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**Sent:** Tuesday, December 19, 2023 2:05 PM

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**Subject:** VIRTUAL TOOLBOX TALK: Wastes Containing Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)

**INTERNAL COMMUNICATION: VIRTUAL TOOLBOX TALK: Wastes Containing Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)**

Good Afternoon,

The reason you are receiving this is to increase your awareness of wastes containing persistent organic pollutants (POPs).

You may be aware that recent guidance has been issued by the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) on 31 October 2023<sup>[1]</sup> outlining how Waste Upholstered Domestic Seating (WUDS) should be managed by producers, carriers and once received at a transfer station and/or disposal facility. POPs are Persistent Organic Pollutants, arising from hazardous chemicals which were commonly used in the past manufacture of soft furnishings as fire retardants. These substances pose a risk to human health due to their persistence in the environment. UK companies stopped using POPs chemicals between 2002 and 2011, however, furnishings imported up to 2019 may still contain them.

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<sup>[1]</sup> Link to SEPA's "Guidance on the management of Waste Upholstered Domestic Seating (WUDS) containing Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)." <https://www.sepa.org.uk/media/tnoa12he/waste-upholstered-domestic-seating-containing-pops-guidance.pdf>

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To prevent these hazardous pollutants potentially reaching the food chain, they can no longer be disposed of at landfill and must be controlled and incinerated. Therefore, we must take steps both from an operational and commercial perspective to ensure WUDS containing POPs can be disposed of in a segregated manner at our facilities. The WUDS items in scope of this guidance include:

- ✚ Sofas
- ✚ Sofa Beds
- ✚ Armchairs
- ✚ Kitchen and dining room chairs
- ✚ Stools and foot stools
- ✚ Home office chairs
- ✚ Futons, bean bags, floor and sofa cushions
- ✚ Electrical recliner chairs

We appreciate that may indeed be the first time you will be aware of such guidance but we, need to ensure that we operate our supplier facilities and waste acceptance procedures in-line with this guidance from SEPA. You may indeed already see on websites that at the waste recycling centre they have positioned containers to ensure companies are able to place WUDS items that may contain POPs to prevent cross contaminate material and can direct these items to an appropriate disposal location.

*Warmest regards, Sam*

**Samantha Wilson**

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