsi.gov.uk)

## OTHER ISSUES

The following are some of the other ongoing issues. Should you need further information please email the contacts below:

### EU Physical Agents (Electromagnetic Fields) Directive

The Danish Presidency of the European Union introduced a proposal for a Physical Agents (Electromagnetic Fields (EMF)) Directive on 17 December 2002. The Danish proposal has been carried forward under the Italian Presidency, which began on 1 July 2003.

The Italian Presidency is keen to progress with negotiations and the next meeting will take place in early September. For further information please

Contact: [Kirsty.Marshall@hse.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Kirsty.Marshall@hse.gsi.gov.uk)

Website: <http://www.hse.gov.uk>

### Employers Liability Compulsory Insurance

Following its review of employers liability compulsory insurance, the Department for Work and Pensions published its report on 3 June. The report and supporting documents can be accessed via the links below.

Ministerial statement by Nick Brown:

<http://www.dwp.gov.uk/publications/dwp/2003/elci/elci%20review%20min%20statement%20x.pdf>

Review:

[http://www.dwp.gov.uk/publications/dwp/2003/elci/dw2583\\_employers\\_review.pdf](http://www.dwp.gov.uk/publications/dwp/2003/elci/dw2583_employers_review.pdf)

Initial RIA:

<http://www.dwp.gov.uk/publications/dwp/2003/elci/elci%20final%20initial%20ria%20xy.pdf>

Contact: [Terry.Martin@dti.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Terry.Martin@dti.gsi.gov.uk)

### International Accounting Standards

On 17 July, the DTI announced that from January 2005, all British companies will be able to use International Accounting Standards (IAS) as an alternative to UK accounting standards. European law requires listed companies to use IAS from 2005 when preparing their consolidated accounts. However, as the result of a public consultation, it will be extended so that:

- publicly traded companies in the UK will also be permitted to use IAS in their individual accounts from the same date; and
- other companies and limited liability partnerships in the UK will be permitted to use IAS in both their individual and consolidated accounts from the same date.

Further details are set out in the DTI Press Release at [www.gnn.gov.uk/gnn/national.nsf/TI/89E519641CD0EA9D80256D66003AEC2B?opendocument](http://www.gnn.gov.uk/gnn/national.nsf/TI/89E519641CD0EA9D80256D66003AEC2B?opendocument)

The IAS Regulation is available on the European Union website [www.europa.eu.int/index\\_en.htm](http://www.europa.eu.int/index_en.htm)

Contact: [Terry.Martin@dti.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Terry.Martin@dti.gsi.gov.uk)

### EU Temporary Agency Workers Directive

The Commission published its proposal on 20 March 2002 – discussions continue within Europe on the final form of the Directive. It has the broad aim of improving the quality of Temporary Agency Workers by requiring that they be treated no less favourably than comparable permanent workers in the user enterprise to which the temporary worker is assigned.

Contact: [Jenny.Young@dti.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Jenny.Young@dti.gsi.gov.uk)

Website: <http://www.dti.gov.uk/er/agency/directive.htm>

### EU Large Combustion Plants Directive

DEFRA has published a consultation paper seeking views on how the UK should implement the revised Large Combustion Plants Directive (2001/80/EC) for plants first licensed before 1 July 1987.

You will see that Ministers consider that the UK should adopt the national plan approach. However, Government recognises that the issues are finely balanced. This is a provisional decision, and Government will be working with stakeholders to refine the information on the impact of both options.

The deadline for consultation responses to be received is 9.00 am on 29 September 2003. Consultation responses should be sent before that date to Miss Rhonda Scobie at DEFRA, e-mail: [rhonda.scobie@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:rhonda.scobie@defra.gsi.gov.uk) and copied to Terry Martin.

Contact: [Terry.Martin@dti.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Terry.Martin@dti.gsi.gov.uk)

Website: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/combustpdir/index.htm>

## EU Freshwater Fish Directive

Defra published its consultation paper on the proposed new designations in England and Wales on 9 June. For those waters it sets physical and chemical water quality objectives. There will be financial implications for a number of business sectors. The consultation paper can be accessed via the weblink below. The deadline for comments to Defra (see contact below) is 8 September 2003.

Contact: [sarah.paul@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:sarah.paul@defra.gsi.gov.uk)

Website:

[www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/fwfish/index.htm](http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/fwfish/index.htm)

## EU Integrated Pollution Prevention & Control Directive

The European Commission issued a Communication on this Directive on 19 June 2003. This Communication could lead to a proposal to amend the Directive in 2004, and provides an opportunity to influence the future shape of this framework directive. DTI officials have been working with Defra and Industry to formulate the official UK government response.

