LEGISLATION UPDATE

August 2026

Introduction and disclaimer

The main legal texts published between 1st and 31st of August 2026 are listed below, separated by main area of work: Quality, Environment, Information Security and Health & Safety.

The legal texts identified in this Newsletter do not represent all the legislation published in relation to these 4 topics. AvISO Consultancy selects the legislation which it believes will apply to the Companies with which it works. In addition, AvISO Consultancy does not take responsibility for the accuracy of any information provided and would recommend that you take appropriate legal advice in relation to any new legislation which might apply to your business, as appropriate.

This Newsletter does not replace each organisation's duty to know the legal requirements applicable to their activity.

For any enquiries related to the legal register, including but not limited to clarifications on legislative changes, guidance on applicability to your organisation, assistance with updating your legal register, adding legislation and guidance to the legal register, or any other related support, please contact legalregister.support@avisoconsultancy.co.uk.

INFORMATION SECURITY

Update: Cyber Security and Resilience (Network and Information Systems) Bill	Changes in the legal register ☐ yes ☒ no

Jurisdiction: United Kingdom

Publication / status: The Bill completed its House of Lords Second Reading on 14 July 2026 and was awaiting Committee Stage, scheduled to begin on 1 September 2026, as at the end of August 2026.

Commencement: To be confirmed; the Bill will require Royal Assent and subsequent commencement regulations before its substantive requirements take effect.

Amends: Network and Information Systems Regulations 2018 and associated cyber security and resilience legislation.

Summary

The Cyber Security and Resilience (Network and Information Systems) Bill proposes a substantial reform of the existing Network and Information Systems Regulations 2018. It is intended to strengthen the security and resilience of the essential and digital services relied upon by the public, businesses and the wider economy, while improving protection against increasingly frequent and sophisticated cyber-attacks.

The Bill broadens the regulatory framework to cover additional digital infrastructure and service providers, strengthens incident reporting and supply-chain risk requirements, and gives regulators and the Secretary of State enhanced powers to oversee, direct and enforce compliance. The August position reflects progress through the House of Lords, with detailed scrutiny due to continue during Committee Stage.

Key provisions

1. Expanded scope of regulated entities

- Brings additional organisations within the NIS framework, including data centres, managed service providers and large load controllers.
- Enables competent authorities to designate critical suppliers where disruption to their network and information systems could significantly affect an essential, digital or managed service.
- Provides mechanisms for the scope of the regime to be updated as technologies, dependencies and cyber risks develop.

2. Strengthened cyber security and resilience duties

- Requires in-scope organisations to implement appropriate and proportionate technical and organisational measures to manage risks to relevant network and information systems.
- Places increased emphasis on governance, operational resilience, service continuity, secure system management and recovery planning.
- Reinforces expectations for board-level accountability and clear ownership of cyber security and resilience risks.

3. Incident reporting requirements

- Expands the circumstances in which cyber incidents and service disruptions must be reported to competent authorities.
- Supports a more structured reporting process, including early notification and subsequent detailed reporting.
- Aims to improve national awareness of cyber threats, vulnerabilities and systemic risks affecting essential services.

4. Supply-chain and critical supplier controls

- Strengthens requirements for assessing and managing cyber risks arising from suppliers, outsourced services and technology dependencies.
- Supports direct regulatory oversight of designated critical suppliers.
- May require enhanced supplier due diligence, contractual security requirements, assurance activity and ongoing monitoring.

5. Regulatory powers and strategic direction

- Provides competent authorities with stronger information-gathering, inspection, oversight and enforcement powers.
- Enables the Secretary of State to issue a Statement of Strategic Priorities setting outcomes and expectations for regulators implementing the NIS framework.
- Supports regulatory directions and intervention where cyber risks threaten national security, essential services or economic stability.

Purpose and context

The Bill is intended to modernise the United Kingdom's principal cross-sector cyber security legislation and ensure that the regulatory framework remains effective as cyber threats, technologies and service dependencies change.

The reforms respond to the increasing reliance of essential services on digital infrastructure, cloud services, managed technology providers and complex supply chains. They seek to reduce disruption, strengthen national resilience and provide clearer accountability for organisations whose systems support critical public and economic functions.

