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DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES

NO. 539 **14 MAY 2020**

DIRECTIONS REGARDING MEASURES TO ADDRESS, PREVENT AND COMBAT THE SPREAD OF COVID-19 IN RELATION TO RECYCLING OF WASTE

I, Barbara Dallas Creecy, Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment hereby issue the Directions set out in the Schedule in terms of regulation 4(10) of the Regulations issued by the Minister of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs in terms of section 27(2) of the Disaster Management Act, 2002 (Act No. 57 of 2002) and published on 29 April 2020 in Government Notice No. R. 480 of Government *Gazette* No. 43258.

BARBARA DALLAS CREECY
MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT

SCHEDULE

1. **Definitions**

In these Directions, any word or expression to which a meaning has been assigned in the Regulations or the National Environmental Management: Waste Act, bears the meaning so assigned and, unless the context otherwise indicates—

"National Environmental Management: Waste Act" means the National Environmental Management: Waste Act, 2008 (Act No. 59 of 2008);

"Regulations" means the Regulations issued in terms of section 27(2) of the Disaster Management Act and published on 29 April 2020 in Government Notice No. R. 480 of *Government Gazette* No. 43258; and

"Waste Information Regulations" means the National Waste Information Regulations issued in terms of section 69(1) of the National Environmental Management: Waste Act and published on 13 August 2012 in Government Notice No. R. 625 of Government *Gazette* No. 35583.

2. **Purpose**

The purpose of these Directions is to—

(a) curtail the threat posed by the COVID-19 pandemic and to alleviate, contain and minimise the effects of the national state of disaster;

(b) ensure fair processes, and related procedures during Alert Level 4 for the recycling of glass, paper, plastic, metal and tyres and other waste streams as contemplated in Annexure 3 and 4 of the Waste Information Regulations;

(c) provide direction in respect of the protection of health, well-being and the environment when carrying out of activities by the recycling sector in terms of the National Environmental Management: Waste Act, through the provision of reasonable measures for re-using, recycling and recovering of waste in respect of services that have been permitted under Alert Level 4 as contained in the Regulations; and

(d) enable separation of waste at source by encouraging households and other establishments that generate municipal solid waste to separate recyclables from residual waste before disposal.

3. **Application**

These Directions apply to persons carrying out activities as contemplated in section 2*(a)*(iii) and 16(1)*(b)* of National Environmental Management: Waste Act and includes—

(a) all recycling operations within the Republic of South Africa, including formal recycling establishments (e.g. waste storage, depots, Buy Back Centres, waste processing facilities, etc.); and

(b) all informal recyclers and waste pickers.

4. **Directions related to formal recycling establishments of glass, paper, plastic, metal, tyres and other waste streams as contemplated in Annexure 3 and 4 of the Waste Information Regulations**

4.1 All recycling operations within the Republic of South Africa are expected to allow operations for the recycling of glass, paper, plastic, metal, tyres and other waste streams as contemplated in Annexure 3 and 4 of the Waste Information Regulations and which are contained as Annexure 1 and 2 to these Directions, which operations are permitted to operate at 50% capacity.

4.2 Formal recycling operations as permitted by the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition must adhere to Alert Level 4 conditions relating to social distancing, the usage of personal protective equipment, the disinfecting and sanitizing of establishments and are limited to operate at not more than 50% of capacity. When establishing capacity, all formal recycling establishments must limit the number of persons, including staff, contractors and customers physically present in a recycling establishment at any given time to not exceeding one person for every nine square metres. The calculation of the maximum number of people permitted in the recycling establishment must be based on the net floor space where people can freely move around, not considering divisions such as walls, fixtures, fittings, etc. and others that occupy floor space. The following formula must be applied:

N = F / 9

N = Number of people allowed in the recycling establishment space

F = clear floor space of the site in square metres (excluding space occupied by walls, fixtures and fittings).

5. Directions related to informal recyclers and waste pickers

5.1 A municipality may issue permits under regulations 16(2)(b) and 28(4) of the Regulations relating to informal recyclers and waste pickers, and must maintain a list of persons to whom permits were issued, including their names, gender, and identification or passport number, where available.

5.2 In order to enable a municipality to process the issuing of permits as contemplated in subparagraph 5.1, all informal recyclers and waste pickers must provide proof of identity or certified copies of proof of identity in the following manner:

(a) All South African informal recyclers and waste pickers must provide South African identity or passport documents or certified copies thereof;

(b) all non-South African informal recyclers and waste pickers must provide either—

(i) a valid passport or a certified copy thereof with a visa authorising him or her to work, issued by the Department of Home Affairs in terms of section 10 read with section 19 of the Immigration Act, 2002 (Act No. 13 of 2002), or a certified copy thereof; or

(ii) an asylum seekers' visa, or a certified copy thereof, issued in terms of section 22(1) of the Refugees Act, 1998 (Act No. 130 of 1998), which is endorsed with the right to work; or

(iii) a formal written recognition of refugee status or a certified copy thereof, issued in terms of section 27 the Refugees Act, 1998 (Act No. 130 of 1998).