It is subject to a 3-month consultation period, and stakeholders should ensure their comments reach the Commission by 15 September 2003.

Contact: [Terry.Martin@dti.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Terry.Martin@dti.gsi.gov.uk)

Website:

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/ppc/cipp.htm>

Website:

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/ippc/ippc\\_consultation.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/ippc/ippc_consultation.htm)

## Dual Support Funding System for University Research

Following the Cross-Cutting Review of Science and Research, itself part of the 2002 Spending Review, the Government has published its strategy for science, engineering and technology. It sets out what the Government proposes to do, in partnership with other stakeholders, to ensure the long-term sustainability of our university research base. It provides details of how the Government intends to implement the recommendations of the Roberts Review.

The consultation looks at how best to implement an interlinked set of reforms to the ways in which Higher Education Innovation Fund

cost and price their research and Research Councils fund and account for it.

The proposals have important implications for all those interested in the long term sustainability of research in the UK and we very much look forward to receiving your comments. The OST is currently undertaking a formal consultation on the proposal. An electronic version of the consultation document and reply template are available from <http://www.ost.gov.uk/policy/invest-innov.htm#innovationsupport>

The closing date for responses is 30 September 2003.

Executive Summary:

<http://www.ost.gov.uk/policy/execsum.pdf>

Full Report:

[http://www.ost.gov.uk/policy/science\\_strategy.pdf](http://www.ost.gov.uk/policy/science_strategy.pdf)

Contact: [Terry.Martin@dti.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Terry.Martin@dti.gsi.gov.uk)

#### Information & Consultation (I &C) Directive

This EC directive will give employees in larger organisations (with 50+ employees) new rights to be informed and consulted on workplace issues which are likely to affect them and must be implemented by March 2005. On 7 July the Government launched a major consultation, which will run until 7 November 2003 and hope to be able to finalise the legislation by mid-2004, well before it comes into force.

Contact: [iain.adlington@dti.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:iain.adlington@dti.gsi.gov.uk)

Website:

<http://www.dti.gov.uk/er/consultation/proposal.htm>

#### Dispute Resolution Regulations

The Employment Act 2002 established a framework for resolving employment disputes in the workplace – the Government proposes to fully implement these procedures in 2004.

The consultation document covers the Government's proposals for the Employment Act 2002 (Dispute Resolution) Regulations ('the Dispute Resolution Regulations').

The Government firmly believes in commitment and partnership in the workplace. Resolving disputes between employers and employees is an important part of this objective. The consultation document with draft Regulations and Regulatory Impact Assessment

is available from the weblink below. The closing date for response is 29 October 2003.

Contact: [Alicia.Law@dti.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Alicia.Law@dti.gsi.gov.uk)

Website: [www.dti.gov.uk/er/hot\\_topics.htm](http://www.dti.gov.uk/er/hot_topics.htm)

## Corporate Governance

In our March edition of Hot Issues

<http://www.dti.gov.uk/materials-engineering/mar03.htm>

we informed you of Derek Higgs published report on the role and effectiveness of Non-Executive Directors, commissioned by the Secretary of State Patricia Hewitt and Chancellor Gordon Brown.

The Financial Reporting Council (FRC)'s Combined Code (on corporate governance) has now been revised following recommendations by Derek Higgs in his report and by Sir Robert Smith's group on audit committees.

The Financial Reporting Council (FRC)'s revised code is available at <http://www.frc.org.uk>

## EU Chemicals Legislation: UK Government Response

The Government has issued its response to the European Commission's Internet consultation on draft legislative proposals for the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH). The Government continues to support the overall aims of this policy, but considers a number of significant changes are required to ensure the proposals are workable. The Government response can be accessed from the website below.

Contact: [giulia.musto@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:giulia.musto@defra.gsi.gov.uk)

[Chris.mee@dti.gov.uk](mailto:Chris.mee@dti.gov.uk)

Website:

[www.defra.gov.uk/environment/chemicals/reach/euresp.htm](http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/chemicals/reach/euresp.htm)

Proposal for a EU Directive relating to arsenic, cadmium, mercury, nickel and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH) in ambient air

The European Commission adopted its proposal on 16 July 2003. The proposal is aimed at minimising the effects of arsenic, cadmium, mercury, nickel and PAHs by requiring air quality monitoring by Member States. It sets a non-binding target value for

PAHs, and requires Member States to carry out mandatory monitoring of arsenic, cadmium and nickel where concentrations exceed specified levels. Initial comments on the proposal should be sent to Shiela Winter by 5 August.