Implications for stakeholders

- **Operators of essential services and digital service providers**
  - Should review existing NIS compliance arrangements against the Bill's proposed governance, resilience and reporting requirements.
  - May need to strengthen incident response, continuity planning and evidence of proportionate security controls.
- **Managed service providers, data centres and critical suppliers**
  - May become directly regulated for the first time.
  - Should assess readiness for regulatory registration, information requests, incident reporting and assurance obligations.
- **Boards and senior management**
  - Should ensure cyber resilience is treated as an organisation-wide governance and business continuity issue, rather than solely an IT responsibility.
  - Need appropriate oversight, reporting and evidence of decisions concerning cyber and supply-chain risks.
- **Information security, procurement and compliance teams**
  - Should review risk assessments, supplier assurance questionnaires, contractual controls, incident procedures and audit programmes.
  - Must continue monitoring the Bill's Parliamentary progress, amendments, final commencement provisions and supporting regulatory guidance.

Recommended implementation actions

- Determine whether the organisation or any material supplier is likely to fall within the expanded regulatory scope.
- Review cyber security governance, incident reporting, operational resilience and supply-chain assurance arrangements.
- Record the Bill as a horizon-scanning item in the legal register and assign responsibility for monitoring Royal Assent, commencement regulations and regulator guidance.
- Retain evidence of readiness activity, including risk reviews, supplier assessments, incident exercises, board reporting, policy approvals and improvement plans.

ENVIRONMENTAL	
The Energy Act 2023 (Commencement No. 5, Saving Provisions) Regulations 2026 (SI 2026/846)	**Changes in the legal register** ☐ yes ☒ no

Jurisdiction: United Kingdom

Made: 16 July 2026

Commencement: 30 September 2026

Made under: Energy Act 2023

Commences: Section 299(3) to (7) of the Energy Act 2023

Amends: Petroleum Act 1998 provisions concerning charges connected with offshore installation and submarine pipeline abandonment programmes.

Summary

The Energy Act 2023 (Commencement No. 5, Saving Provisions) Regulations 2026 bring section 299(3) to (7) of the Energy Act 2023 into force. Those provisions amend and omit parts of the Petroleum Act 1998 governing fees connected with offshore installation and submarine pipeline abandonment programmes.

The Regulations support the transition from the previous fee-setting system under the Petroleum Act 1998 and the Offshore (Oil and Gas) Installation and Pipeline Abandonment Fees Regulations 2012 to the revised expenditure-recovery framework introduced by the Energy Act 2023. Saving provisions preserve the former requirements for specified abandonment programmes and proposed revisions already in progress before the appointed day.

Key provisions

1. Commencement of Energy Act 2023 provisions

- Brings section 299(3) to (7) of the Energy Act 2023 into force on 30 September 2026.
- Activates amendments and omissions to Petroleum Act 1998 provisions concerning abandonment programme fees.
- Forms the fifth set of commencement regulations made under the Energy Act 2023.

2. Reform of abandonment charging arrangements

- Removes specified legacy fee provisions applying to the submission and revision of abandonment programmes.
- Supports the move to the revised mechanism for recovering expenditure incurred by the Secretary of State in connection with offshore decommissioning functions.
- Applies to abandonment programmes for offshore installations and submarine pipelines, other than carbon capture and storage pipelines.

3. Saving provisions for programme submissions

- Preserves the previous fee regime where, before 30 September 2026, the Secretary of State received a request to determine a fee relating to submission of a relevant abandonment programme or published a draft of that programme.
- Requires applicable fees to continue to be determined and notified under the 2012 Regulations and paid under the preserved Petroleum Act 1998 provisions.
- Protects the treatment of qualifying cases already underway from retrospective application of the revised framework.

4. Saving provisions for programme revisions

- Preserves the former fee arrangements for qualifying proposals to revise relevant abandonment programmes initiated before the appointed day.
- Maintains legal and administrative continuity for operators and authorities handling existing decommissioning submissions.
- Creates a transitional distinction between qualifying pre-commencement matters and later programmes subject to the revised arrangements.

5. Scope and exclusions

- Applies to offshore installations and submarine pipelines regulated under Part 4 of the Petroleum Act 1998.
- Excludes carbon capture and storage pipelines from the definition of a relevant abandonment programme for these saving provisions.
- Does not itself set the rates or detailed operation of the replacement charging mechanism.

