

# Guidance for Prohibition on Heavy Metals in Vehicles



## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is responsible for protecting and improving the environment as a valuable asset for the people of Ireland. We are committed to protecting people and the environment from the harmful effects of radiation and pollution.

### The work of the EPA can be divided into three main areas:

**Regulation:** *We implement effective regulation and environmental compliance systems to deliver good environmental outcomes and target those who don't comply.*

**Knowledge:** *We provide high quality, targeted and timely environmental data, information and assessment to inform decision making at all levels.*

**Advocacy:** *We work with others to advocate for a clean, productive and well protected environment and for sustainable environmental behaviour.*

## Our Responsibilities

### Licensing

We regulate the following activities so that they do not endanger human health or harm the environment:

- waste facilities (e.g. landfills, incinerators, waste transfer stations);
- large scale industrial activities (e.g. pharmaceutical, cement manufacturing, power plants);
- intensive agriculture (e.g. pigs, poultry);
- the contained use and controlled release of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs);
- sources of ionising radiation (e.g. x-ray and radiotherapy equipment, industrial sources);
- large petrol storage facilities;
- waste water discharges;
- dumping at sea activities.

### National Environmental Enforcement

- Conducting an annual programme of audits and inspections of EPA licensed facilities.
- Overseeing local authorities' environmental protection responsibilities.
- Supervising the supply of drinking water by public water suppliers.
- Working with local authorities and other agencies to tackle environmental crime by coordinating a national enforcement network, targeting offenders and overseeing remediation.
- Enforcing Regulations such as Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE), Restriction of Hazardous Substances (RoHS) and substances that deplete the ozone layer.
- Prosecuting those who flout environmental law and damage the environment.

### Water Management

- Monitoring and reporting on the quality of rivers, lakes, transitional and coastal waters of Ireland and groundwaters; measuring water levels and river flows.
- National coordination and oversight of the Water Framework Directive.
- Monitoring and reporting on Bathing Water Quality.

### Monitoring, Analysing and Reporting on the Environment

- Monitoring air quality and implementing the EU Clean Air for Europe (CAFE) Directive.
- Independent reporting to inform decision making by national and local government (e.g. *periodic reporting on the State of Ireland's Environment and Indicator Reports*).

### Regulating Ireland's Greenhouse Gas Emissions

- Preparing Ireland's greenhouse gas inventories and projections.
- Implementing the Emissions Trading Directive, for over 100 of the largest producers of carbon dioxide in Ireland.

### Environmental Research and Development

- Funding environmental research to identify pressures, inform policy and provide solutions in the areas of climate, water and sustainability.

### Strategic Environmental Assessment

- Assessing the impact of proposed plans and programmes on the Irish environment (e.g. *major development plans*).

### Radiological Protection

- Monitoring radiation levels, assessing exposure of people in Ireland to ionising radiation.
- Assisting in developing national plans for emergencies arising from nuclear accidents.
- Monitoring developments abroad relating to nuclear installations and radiological safety.
- Providing, or overseeing the provision of, specialist radiation protection services.

### Guidance, Accessible Information and Education

- Providing advice and guidance to industry and the public on environmental and radiological protection topics.
- Providing timely and easily accessible environmental information to encourage public participation in environmental decision-making (e.g. *My Local Environment, Radon Maps*).
- Advising Government on matters relating to radiological safety and emergency response.
- Developing a National Hazardous Waste Management Plan to prevent and manage hazardous waste.

### Awareness Raising and Behavioural Change

- Generating greater environmental awareness and influencing positive behavioural change by supporting businesses, communities and householders to become more resource efficient.
- Promoting radon testing in homes and workplaces and encouraging remediation where necessary.

### Management and Structure of the EPA

The EPA is managed by a full time Board, consisting of a Director General and five Directors. The work is carried out across five Offices:

- Office of Environmental Sustainability
- Office of Environmental Enforcement
- Office of Evidence and Assessment
- Office of Radiation Protection and Environmental Monitoring
- Office of Communications and Corporate Services

The EPA is assisted by an Advisory Committee of twelve members who meet regularly to discuss issues of concern and provide advice to the Board.



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Environmental Protection Agency

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## What is the End-of-Life Vehicle Directive?

The EU End-of-Life Vehicle Directive (2000/53/EC) sets out measures to prevent waste from vehicles and minimise the impact of End-of-Life vehicles on the environment. This contributes to the protection, preservation and improvement of the quality of the environment.

