

SUMMARY KEY OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH HAZARDS AND LINKS TO FURTHER INFORMATION

*This WISH reference document is aimed at health and safety improvements in the waste management industry. This document is linked to **WISH WASTE 30 HEALTH SURVEILLANCE FOR THE WASTE AND RECYCLING INDUSTRY** but is not a formal part of this guidance. It simply gives a list of potential occupational health hazards with links to further information and reading.*

Introduction

Occupational health is a complex issue. This document lists the potential occupational health hazards faced by waste management workers and gives links to further information and reading. Please note that inevitably some of these links will change and go out-of-date over time. If the link you want does not work please try an internet search for the document and/or the organisation involved.

Summary of key health hazards, possible symptoms and references

Occupational Hazard	Possible Symptoms	Link to Relevant Guidance	
Alcohol / drug abuse	Various habits and impact on fitness for work	Internal Policies and HASAWA Drugs Misuse at Work http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg91.pdf	Don't mix it: A guide for employers on alcohol at work http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg240.pdf
Anaerobic conditions	Lack of oxygen, fainting	General information on exposure to gases that may be anaerobic http://www.hse.gov.uk/research/rrpdf/rr882.pdf	Hydrogen Sulphide guidance http://www.hse.gov.uk/offshore/infosheets/is6-2009.htm
Asbestos	Cancer, asbestosis, mesothelioma	CAR 2012 Asbestos Essentials http://www.hse.gov.uk/asbestos/essentials/index.htm Managing Asbestos in Buildings: A Brief Guide http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg223.pdf A comprehensive guide to Managing Asbestos in premises http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/priced/hsg227.pdf	Managing and working with asbestos. Control of Asbestos Regulations 2012. Approved Code of Practice and guidance http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/priced/l143.pdf Waste 26 – Managing Health and Safety in Civic Amenity Sites https://wishforum.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/WASTE-26-.pdf
Animals e.g. rats	Leptospirosis	COSHH Control of laboratory animal allergy http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/eh76.pdf Leptospirosis Are you at risk?	http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg84.pdf Managing health and safety in zoos http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/priced/hsg219.pdf
Bacteria	Gastro-intestinal infections; Food poisoning; Skin conditions; Other e.g. Legionnaires' Disease	COSHH Legionnaires' disease: A brief guide for duty holders http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg458.pdf Legionnaires' disease: The control of legionella bacteria in water systems http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/priced/l8.pdf Waste 27 Health and Hazardous Substances in Waste and Recycling https://wishforum.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/WASTE-27-.pdf Salmonella http://www.hse.gov.uk/agriculture/zoonoses-data-sheets	Anthrax Safe working and the prevention of infection http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/priced/hsg174.pdf Infection at work: Controlling the risks http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/infection.pdf Managing skin exposure risks at work http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/priced/hsg262.pdf

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Occupational Hazard	Possible Symptoms	Link to Relevant Guidance	
Dusts, Bioaerosols	Asthma, Airways irritation, alveolitis, COPD, Reduced lung function	<p>HSE – Composting recyclable waste http://www.hse.gov.uk/waste/composting.htm Waste 27 Health and Hazardous substances in Waste and Recycling https://wishforum.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/WASTE-27-.pdf AfOR (2012) Health and Safety at Composting Sites: A Guide for Site Managers ISBN 0-9532546-9-0 (3rd Edition). http://www.organics-recycling.org.uk/uploads/article453/Health%20%20Safe%20at%20Composting%20Sites%20Low-Res.pdf</p>	<p>Bioaerosols from composting http://www.hse.gov.uk/research/rrpdf/rr786.pdf Statement of evidence: Respiratory hazards of poultry dust http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/web40.pdf Exposure to dust and bioaerosols in poultry farming http://www.hse.gov.uk/research/rrpdf/rr655.pdf Controlling exposure to dust and bioaerosols on mushroom farms http://www.hse.gov.uk/agriculture/resources/pdf/mushroom-factsheet-hdc.pdf The Composting Industry Code of Practise 2005 http://organics-recycling.org.uk/page.php?article=1749&name=The+Composting+Industry+Code+of+Practice</p>
Ergonomic	Upper limb, neck, back, lower limb strain and injury	<p>HSE-Manual Handling Operations Regulations 1992 http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/priced/l23.pdf Ergonomics and human factors at work http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg90.pdf Managing upper limb disorders in the workplace A brief guide http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg171.pdf</p>	<p>Assessment of Repetitive Tasks of the upper limbs (the ART tool) http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg438.pdf Upper limb disorders in the workplace http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/priced/hsg60.pdf Waste 26 – Managing Health and Safety in Civic Amenity Sites https://wishforum.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/WASTE-26-.pdf</p>
Fatigue	Physical and psychological	<p>Working Time Directive Specific topic 2: Managing fatigue risks http://www.hse.gov.uk/humanfactors/topics/specific2.pdf</p>	<p>HSE Human Factors Briefing Note No. 10 Fatigue http://www.hse.gov.uk/humanfactors/topics/10fatigue.pdf</p>
Fungi	Cold damp conditions – skin and nail infections	<p>COSHH Infection at work: Controlling the risks http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/infection.pdf</p>	<p>Managing skin exposure risks at work http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/priced/hsg262.pdf Waste 27 Health and Hazardous Substances in Waste and Recycling https://wishforum.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/WASTE-27-.pdf</p>

