

New waste standard to help firms cut costs

The UK's national standards body, BSI, has updated its waste resource management specification to help businesses divert more waste from landfill and reduce their costs in the process.

Posted on 25 January 2014

The UK's national standards body, BSI (<http://www.bsigroup.com/en-GB/about-bsi/uk-national-standards-body/>), has updated its waste resource management specification to help waste management businesses divert more waste from landfill and reduce their costs in the process.

BSI is an independent, non-profit organisation and it first launched a waste management standard for the UK in 2009.

It was known as *PAS 402:2009* and supported by a guide called *Waste Resource Management: Specification for performance reporting*.

The specification was developed in collaboration with CEW (Constructing Excellence in Wales) (<http://www.cewales.org.uk/>), with the Welsh construction, demolition and excavation industry chiefly in mind.

New standard

The 2009 standard has now been updated in line with current best practice and re-launched as *PAS 402:2013* (<http://www.bsigroup.com/en-GB/about-bsi/media-centre/press-releases/2014/January-2014/Revised-specification-can-help-UK-waste-management-sector-cut-costs-and-meet-regulatory-compliance--/#.UulsvNK6at8>).

It focuses more on recovering waste materials and treating them as a resource in their own right, and on using more 'intelligent' solutions for segregating and managing waste.

It is specifically aimed at organisations that processes industrial, commercial or household waste at a transfer station, treatment facility or disposal site. It does not apply to businesses that solely act as a waste carrier or broker.

The new framework takes a broader view than the 2009 edition, encompassing a wider range of waste types, including electronic equipment and computer hardware.

It was developed in partnership with the Chartered Institution of Wastes Management (CIWM) (<http://www.ciwm.co.uk/CIWM/CIWMHome.aspx>), the UK Contractors Group (<http://www.ukcwg.org.uk/home/>), Natural Resource Wales (<http://naturalresourceswales.gov.uk/splash?orig=/>), the Welsh Government, and environmental services company, Veolia.

‘Competitive advantage’

BSI’s head of market development for sustainability, David Fatscher, said the new standard would: “enable waste management organisations to not only see cost savings” but to “achieve enhanced reputation, gain competitive advantage and more sustainable customer relationships”.

He added: “This is in addition to the benefits of a heightened level of regulatory compliance and environmental protection from exposure to hazardous substances.”

Businesses in the waste management sector are under increasing pressure to reduce the amount of material they send to landfill sites.

The Local Government Association (LGA) (<http://www.local.gov.uk/waste-management>) has predicted that existing landfill capacity in the UK will be completely full by 2018, unless action is taken to reduce the amount of waste we throw away.

Companies are also subject to increasing rates of landfill tax (<http://www.letsrecycle.com/business/landfill-tax>), with the current rate of £72 per tonnes of waste set to rise again to £80 per tonne on 1 April. In 2010 it was just £48 per tonne.

Posted under Waste Management, Business Support,
Environmental Technologies and Other Service Sector on
25 January 2014

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