

Local Authority Waste Manager (Name)
Local Authority

XX August 2008

Dear Chief Waste Manager

Landfill Allowances and Trading Scheme (LATS) - Accounting for rejects at Material Recycling Facilities.

The Environment Agency need to improve consistency and accuracy in accounting for reject rates at Materials Recycling Facilities (MRF). This will mean our calculations of biodegradable waste diverted from landfill are based on accurate data.

A number of Waste Disposal Authorities (WDA) have been reporting zero reject rates for MRF. We have evidence that this is inappropriate. There are a number of instances when WDA using the same facility are reporting widely different reject rates.

We have collected information on reject rates from material recycling facilities using a survey of Waste Disposal and Waste Collection authorities. In addition we have conducted an inspection programme of MRF. Our evidence has indicated that reject rates of 10.85 would be a typical average.

Therefore as part of our level 35 validation of the submitted data within Waste Dataflow, we will be conducting a review of those authorities who report zero reject rates from MRF. We consider that the reporting of zero rejects from MRF is not appropriate. Therefore those authorities submitting data as from Quarter 1 08/09 who report zero rejects rates will be issued with a notice served pursuant to Waste and Emissions Trading Act 2003, Landfill Allowances Scheme (England) Regulations 2004 Reg.11(6).

This notice will request that the authority shall provide sufficient justification and evidence for the reject rate within 15 working days of the notice. Failure to comply with the notice may make an authority liable to a penalty from DEFRA.

If you require further clarification regarding this letter please contact Steve Sanderson on 0114 2800633.

Yours sincerely



Vernon Smith
LATS Manager