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Occupational Hazard	Possible Symptoms	Link to Relevant Guidance	
Heavy metals	Lead, mercury, chromium effects on nervous system, skin and kidneys	<p>COSHH Control of Lead at Work Regulations 2002 Approved Code of Practice and guidance http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/priced/l132.pdf</p> <p>Lead and you http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg305.pdf</p> <p>Breaking containment – mercury http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/guidance/oce14.pdf</p> <p>Cadmium and you: Working with cadmium: Are you at risk? http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg391.pdf</p>	<p>Cobalt and you Working with cobalt – are you at risk? http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg442.pdf</p> <p>Chromium and you Working with chromium – are you at risk? http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg346.pdf</p> <p>Nickel and you Working with nickel – are you at risk? http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg351.pdf</p> <p>Nickel and its inorganic compounds: Health hazards and precautionary measures http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/priced/eh60.pdf</p>
Human waste products	Faecal-oral contamination leading to gastrointestinal infections	<p>COSHH Managing offensive/hygiene waste safely https://wishforum.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/WASTE-22-.pdf</p> <p>Cleaning up body fluids http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/guidance/oce23.pdf</p>	<p>Health and hazardous substances in waste and recycling https://wishforum.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/WASTE-27-.pdf</p> <p>Working with Sewage: A guide for Employees http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg197.pdf</p> <p>Working with sewage The health hazards: A guide for employers http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg198.pdf</p>
Inorganic chemicals	Various conditions	<p>COSHH Waste 26 – Managing Health and Safety in Civic Amenity Sites https://wishforum.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/WASTE-27-.pdf</p> <p>Waste 27 Health and Hazardous Substances in Waste and Recycling https://wishforum.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/WASTE-27-.pdf</p> <p>COSHH Protective gloves for work with chemicals http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg330.pdf</p>	
Insects	Lyme disease	<p>COSHH Lyme Disease http://www.hse.gov.uk/agriculture/zoonoses-data-sheets/lyme-disease.pdf</p>	
Manual handling	Upper limb, neck, back, lower limb strain and injury	<p>HSE-Manual Handling Operations Regulations 1992 http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/priced/l23.pdf</p> <p>Manual handling at work A brief guide http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg143.pdf</p> <p>Making the best use of lifting and handling aids http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg398.pdf</p>	<p>Manual handling assessment charts (the MAC tool) http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg383.pdf</p> <p>Managing musculoskeletal disorders in checkout work A brief guide http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg269.pdf</p> <p>Waste 26 – Managing Health and Safety in Civic Amenity Sites https://wishforum.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/WASTE-26-.pdf</p>

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Occupational Hazard	Possible Symptoms	Link to Relevant Guidance
Noise	Noise induced hearing loss	<p>Control of noise at work Controlling noise at work. Guidance on the Control of Noise at Work Regulations 2005. http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/priced/l108.pdf Sound advice: Control of noise at work in music and entertainment http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/priced/hsg260.pdf Noise: Don't lose your hearing! http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg363.pdf Reducing Noise risks from Kerbside Glass Collections https://www.wishforum.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/WASTE-16.pdf</p> <p>Noise at work A brief guide to controlling the risks http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg362.pdf Top 10 noise control techniques http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/top10noise.pdf Noise control: determining the best option http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/noisesources.pdf Noise in material recovery facilities (MRF's) http://www.hse.gov.uk/waste/noise-material-recovery-facilities.htm</p>
Oils	Skin conditions; Carcinomas	<p>COSHH Work with lubricants and waste oil http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/guidance/sr19.pdf</p> <p>Working safely with metalworking fluids http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg365.pdf Waste 26 – Managing Health and Safety in Civic Amenity Sites https://www.wishforum.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/WASTE-26-.pdf Waste 27 Health and Hazardous Substances in Waste and Recycling https://www.wishforum.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/WASTE-27-.pdf</p>
Organic chemicals	Respiratory sensitisation skin sensitisation dermatitis	<p>COSHH Working with solvents A guide to safe working practices http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg273.pdf Skin checks for dermatitis http://www.hse.gov.uk/skin/posters/skindermatitis.pdf Prevent work-related dermatitis http://www.hse.gov.uk/skin/professional/publications.htm</p> <p>Preventing contact dermatitis at work http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg233.pdf Protective gloves for work with chemicals http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg330.pdf Medical aspects of occupational skin disease http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/ms24.pdf Managing skin exposure risks at work http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/priced/hsg262.pdf Waste 27 Health and Hazardous Substances in Waste and Recycling https://www.wishforum.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/WASTE-27-.pdf</p>