Purpose and context

The Regulations are intended to enable the revised offshore decommissioning expenditure-recovery framework established by the Energy Act 2023 to take effect while maintaining certainty for abandonment programmes and revisions already sufficiently progressed under the previous regime.

The saving provisions avoid disrupting existing submissions and ensure that requests, draft programmes and qualifying revision activity begun before 30 September 2026 continue under the established charging rules.

Implications for stakeholders

- **Offshore installation operators and owners**
    - Must determine whether an abandonment programme falls within the preserved fee regime or the revised expenditure-recovery framework.
    - Should retain evidence of submission requests, draft publication dates and correspondence with the Secretary of State.
- **Submarine pipeline owners**
    - Need to assess the status and timing of relevant abandonment programmes and proposed revisions.
    - Should confirm whether infrastructure is excluded because it is a carbon capture and storage pipeline.
- **Decommissioning, finance and project teams**
    - Should update project budgets, legal registers and decommissioning trackers to reflect the new commencement date and transitional split.
    - Need to ensure fee assumptions and approval workflows use the correct statutory framework.

- **Legal and compliance teams**
  - Should review current and planned abandonment programmes against the saving criteria.
  - Must retain a clear audit trail supporting the applicable charging route and monitor guidance on the replacement expenditure-recovery arrangements.

The Electricity Capacity (Amendment and Transitional Provision) Regulations 2026 (SI 2026/850)	**Changes in the legal register** ☐ yes ☒ no

Jurisdiction: Great Britain

Made: 16 July 2026

Commencement: 17 July 2026

Made under: Energy Act 2013

Amends: Electricity Capacity Regulations 2014; Electricity Capacity (Supplier Payment etc.) Regulations 2014; Electricity Capacity (No. 1) Regulations 2019.

Summary

The Electricity Capacity (Amendment and Transitional Provision) Regulations 2026 amend the statutory framework governing the Capacity Market in Great Britain. The Capacity Market supports security of electricity supply by awarding capacity agreements to providers that commit eligible capacity market units to deliver electricity, or reduce demand, during periods of system stress.

The Regulations make technical and procedural changes to prequalification, credit cover, termination, supplier payment reconciliation and the interaction between Capacity Market agreements and Contracts for Difference. They also introduce transitional provisions to preserve the treatment of specified applications and capacity agreements under the appropriate regulatory version.

Key provisions

1. Capacity Market prequalification requirements

- Updates requirements applying to applicants seeking to prequalify capacity market units for a capacity auction.
- Clarifies technical and evidential requirements used by the delivery body when assessing eligibility.
- Allows a capacity provider to apply to prequalify for a Contract for Difference where the Contract for Difference will commence after the existing capacity agreement ends.

2. Credit cover arrangements

- Amends the credit cover requirements applying to applicants and capacity providers in specified circumstances.
- Supports proportionate financial assurance where a capacity market unit has not yet demonstrated the required delivery milestones.
- Requires affected applicants to check the amount, timing and release conditions for credit cover under the amended framework.

3. Termination of capacity agreements

- Updates provisions governing termination of capacity agreements after they have been awarded.
- Clarifies the regulatory consequences of specified failures, changes in eligibility or interaction with other electricity support arrangements.
- Supports consistent administration of termination events by the delivery body and the Electricity Settlements Company.

4. Supplier payment and reconciliation changes

- Amends the Regulations requiring electricity suppliers to fund Capacity Market payments through supplier charges.
- Updates aspects of the reconciliation process used to recalculate supplier liabilities against metered demand data.
- Supports accurate recovery and adjustment of amounts payable to the Electricity Settlements Company.

5. Transitional provisions and scheme interaction

- Provides transitional treatment for relevant applications, agreements and administrative processes that began before commencement.
- Supports movement between Capacity Market participation and a Contract for Difference without overlapping support periods.
- Operates alongside amendments to the Capacity Market Rules 2014, which apply to capacity agreements awarded before and after the Regulations came into force unless otherwise specified.

Purpose and context

The Regulations are intended to improve the operation of the Capacity Market, maintain security of electricity supply and ensure that scheme rules remain aligned with electricity market reform and low-carbon generation support.