The directive applies to all EU Member States and was introduced into the Irish Statute book through S.I. No. 281/2014 - European Union (End-of-Life Vehicles) Regulations 2014 and subsequent amendments.

Whilst the Directive addresses a broad range of issues related to management of End-of-Life vehicles, such as setting targets for recovery of materials from End-of-Life vehicles, this guidance covers only those aspects related to the prohibition on heavy metals in specified vehicles and their materials and components. This guidance document does not replace the legal requirements of the regulations.

**For further information, please click on the links below:**

- ▲ [EU End-of-Life Vehicle Directive \(2000/53/EC\)](#)
- ▲ [European Union \(End-of-Life Vehicles\) Regulations 2014 \(S.I. No. 281/2014\)](#)
  - [2016 amendment to regulations](#)
  - [2018 amendment to regulations](#)
  - [2020 amendment to regulations](#)

## What is covered by the regulations?

The Directive covers **specified vehicles** and **components and materials** for such specified vehicles of a producer's or component supplier's brand or other brands that the producer or component supplier has responsibility for, put on the market in Ireland after 1<sup>st</sup> July 2003, **including replacement parts** for specified vehicles.

**Specified vehicles** include:

- ▲ passenger vehicles e.g. cars, people carriers, with a maximum of nine permanently fitted seats - **M1** category vehicles,
- ▲ commercial vehicles e.g. light vans and trucks, not exceeding 3.5 tonnes - **N1** category vehicles.

**For further information on vehicle categories please visit the [RSA website](#).**

## What is the EPA's Role?

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has been appointed as the competent authority for the enforcement of Part IV (Design Requirements – Prohibition on Heavy Metals) of the European Union (End-of-Life Vehicles) Regulations 2014 (S.I. No. 281/2014).

The focus of this guidance from the EPA relates to design requirements prohibiting heavy metals, the EPA's responsibilities and the steps that are necessary for producers and component suppliers to comply with the regulations.

## What are the Producer's and Component Supplier's Responsibilities and Obligations?

### Design Requirements – Prohibition on Heavy Metals

Producers and component suppliers should ensure that the materials and components of specified vehicles put on the market after 1 July 2003 do not contain **lead, mercury, cadmium or hexavalent chromium** except in the case of listed exemptions (in Annex II of the the EU End-of-Life Vehicle Directive (2000/53/EC)).

### Who is responsible?

Producers and component suppliers have obligations to comply with the requirements of the regulations. They include:

- ▲ manufacturers placing vehicles or components on the market in Ireland,
- ▲ professional importers of vehicles into Ireland,
- ▲ professional importers of vehicle components (including spare and replacement parts) into Ireland.

## How do Producers and Component Suppliers Demonstrate Compliance?

### Record Keeping

Producers and component suppliers are obliged to maintain and make available, technical documentation and information for a period of 7 years from the date which a specified vehicle and materials and components of that specified vehicle are placed on the market in Ireland. This information is to verify that the materials and components in a specified vehicle do not contain lead, mercury, cadmium or hexavalent chromium other than in cases specified in Annex II of the EU End-of-Life Vehicle Directive (2000/53/EC).

### Collection Systems for End-of-Life Vehicles

- ▲ Producers have the option to apply for registration or renewal of registration with the local authority for Collection Systems for End-of-Life Vehicles. When applying for registration or for renewal of registration with the local authority for Collection Systems for End-of-Life Vehicles (i.e. authorised treatment facilities) and preparing their three-year implementation plan specifying the measures to be taken by the producer to ensure the appropriate treatment and recovery of End-of-Life vehicles, a producer must supply a signed declaration to confirm that the materials and components of specified vehicles put on the market do not contain lead, mercury, cadmium or hexavalent chromium other than in Annex II of the EU End-of-Life Vehicle Directive (2000/53/EC).
- ▲ Alternatively, producers can join an approved body providing a national collection scheme for the recovery of End-of-Life vehicles. A producer who holds a valid certificate granted by an approved body stating that the producer is participating, in a satisfactory manner, in a national collection scheme for the recovery of End-of-Life vehicles shall not be subject to the requirements of the Regulations to register or renew registration with the local authority as above. [ELVES](#) is the approved End-of-Life Vehicle compliance scheme for Ireland.



## Dismantling information

Producers should make available dismantling information for new specified vehicles within six months of being put on the market in Ireland.