Contact: [Shiela.Winter@dti.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Shiela.Winter@dti.gsi.gov.uk)

Website:

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/docum/index.htm>

## EU Integrated Product Policy Directive

On 18 June the European Commission adopted a Communication on Integrated Product Policy (IPP), outlining its strategy for reducing the environmental impact caused by products. IPP represents a new approach and puts emphasis on 3 dimensions:

- Life-cycle thinking - when pollution reduction measures are identified, consideration is given to the whole of a product's life-cycle from cradle to grave;
- Flexible - as to the type of policy measure to be used, working with the market where possible;
- Full stakeholder involvement

The Commission Communication is available from the website below.

Contact: [Terry.Martin@dti.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Terry.Martin@dti.gsi.gov.uk)

Website:

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/ipp/ippcommunication.htm>

## FORTHCOMING CONSULTATIONS

The following are some of the forthcoming consultations that may appear within the next few months. Should you wish to be added to the consultation list please email the contacts below:

### Emissions Trading Scheme

We will ensure that you receive individual notification and appropriate links to the first Consultation Document on Methodology options, which is due to start in August, as soon as it is published. For the latest update on Emissions Trading Scheme please see page 4 above.

Contact us at: [Peter.Dsouza@dti.gov.uk](mailto:Peter.Dsouza@dti.gov.uk)  
[Keith.Avis@dti.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Keith.Avis@dti.gsi.gov.uk)

### Road Transport Directive

The Road Transport Directive (RTD) was formally adopted on 23 March 2002. Mobile workers subject to the RTD, will be entitled to the paid annual leave and health assessment provisions of the Horizontal Amending Directive, as these have been omitted from the Directive. The RTD which details breaks, rest periods and working time of HGV drivers is due to be implemented in March 2005. The self-employed have been excluded from the Directive for the time being. The consultation document should be launched at the end of August 2003.

Contact: [Ian.Timpson@dft.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Ian.Timpson@dft.gsi.gov.uk)

### EU Physical Agents (Vibration) Directive

The Directive, which came into force on 6 July 2002, lays down minimum standards for the health and safety of workers exposed to hand-arm and whole body vibration. The UK & other Member States have three years from the aforementioned date to implement the Directive. The consultation documents will be published in October 2003. Further information on the consultation and the timetable for implementation can be found on the Health & Safety Executive (HSE) website.

Contact: [graeme.royal@hse.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:graeme.royal@hse.gsi.gov.uk)

Website: <http://www.hse.gov.uk/vibration/issues.htm>

### EU Water Framework Directive (WFD)

The Water Framework Directive is the most substantial piece of EU water legislation to date and will affect those businesses who utilise water in their day-to-day business, such as holders of an abstraction licence or discharge consent permit. It requires that we aim to achieve "good water status" by 2015. The third and final consultation paper on transposing the Directive into national legislation in England and Wales will be published shortly.

Contact: [Shiela.Winter@dti.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Shiela.Winter@dti.gsi.gov.uk)

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/water/wfd/>

European Commission proposals for an eco-design for Energy-using Products (EuP) framework Directive

Following the merger at the end of last year of DG Enterprise's proposals for a EEE (eco-design for Electrical & Electronic Equipment) Directive and DG Tren's proposals for an EER (Energy Efficiency Requirements) Directive, the adoption of proposals for an EuP Directive is due imminently. This would mean that negotiations in Environment Council would begin in the Autumn. It is generally acknowledged that the production, distribution, use and end-of-life management of products is associated with a number of environmental impacts - not least the consumption of materials and energy. This Directive would aim to establish a framework under which these issues might be addressed on a product-specific basis through the development of separate eco-design requirements.