The amendments seek to remove procedural barriers, improve financial and administrative controls, and provide clearer routes for capacity providers whose existing Capacity Market obligations end before support under a Contract for Difference begins.

Implications for stakeholders

- **Capacity providers and prospective applicants**
  - Must review amended prequalification, credit cover and termination requirements before participating in future auctions.
  - Should assess whether planned Contracts for Difference affect current or proposed capacity agreements.
- **Electricity generators, storage operators and demand-side response providers**
  - May need to update auction strategies, project timelines and compliance evidence.
  - Should confirm that capacity market units continue to meet eligibility and delivery requirements.
- **Electricity suppliers**
  - Should review the amended supplier charge and reconciliation provisions.
  - May need to update settlement controls, forecasts and financial records used to verify Capacity Market liabilities.
- **Energy, finance and compliance teams**
  - Should update legal registers, Capacity Market procedures and internal guidance.
  - Must retain evidence supporting prequalification, credit cover, agreement status, settlement calculations and transitional treatment.

The Environmental Offences (Fixed Penalties) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2026 (SI 2026/816)	**Changes in the legal register** ☐ yes ☒ no

Jurisdiction: England

Made: 14 July 2026

Laid before Parliament: 15 July 2026

Commencement: 1 September 2026

Made under: Environmental Protection Act 1990

Amends: Environmental Offences (Fixed Penalties) (England) Regulations 2017; section 33ZA of the Environmental Protection Act 1990.

Summary

The Environmental Offences (Fixed Penalties) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2026 amend the fixed penalty framework for specified environmental offences in England. The Regulations increase the maximum amounts that local authorities may set for certain littering, graffiti, fly-posting and waste deposit fixed penalty notices.

The changes are intended to give local authorities greater flexibility to set penalties that reflect the seriousness of environmental offending and strengthen deterrence. They do not create new environmental offences or change the underlying duties applying to organisations and individuals, but increase potential financial exposure where fixed penalty notices are issued.

Key provisions

1. Littering fixed penalty range

- Increases the maximum fixed penalty that a principal litter authority may specify for a littering offence from £500 to £750.
- Retains the minimum amount at £65.
- Allows each authority to determine the amount within the statutory range through its local enforcement policy.

2. Unauthorised distribution of printed matter

- Retains the fixed penalty range of £65 to £150 for offences involving the unauthorised distribution of free printed matter on designated land.
- Restates the applicable range within the substituted regulation governing environmental fixed penalties.
- Maintains local authority discretion to set the penalty within the permitted range.

3. Graffiti and fly-posting penalties

- Increases the maximum fixed penalty for relevant graffiti and fly-posting offences from £500 to £500 under the substituted provision, with the permitted range stated as £65 to £500.
- Confirms the lower statutory limit of £65.
- Supports local enforcement action against damage and unauthorised advertising affecting public spaces.

4. Waste deposit offences

- Increases the statutory upper limit for a fixed penalty notice relating to an unauthorised or harmful deposit of waste from £1,000 to £5,000.
- Strengthens the financial deterrent applying to fly-tipping and unlawful waste deposit offences.
- Does not alter the underlying offence or prevent prosecution where a fixed penalty is not appropriate.

5. Local authority administration and enforcement

- Requires local authorities choosing to use the revised limits to update their enforcement policies, notices and administrative systems.
- Allows authorities to retain proportionate penalty levels below the statutory maxima where appropriate.
- Maintains existing requirements governing the issue, payment and enforcement of fixed penalty notices.

Purpose and context

The Regulations are intended to strengthen enforcement against environmental offences by increasing the potential financial consequences of non-compliance, particularly for illegal waste deposits. The revised limits respond to concerns that previous penalty levels did not provide a sufficient deterrent for persistent or commercially motivated offending.

Fixed penalty notices provide an alternative to prosecution for specified offences. Local authorities remain responsible for determining whether a fixed penalty is appropriate and for setting amounts within the statutory ranges.

