

# Environmental Bulletin No. 1 of 2016

## OPERATORS DUTY OF CARE FOR WASTE

### Introduction

The Environment Agency (EA), Maritime & Coastguard Agency (MCA) and the Port of London Authority (PLA) are working together to assist river operators and users in improving the storage and transfer of waste materials, as part of a larger project to clean up the River Thames – please also see our Cleaner Thames Campaign at: [www.pla.co.uk/cleaner-thames](http://www.pla.co.uk/cleaner-thames).

The EA has recently produced useful guidance about the roles and responsibilities regarding waste and in conjunction with our campaign will be closely monitoring progress over the next twelve months.

### Roles and responsibilities

#### Management of waste

If your vessels fall under the Merchant Shipping and Fishing Vessels (Port Waste Reception Facilities) you should comply with the requirements under [MGN 387](#). For all other vessels your waste management practices must be in accordance with the Domestic Safety Management Code.

It should be noted that all waste materials should be stored securely and where they cannot cause pollution and potentially harm the environment of the River Thames.



#### Disposal of waste

The waste you produce on your vessel(s) and/or operation(s) must be removed by a waste carrier licenced by the EA. Upon collection of your waste, you should receive the following paperwork, which must contain specific information including:

- Name of the waste carrier & licence number
- Description of the waste, including a six digit EWC code
- Where the waste will be taken for recycling or disposal
- Volume or weight of the waste

It is a legal requirement to produce this paperwork when the waste carrier is collecting your waste. If your waste is collected by an unauthorised carrier and not disposed of correctly, you may be liable and face enforcement action.

#### Hazardous materials

If you produce hazardous waste it must be sent to a site that can treat and dispose of it appropriately and carried by a waste carrier licenced for this specialist work.



#### Storage of oil

Oil should be prevented from entering the River Thames at all cost. When storing oil products, they should be securely banded with appropriate spill kits readily available and someone should be dedicated to monitoring these operations.

Should an incident occur resulting in waste or fuel oils being spilt into the River Thames, it must be reported immediately to the Harbourmaster via London VTS, as stipulated in Thames Byelaw 8 and Permanent Notice to Mariners No.7. If you happen to see any oil sheens on the River Thames, these should also be reported to London VTS immediately.

#### Where do I find further information?

Further guidance notes has be produced by the EA and MCA to help organisations and individuals on the River Thames find appropriate and useful information they need on the relevant websites.

These are also available on the PLA website. <http://www.pla.co.uk/Environment/Environmental-Guidance>

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Telephone calls, VHF radio traffic, CCTV and radar traffic images may be recorded in the VTS Centres at Gravesend and Woolwich.

[www.pla.co.uk](http://www.pla.co.uk)