**For further information on dismantling please visit the [International Dismantling Information System](#) website.**

## Reporting

Where a producer or component supplier is aware that a vehicle's materials or components contain heavy metals in concentrations which are prohibited under the provisions of the regulations, they are obliged to immediately inform the EPA. On request from the EPA the producer or component supplier should provide every reasonable assistance and provide the following information:

- ▲ Identification information of the vehicle or materials and components enabling a precise identification of the specified vehicles or materials and components in question.
- ▲ A description of the relevant materials and components and the prohibited substances contained therein.
- ▲ Information relevant for tracing the vehicle or materials and components.
- ▲ Records for 7 years from the date a specified vehicle is placed on the market or a specified period as appropriate, requested by the EPA.

On receipt of a notice in writing from the EPA a producer or component supplier shall within a specified period submit technical documentation and any other information that may be requested, and commission a laboratory to carry out such tests as are necessary, to verify to the EPA that the materials and components of specified vehicles are in compliance with the provisions of the Regulation on the prohibition of heavy metals and Annex II of the of the EU End-of-Life Vehicle Directive (2000/53/EC).

## Exemptions

Heavy metals should only be used in applications according to Annex II of the EU End-of-Life Vehicle Directive (2000/53/EC).

Certain materials used are exempt for approved vehicle types and spare parts for these vehicles manufactured prior to the expiry date of a given exemption specified in Annex II, including materials used in: alloying elements, batteries, coatings inside petrol tanks, vibration dampers, vulcanising agent for high pressure or fuel hoses, stabiliser in protective paints, solder in electronic circuit boards, corrosion preventative coatings, bulbs and instrument panel displays.

Spare parts put on the market after 1st July 2003 which are used for vehicles put on the market before 1st July 2003, except for wheel balance weights, carbon brushes for electric motors and brake linings, shall be exempted from the provisions of the EU End-of-Life Vehicle Directive (2000/53/EC).

**Note: Annex II is amended on a regular basis according to scientific and technological progress on the availability of substitutes. For further information on the materials which are exempt, and the conditions related to the exemptions please always refer to ANNEX II of the Directive (2000/53/EC) for complete details.**

***For further information on Annex II and amendments to ANNEX II of the Directive (2000/53/EC) please click the links below:***

## **Annex II**

- ▲ [EU End-of-Life Vehicle Directive \(2000/53/EC\) & Annex II](#)

## **Annex II Amendments**

- ▲ [EU End-of-Life Vehicle Directive \(2000/53/EC\) Amendments](#)

## **Penalties and Offences**

Any person who fails to comply with the regulations, provides false or misleading information, obstructs or interferes with an authorised person carrying out their duties as appointed by the regulations shall be guilty of an offence.

A person guilty of an offence under these regulations is liable on summary conviction, to a class A fine or imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months, or both, or on conviction on indictment, to a fine not exceeding €500,000 or imprisonment for a term not exceeding 3 years or both.

## **Learn More**

For information on the compliance scheme, End-of-Life Vehicle Environmental Services (ELVES) CLG, click below:

- ▲ [End-of-Life Vehicles Compliance Scheme \(ELVES\)](#)

For information on the EPA End-of-Life Vehicle Statistics for Ireland, click below:

- ▲ [EPA End-of-Life Vehicle Statistics for Ireland](#)

## **Useful Links**

- ▲ [Irish Government website on ELVs](#)
- ▲ [EU Commission website on ELVs](#)

## **Further Support**

- ▲ For further information or any queries please email [ELVS@epa.ie](mailto:ELVS@epa.ie).

# AN GHNÍOMHAIREACTH UM CHAOMHNÚ COMHSHAOIL

Tá an Gníomhaireacht um Chaomhnú Comhshaoil (GCC) freagrach as an gcomhshaoil a chaomhnú agus a fheabhsú mar shócmhainn luachmhar do mhuintir na hÉireann. Táimid tiomanta do dhaoine agus don chomhshaoil a chosaint ar thionchar díobhálach na radaíochta agus an truaillithe.

## Is féidir obair na Gníomhaireachta a roinnt ina trí phríomhréimse:

**Rialáil:** Déanaimid córais éifeachtacha rialaithe agus comhlíonta comhshaoil a chur i bhfeidhm chun torthaí maíthe comhshaoil a sholáthar agus chun déileáil leo siúd nach gcloíonn leis na córais sin.

**Eolas:** Soláthraimid sonraí, faisnéis agus measúnú comhshaoil atá ar ardchaighdeán, spriocdhírthe agus tráthúil chun bonn eolais a chur faoin gcinnteoireacht ar gach leibhéal.

