

# Policy Objectives for Recovered Fibre and the UK Paper Industry post Brexit



This document should be read in conjunction with the CPI Position Paper "Paper for Recycling" which can be found at: [www.paper.org.uk/information/positionpapers/cpi/Paper%20for%20Recycling%202016.pdf](http://www.paper.org.uk/information/positionpapers/cpi/Paper%20for%20Recycling%202016.pdf)

## Introduction

UK-based paper mills use in excess of 3 million tonnes of Paper for Recycling (PfR) annually. The ready availability of high quality recyclate is a critical element in sustaining a successful industry that directly employs 25,000 people and contributes £6.5 billion to the economy.

The UK vote to leave the European Union (Brexit) has exacerbated a government policy vacuum affecting stakeholders in the resource and recycling industries. The EC Circular Economy package launched in December 2015 has become a key document in setting the future direction of travel for resource management and recycling, and creating a framework through which key policy issues can be debated. Following Brexit, the future status of this package is uncertain, but the influence of other European legislation, budgetary cuts and a desire for "small" government has progressively undermined capacity within Defra to create policy itself.

## CPI Position

Future policy direction post Brexit is uncertain and likely to be the subject of debate in coming months and years. The Paper Industry considers the following policy objectives to be important in supporting the development of an appropriate high quality raw material supply stream for reprocessing mills:

- Material Quality and Collection Systems
  - EN643 recognised as the national operating standard
- CEPI EN 643 PfR Quality Control Guidelines adopted as the accepted methodology for procuring PfR
- Local Authority tenders to comply with EN643
- Simplification and Standardisation of "common elements" of Local Authority tenders
- Collection Consistency – Clear preference for source separation
- Materials Recycling Facility Code of Practice (MRF CoP) properly policed with effective sanction for failing sites
- Properly policed Trans Frontier Shipment regulations to drive high quality recycling
- A common UK interpretation of existing regulations across devolved administrations (NRW/EA/SEPA/NIEA)
- Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)
  - Support for a revised market driven EPR system based on the current model
  - Revision of Mixed paper protocols
  - Requirement that any new system does not financially disadvantage the Paper Industry
  - A demand that in the event of EPR, the industry will require greater influence over collection systems and quality
- Recycling Targets
  - Challenging but practical and achievable targets that optimise recycling whilst recognising diminishing environmental benefits as targets rise.
  - Recognition that the fibre loop needs virgin fibre to maintain quality feedstock
  - No mandated recycled content in paper products; adhere to the principle of "fit for purpose"

- End of Waste
  - For paper, this should be defined as the point of entry into the pulper
- Strategy for Energy from Waste (EfW) capacity
  - A national strategy for EfW & Residual Waste Treatment capacity
  - A working standard for Refuse Derived Fuel (RDF)
  - A requirement for RDF to be tested for recyclable material
  - The extension of Landfill Tax into a Disposal Tax covering both landfill and Energy from Waste to prevent seepage of recyclable material into incineration
- Health & Safety
  - A continued commitment to improving industry standards in collaboration with the Health & Safety Executive through PABIAC

### **Further Information**

Further information is available from Simon Weston, Director of Raw Materials on 01793 889605 or email [sweston@paper.org.uk](mailto:sweston@paper.org.uk).

### **Confederation of Paper Industries**

- The Confederation of Paper Industries (CPI) is the leading trade association representing the UK's Paper-based Industries, comprising recovered paper merchants, paper and board manufacturers and converters, corrugated packaging producers, and makers of soft tissue papers.
- CPI represents an industry with an aggregate annual turnover of £6.5 billion, 25,000 direct and more than 100,000 indirect employees.
- For facts on the UK's Paper-based Industries please visit: [www.paper.org.uk](http://www.paper.org.uk).

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