5.3 All informal recyclers and waste pickers must uphold health and hygiene requirements by—

(a) wearing personal protective equipment (including gloves, a cloth or any other mask) at all times during operation; and

(b) maintaining a social distance amongst informal waste recyclers and waste pickers of at least one and a half metres.

6. Commencement and duration

These Directions come into effect on the date of publication in the Government *Gazette*, and will apply for the period of Alert Level 4.

ANNEXURE 1
GENERAL WASTE TYPES

	No	Name	No	Name
General waste	GW 01	Municipal waste	01	
	GW 10	Commercial and industrial waste	01	
	GW 13	Brine	01	
	GW 14	Fly ash and dust from miscellaneous filter sources	01	
	GW 15	Bottom ash	01	
	GW 16	Slag	01	Ferrous metal slag
			02	Non-ferrous metal slag
			03	Other
	GW 17	Mineral waste	01	Foundry sand
			02	Refractory waste
			03	Other
	GW 18	Waste of electric and electronic equipment (WEEE) from which hazardous components / substances have been removed	01	Large household appliances
			02	Small household appliances
			03	Office, information and communication equipment
			04	Entertainment and consumer electronics and toys, leisure, sports and recreational equipment and automatic issuing machines
			05	Lighting equipment
			06	Electric and electronic tools
			07	Security and health care equipment
			08	Mixed WEEE
	GW 20	Organic waste	01	Garden waste
			02	Food waste
			03	Wood waste
	GW 21	Sewage sludge	01	Sewage sludge
	GW 30	Construction and demolition waste	01	

	GW 50	Paper	01	Newsprint and magazines
			02	Brown grades
			03	White grades
			04	Mixed grades
	GW 51	Plastics	01	Polyethylene terephthalate (PET)
			02	Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC)
			03	Low-density polyethylene (LPDE)
			04	Polypropylene (PP)
			05	Polystyrene (PS)
			06	Other
	GW 52	Glass	01	
	GW 53	Metals	01	Ferrous metal
			02	Non-ferrous metal
	GW 54	Tyres	01	
	GW 99	Other	01	

ANNEXURE 2
HAZARDOUS WASTE TYPES

	No	Name	No	Name
Hazardous waste	HW 01	Gaseous waste	01	Gases (excluding Greenhouse gases)
			02	Obsolete ozone depleting gases
	HW 02	Mercury containing waste	01	Liquid waste containing mercury
			02	Solid waste containing mercury
	HW 03	Batteries	01	Lead batteries
			02	Mercury batteries
			03	Ni/Cd batteries
			04	Manganese dioxide and alkali batteries
			05	Lithium and Lithium ion batteries
			06	Nickel-metal hydride batteries
			07	Mixed batteries
	HW 04	POP waste	01	PCB containing waste (>50mg/kg)
			02	Other POP-containing waste
	HW 05			Liquid and sludge inorganic waste
			02	Solid inorganic waste
			03	Spent pot lining (inorganic)
	HW 06	Asbestos containing waste	01	Asbestos containing waste
	HW 07	Waste oils	01	Waste oil
	HW 08	Organic halogenated and / or sulphur containing solvents	01	Solvents containing halogens and / or sulphur
	HW 09	Organic halogenated and / or sulphur containing waste	01	Liquids and sludges containing halogens and / or sulphur
			02	Solids containing halogens and / or sulphur

	HW 10	Organic solvents without halogens and sulphur	01	Solvents without halogens and sulphur
	HW 11	Other organic waste without halogen or sulphur	01	Liquid and sludge organic waste
			02	Solid organic waste
			03	Spent pot lining (organic)
	HW 12	Tarry and bituminous waste	01	Tarry waste
			02	Bituminous waste
	HW 13	Brine	01	Brine
	HW 14	Fly ash and dust from miscellaneous filter sources	01	Fly ash
	HW 15	Bottom ash	01	Bottom ash
	HW 16	Slag	01	Ferrous metal slag
			02	Non-ferrous metal slag
			03	Other
	HW 17	Mineral waste	01	Foundry sand
			02	Refractory waste
			03	Other
	HW 18	Waste of electric and electronic equipment (WEEE)	01	Large household appliances
			02	Small household appliances
			03	Office, information and communication equipment
			04	Entertainment and consumer electronics and toys, leisure, sports and recreational equipment and automatic issuing machines
			05	Lighting equipment
			06	Electric and electronic tools
			07	Security and health care equipment
			08	Mixed WEEE
	HW 19	Health care risk waste	01	Pathological waste
			02	Infectious waste and sharps
			03	Chemical waste

	HW 20	Sewage sludge	01	Sewage sludge
	HW 99	Miscellaneous	01	Miscellaneous

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