**Abhcóideacht:** Bímid ag saothrú i gcomhar le grúpaí eile chun tacú le comhshaoil atá glan, táirgiúil agus cosanta go maith, agus le hiompar a chuirfidh le comhshaoil inbhuanaithe.

## Ár bhFreagrachtaí

### Ceadúnú

Déanaimid na gníomhaíochtaí seo a leanas a rialú ionas nach ndéanann siad dochar do shláinte an phobail ná don chomhshaoil:

- saoráidí dramhaíola (*m.sh. láithreáin líonta talún, loisceoirí, stáisiúin aistrithe dramhaíola*);
- gníomhaíochtaí tionsclaíocha ar scála mór (*m.sh. déantúsaíocht cógaisíochta, déantúsaíocht stroighne, stáisiúin chumhachta*);
- an diantalmhaíocht (*m.sh. muca, éanlaith*);
- úsáid ghlanscartha agus scaoileadh rialaithe Orgánach Géinmhodhnaithe (*OGManna*);
- foinsí radaíochta ianúcháin (*m.sh. trealamh x-gha agus radaiteiripe, foinsí tionsclaíocha*);
- áiseanna móra stórála peitрил;
- doirtí fuíolluisce;
- gníomhaíochtaí dumpála ar farraige.

### Forfheidhmiú Náisiúnta i leith Cúrsaí Comhshaoil

- Clár náisiúnta iniúchtaí agus cigireachtaí a dhéanamh gach bliain ar shaoráidí a bhfuil ceadúnas ón nGníomhaireacht acu.
- Maoirseacht a dhéanamh ar fhreagrachtaí cosanta comhshaoil na n-údarás áitiúil.
- Caighdeán an uisce óil, arna sholáthar ag soláthraithe uisce phoiblí, a mhaoirsiú.
- Obair le húdarais áitiúla agus gníomhaireachtaí eile chun dul i ngleic le coireacht chomhshaoil trí chomhordú a dhéanamh ar líonra forfheidhmiúcháin náisiúnta, díriú ar chiontóirí, agus maoirsiú a dhéanamh ar fheabhsúcháin.
- Rialacháin maidir le Dramhthrealamh Leictreach agus Leictreonach (WEEE), le Srian ar Shubstaintí Guaiseacha (RoHS) agus ar shubstaintí ídionn an císeal ózóin.
- An dlí a chur orthu siúd a bhriseann dlí an chomhshaoil agus a dhéanann dochar don chomhshaoil.

### Bainistíocht Uisce

- Monatóireacht agus tuairisciú a dhéanamh ar cháilíocht aibhneacha, lochanna, uisce idirchreasa agus cósta na hÉireann, agus screamhuiscí; leibhéal uisce agus sruthanna aibhneacha a thomhas.
- Comhordú náisiúnta agus maoirsiú a dhéanamh ar an gCreat-Treoir Uisce.
- Monatóireacht agus tuairisciú a dhéanamh ar Cháilíocht an Uisce Snámha.

## Monatóireacht, Anailís agus Tuairisciú ar an gComhshaoil

- Monatóireacht a dhéanamh ar cháilíocht an aeir agus Treoir an AE maidir le hAer Glan don Eoraip (CAFÉ) a chur chun feidhme.
- Tuairisciú neamhspleách le cabhrú le cinnteoireacht an rialtais náisiúnta agus áitiúil (*m.sh. tuairisciú tréimhsiúil ar Staid Chomhshaoil na hÉireann agus Tuarascálacha ar Tháscairí*).

## Rialú Astaíochtaí na nGás Ceaptha Teasa in Éirinn

- Fardail agus réamh-mheastacháin na hÉireann maidir le gás ceaptha teasa a ullmhú.
- An Treoir maidir le Trádáil Astaíochtaí a chur chun feidhme i gcomhair breis agus 100 de na táirgeoirí dé-ocsaíde carbóin is mó in Éirinn.

## Taighde agus Forbairt Comhshaoil

- Taighde comhshaoil a chistiú chun brúnna a shainaithint, bonn eolais a chur faoi bheartais, agus réitigh a sholáthar i réimsí na haeráide, an uisce agus na hinbhuanaitheachta.

## Measúntachtaí Straitéisí Comhshaoil

- Measúnacht a dhéanamh ar thionchar pleananna agus clár beartaithe ar an gcomhshaoil in Éirinn (*m.sh. mórphleananna forbartha*).