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Occupational Hazard	Possible Symptoms	Link to Relevant Guidance
Radiation	Over exposure to ionising and non-ionising radiation	<p>Ionising radiation Regulations, Management Regulations A guide to the Radiation (Emergency Preparedness and Public Information) Regulations 2001 http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/priced/l126.pdf Working safely with ionising radiation http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg334.pdf Work with ionising radiation http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/priced/l121.pdf SEPA - Basic principles of radioactive waste management https://www.sepa.org.uk/media/153681/basic-principles-of-radioactive-waste-management.pdf</p> <p>Protection of outside workers against ionising radiation http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/irp4.pdf Control of radioactive substances http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/irp8.pdf Waste 27 Health and Hazardous Substances in Waste and Recycling https://wishforum.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/WASTE-27-.pdf</p>
Sharps	Blood borne viruses – Hep B, HIV, Human T Cell Lymphoma	<p>Sharps Regulations Health and Safety (Sharp Instruments in Healthcare) Regulations 2013 Guidance for employers and employees http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/hsis7.pdf</p> <p>Blood-borne viruses in the workplace http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg342.pdf Handling needles in the waste and recycling industry in Waste 27 https://wishforum.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/WASTE-27-.pdf and http://www.hse.gov.uk/waste/health.htm</p>
Shift work	Shift work and health	<p>Working time directive Managing shift work Health and safety guidance http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/priced/hsg256.pdf</p>
Solar radiation	Sun burn, skin cancer	<p>Waste 27 Health and Hazardous Substances in Waste and Recycling https://wishforum.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/WASTE-27-.pdf Keep your top on Health risks from working in the sun http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg147.pdf</p> <p>The Sun protection Six Point Code http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg337.pdf</p>
Stress	Anxiety, depression, mood disorder other mental illness	<p>Stress Management Standards How to tackle work-related stress http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg430.pdf</p> <p>Working together to reduce stress at work http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg424.pdf</p>

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Occupational Hazard	Possible Symptoms	Link to Relevant Guidance
Vibration	Hand Arm Vibration syndrome	<p>Control of vibration at work. Hand-arm vibration: A guide for employees http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg296.pdf Hand-arm vibration at work A brief guide http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg175.pdf</p> <p>Vibration exposure monitoring Q&A http://www.hse.gov.uk/vibration/hav/advicetoemployers/vibration-exposure-monitoring-qa.pdf Hand-arm vibration in foundries http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/priced/hav-foundries.pdf Vibration solutions Practical ways to reduce the risk of hand-arm vibration injury http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/priced/hsg170.pdf</p>
Viruses	Hepatitis, blood borne infections	<p>COSHH Blood-borne viruses in the workplace http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg342.pdf</p> <p>Infection at work: Controlling the risks http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/infection.pdf Waste 27 Health and Hazardous Substances in Waste and Recycling https://wishforum.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/WASTE-27-.pdf</p>
Volatiles	Respiratory conditions	<p>COSHH MDHS 72 Volatile Organic Compounds in Air http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/mdhs/pdfs/mdhs72.pdf MDHS 80 Volatile Organic Compounds in Air http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/mdhs/pdfs/mdhs80.pdf</p> <p>MDHS 88 Volatile Organic Compounds in Air http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/mdhs/pdfs/mdhs88.pdf MDHS 96 Volatile Organic Compounds in Air http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/mdhs/pdfs/mdhs96.pdf</p>
Working temperatures hot/cold / weather	Respiratory infections aggravation of asthma, cold injury, heat injury	<p>Management of health and safety regulations Heat stress in the workplace: A brief guide http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg451.pdf Risk Assessment Aids/Tools</p> <p>http://www.hse.gov.uk/temperature/assets/docs/heat-stress-checklist.pdf HSE – Workplace (Health, Safety, Welfare) Regulations 1992 http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/priced/l24.pdf HSE – Waste 27 Health and Hazardous Substances in Waste and Recycling https://wishforum.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/WASTE-27-.pdf</p>