



HSE Bulletin (Ref:5in2014)

Illegal disposal of waste

Date of issue: 18 March 2014

Support Directorates COOAP COO Stations and Trains CPD

Background

Waste produced by London Underground (LU) was unlawfully disposed of and mislabelled. Fortunately this was intercepted by one of our waste contractors preventing the potential for a prosecution by the Environment Agency and/or Local Council.

Our waste contractors can legitimately charge LU for costs they incur in dealing with unlawful waste costs.

The recent example was where used batteries were disposed of in bags labelled as oily rags. This caused the following issues:

- Bags were sent to the waste contractors who were not able to dispose of batteries (in this case 50kg).
- The batteries were not contained in suitable spill proof containers leading to risks associated with battery acid burns.
- The yellow sacks are used for incineration. It is dangerous if the batteries enter the incinerator and could lead to explosion and/or the release of poisonous gases.
- Bags would have been heavier than expected – exposing operatives and sub-contractors to manual handling risks.



Instruction

Ensure you have the appropriate bins for your work areas and that they are clearly labelled and easily accessible. Distribution Services can assist with appropriate bins both as short term and long term solutions.

- All waste must be put into the correct bin and labelled as to the contents; batteries, wood, paper.
- Waste bags should be checked prior to disposal to ensure contents are correctly described on associated paperwork, labels, waste transfer notes etc.
- Items found in the wrong bin should be placed into the correct bin if it is safe to do so and reported as an IRF (Incident Report Form).

Please communicate this alert to your teams, projects and suppliers as appropriate

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