## Cosaint Raideolaíoch

- Monatóireacht a dhéanamh ar leibhéal radaíochta, agus measúnacht a dhéanamh ar an oiread is atá muintir na hÉireann gan chosaint ar an radaíocht ianúcháin.
- Cabhrú le pleananna náisiúnta a fhorbairt le haghaidh éigeandálaí ag eascairt as taimí núicléacha.
- Monatóireacht a dhéanamh ar fhorbairtí thar lear a bhaineann le saoráidí núicléacha agus leis an tsábháilteacht raideolaíochta.
- Sainseirbhísí cosanta ar an radaíocht a sholáthar, nó maoirsiú a dhéanamh ar sholáthar na seirbhísí sin.

## Treoir, Faisnéis Inrochtana agus Oideachas

- Comhairle agus treoir a chur ar fáil d'earnáil na tionsclaíochta agus don phobal maidir le hábhair a bhaineann le caomhnú an chomhshaoil agus leis an gcosaint raideolaíoch.
- Eolas tráthúil agus inrochtana faoin gcomhshaoil a chur ar fáil chun an pobal a spreagadh páirt a ghlacadh i gcinnteoireacht chomhshaoil (*m.sh. Mo Thimpeallacht Áitiúil, Léarscáileanna Radóin*).
- Comhairle a chur ar fáil don Rialtas maidir le hábhair a bhaineann leis an tsábháilteacht raideolaíoch agus le cúrsaí práinnfhreagartha.
- Plean Náisiúnta Bainistíochta Dramhaíola Guaisí a fhorbairt chun dramhaíl ghuaiseach a chosc agus a bhainistiú.

## Múscailt Feasachta agus Athrú Iompraíochta

- Feasacht chomhshaoil níos fearr a ghiniúint agus dul i bhfeidhm ar athrú iompraíochta dearfach trí thacú le gnóthais, le pobail agus le teaghlaigh a bheith níos éifeachtúla ar acmhainní.
- Tástáil le haghaidh radóin a chur chun cinn i dtithe agus in ionaid oibre, agus gníomhartha leasúcháin a spreagadh nuair is gá.

## Bainistíocht agus Struchtúr GCC

Tá an gníomhaireacht á bainistiú ag Bord lánaimseartha, ar a bhfuil Ard-Stiúrthóir agus cúigear Stiúrthóirí. Déantar an obair ar fud cúig cinn d'Oifigí:

- An Oifig um Inbhuanaitheacht Comhshaoil
- An Oifig Forfheidhmithe i leith Cúrsaí Comhshaoil
- An Oifig um Fhianaise agus Measúnú
- An Oifig um Chosaint Radaíochta agus Monatóireacht Chomhshaoil
- An Oifig Cumarsáide agus Seirbhísí Corparáideacha

Tá Coiste Comhairleach ag an nGníomhaireacht le cabhrú léi. Tá dáréag comhaltaí air agus tagann siad le chéile go rialta le plé a dhéanamh ar ábhair inní agus le comhairle a chur ar an mBord.



#### **Headquarters**

**PO Box 3000,  
Johnstown Castle Estate  
County Wexford, Ireland**

**T: +353 53 916 0600  
F: +353 53 916 0699  
E: [info@epa.ie](mailto:info@epa.ie)  
W: [www.epa.ie](http://www.epa.ie)  
LoCall: 1890 33 55 99**

#### **Regional Inspectorate**

McCumiskey House,  
Richview, Clonskeagh Road,  
Dublin 14, Ireland

**T: +353 1 268 0100  
F: +353 1 268 0199**

#### **Regional Inspectorate**

Inniscarra, County Cork,  
Ireland

**T: +353 21 487 5540  
F: +353 21 487 5545**

#### **Regional Inspectorate**

Seville Lodge, Callan Road,  
Kilkenny, Ireland

**T +353 56 779 6700  
F +353 56 779 6798**

#### **Regional Inspectorate**

John Moore Road, Castlebar  
County Mayo, Ireland

**T +353 94 904 8400  
F +353 94 902 1934**

#### **Regional Inspectorate**

The Glen, Monaghan, Ireland

**T +353 47 77600  
F +353 47 84987**

#### **Regional Offices**

The Civic Centre  
Church St., Athlone  
Co. Westmeath, Ireland  
**T +353 906 475722**

Room 3, Raheen Conference Centre,  
Pearse House, Pearse Road  
Raheen Business Park, Limerick,  
Ireland

**T +353 61 224764**