Contact: [Steven.Andrews@dti.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Steven.Andrews@dti.gsi.gov.uk)

Website:

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/enterprise/electr\\_equipment/ee/index.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/enterprise/electr_equipment/ee/index.htm)

Implementation of EC Landfill Directive 1999/31/EC - consultation on draft regulations to achieve landfill segregation of hazardous and non-hazardous waste

Under the terms of the Directive, from 16 July 2004 the UK is required to move to a system of site segregation into hazardous, non-hazardous and inert in which only waste of those particular types will be allowed in the relevant landfills. The segregation will be achieved by either applying Waste Acceptance Criteria (WAC) agreed in Europe or, if the UK takes up this option following consultation, through risk assessment in some circumstances. The latest date allowed under the Directive for the introduction of WAC/risk assessment is July 2005. Defra will shortly be issuing a consultation paper on these issues. We will forward this consultation paper on to you once published.

Contact: [Terry.Martin@dti.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Terry.Martin@dti.gsi.gov.uk)

#### UK consultation on Solvents Emissions Directive (SED)

Defra is aiming to issue a public consultation on 1 August on the implementation of the final elements of the EU 'Solvent Emissions Directive' 1999/13/EC. The Directive was transposed in the UK through existing environmental legislation in 2000, but those facilities not covered by the Environmental Protection Act Part 1 and the Pollution Prevention Control (PPC) Regulations will now be regulated under the proposed legislation. Sectors that will be newly regulated include paint workshops and drycleaners.

Contact: [Imogen.Reid@dti.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Imogen.Reid@dti.gsi.gov.uk)

#### Draft EU Batteries Directive

A new batteries directive proposal is expected to issue by December 2003. The Commission is currently undertaking an impact assessment having consulted industry widely earlier this year. Over 120 responses were received and are listed on the Europa website.

Contact: [John.Lowndes@dti.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:John.Lowndes@dti.gsi.gov.uk)

Website:

[www.europa.eu.int/comm/environment/waste/batteries/stakeholder\\_consultation\\_notice.htm](http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/environment/waste/batteries/stakeholder_consultation_notice.htm)

INDUSTRY SUPPORT

Issue: Business Support Directory
Main Points: The Business Support Directory contains information on national and regional government programmes to help businesses develop. Key areas which are covered are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Grant for Research and Development</li> <li>· Small Firms Loan Guarantee Scheme</li> <li>· Knowledge Transfer Partnership</li> <li>· Grant for Investigating an Innovative Idea</li> </ul> Use our new <a href="#">Business Support Directory</a> now to find out what products are available to help your business prosper.
Deadline for input: Ongoing
Hot links (to further information): <a href="http://www.businesslink.org/support">http://www.businesslink.org/support</a>
Contact us at: <a href="mailto:Ambert.Prosper@dti.gsi.gov.uk">Ambert.Prosper@dti.gsi.gov.uk</a>



## QUEENS AWARD FOR ENTERPRISE

Top performing companies across the UK are being urged to apply now for the 2004 Queen's Award for Enterprise.

Any type of business unit can apply for a Queen's Award in one or more of three categories: International Trade, Innovation and Sustainable Development. Minimum requirements are that entrants employ at least two people, are UK-based and are high achievers in their field.

Closing dates for applications to be received for The Queen's Awards 2004 is midnight on 31 October 2003. Winners will be announced on 21 April 2004. Full details of the criteria under each category, as well as information on how to apply, can be found on The Queen's Awards website  
<http://www.queensawards.org.uk>

## INVITATION TO A DTI SEMINAR

## RESOLVING MARKET ACCESS PROBLEMS

TUESDAY, 30 SEPTEMBER 2003.

Business and industry are often faced with a variety of barriers in overseas trading. These are in many forms and can be quite complex and difficult for individual companies and industries to cope with.

Evidence suggests that companies may feel inclined to concede that the barriers are impossible to remove and move on to 'easier' targets. While this is understandable at individual company level there is a need to explain that there are ways and means of tackling these problems. Unfortunately, it seems, that companies are not aware of the help available.

The DTI Europe and World Trade (EWT)'s Market Access Unit role is to provide that help. It works closely with the European Commission as key resource. As well as facilitating trade within the EU itself through the Single Market initiative the Commission also has a Market Access Strategy (MAS) for combating illegal barriers to EU exports in third countries.

It has developed two practical instruments to help with this strategy and the seminar will be an opportunity to learn more about them from senior Commission Officials and how they can be utilised by business and industry.

The MADB is a database of information on barriers to trade and condition of trade in third markets. It is an interactive service available to EU business: <http://mkaccdb.eu.int>

The TBR is a legal instrument for investigating and resolving barriers to trade that do not comply with international trade rules [http://europa.eu.int/comm/trade/policy/traderegul/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/trade/policy/traderegul/index_en.htm)

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