



Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) & SOFA's

Summary

What is happening:

- Waste domestic seating contains POPs
- The law requires these to be destroyed (incinerated)
- Landfill is prohibited
- We (Pan Area Chemicals Team) have written to:
 - ~ Local authorities, HWRC operators, landfill and waste incinerator operators

Evidence - Waste domestic seating



Includes any upholstered item of seating of a domestic type from any source (sofas, armchairs, stools, dining chairs, etc)



DEFRA supported studies have shown very large quantities of fire retardant relative to other waste streams



Law has required destruction for some time . .

Engagement

Defra led Stakeholder group and internal EA led Guidance sub-group have developed:

- POPs in SOFA guidance on gov.uk
- Developed Regulatory Position statements to support transition to full compliance
 - RPS266 Segregation of Waste Upholstered Domestic seating that may contain POP at HWRC
 - RPS265 Temporary storage of waste upholstered domestic seating containing POPs
 - RPS264 Shredding waste upholstered domestic seating containing POPs

Compliance

Three phases of Compliance Activity:

- Compliance letters – advice and guidance, and requesting confirmation of compliance
- ‘Enhanced’ and more targeted support (from January 2023)
- Compliance activities, led by the Pan Area Chemical Team (PACT), will start Summer 2023



Questions?

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