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**GOVERNMENT NOTICES • GOEWERMENSKENNISGEWINGS**

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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**

|                      | <b>No</b> | <b>Name</b>  | <b>No</b> | <b>Name</b>  |
|----------------------|-----------|--|-----------|--|
| <b>General waste</b> | 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   |

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|  |       |               |    |               |
|--|-------|---------------|----|---------------|
|  | HW 20 | Sewage sludge | 01 | Sewage sludge |
|  | HW 99 | Miscellaneous | 01 | Miscellaneous |

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