Implications for stakeholders

- **Businesses and commercial premises**
  - Should ensure waste is stored, transferred and disposed of lawfully and that contractors are appropriately authorised.
  - May face substantially higher financial exposure where waste is deposited unlawfully.
- **Waste producers, carriers and contractors**
  - Must maintain effective waste duty of care controls, transfer records and contractor checks.
  - Should ensure employees understand restrictions on waste deposits, littering and unauthorised disposal.
- **Local authorities**
  - Should review fixed penalty schedules, enforcement policies, templates and delegated authority arrangements before 1 September 2026.
  - Must ensure penalty amounts remain lawful, proportionate and clearly communicated.
- **Environmental and compliance teams**
  - Should update legal registers, environmental procedures and staff awareness materials.
  - Need to verify that waste contractor due diligence, housekeeping inspections and incident reporting controls remain effective.

The Biodiversity Gain (Town and Country Planning) (Amendments and Transitional Provisions) (England) Regulations 2026 (SI 2026/790)	**Changes in the legal register** ☐ yes ☒ no

Jurisdiction: England

Made: 9 July 2026

Laid before Parliament: 13 July 2026

Commencement: 6 August 2026

Made under: Town and Country Planning Act 1990

Amends: Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015; Biodiversity Gain Requirements (Exemptions) Regulations 2024.

Summary

The Biodiversity Gain (Town and Country Planning) (Amendments and Transitional Provisions) (England) Regulations 2026 amend the planning framework for mandatory biodiversity net gain in England. The Regulations revise the biodiversity gain hierarchy for development that is not major development, introduce new exemptions for small and temporary development, remove the previous exemption for certain self-build and custom-build development, and provide transitional and saving arrangements.

The amendments are intended to make the biodiversity net gain regime more proportionate for smaller developments while retaining the statutory objective of delivering measurable biodiversity improvements. They affect planning applications, biodiversity gain plans and the evidence required to establish whether a development is exempt or remains subject to the biodiversity gain condition.

Key provisions

1. Revised biodiversity gain hierarchy for non-major development

- Amends article 37A of the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015.
- For development that is not major development, places onsite habitat creation, onsite habitat enhancement and registered offsite biodiversity gains at the same level of preference.
- Retains the purchase of statutory biodiversity credits as the final option where the required gain cannot otherwise be delivered.

2. New exemption for development no larger than 0.2 hectares

- Introduces an exemption for qualifying development where the site area does not exceed 0.2 hectares.
- Applies subject to statutory exceptions, including restrictions where specified ecologically important habitat is affected.
- Requires applicants to demonstrate that the site and proposed development meet the conditions of the exemption.

3. New exemption for temporary development

- Introduces an exemption for qualifying temporary development permitted for a period of five years or less.

- Recognises the limited duration of certain development while preserving exceptions where environmental effects justify continued application of biodiversity gain requirements.
- Requires the planning permission and associated conditions to establish that the development is temporary and within the specified period.

4. Removal of the self-build and custom-build exemption

- Removes the existing exemption for specified self-build and custom-build development.
- Means that new qualifying applications for this type of housing must meet mandatory biodiversity net gain unless another exemption applies.
- Requires developers and planning applicants to reassess projects previously expected to rely on the removed exemption.

5. Transitional and saving provisions

- Preserves the previous version of article 37A of the 2015 Order and regulation 8 of the 2024 Exemptions Regulations for specified cases.
- Prevents the amended requirements from being applied retrospectively to qualifying planning applications or permissions already progressing under the former framework.
- Requires applicants and planning authorities to identify the submission and decision dates relevant to the applicable regime.

Purpose and context

The Regulations are intended to simplify and improve the implementation of mandatory biodiversity net gain for minor and smaller-scale development. The revised hierarchy gives non-major developments greater flexibility to use registered offsite biodiversity gains without first demonstrating that all onsite options have been exhausted.

The new exemptions reduce the regulatory burden for qualifying small and temporary developments, while the removal of the self-build and custom-build exemption brings those projects within the standard regime unless another exemption applies. Transitional arrangements provide continuity for applications and permissions already underway.

Implications for stakeholders

- **Developers and planning applicants**
  - Should determine whether a project qualifies for the 0.2-hectare or temporary development exemption.
  - Must retain plans, habitat information and calculations supporting the claimed exemption or biodiversity gain approach.
- **Self-build and custom-build developers**
  - Can no longer rely automatically on the previous specific exemption for new applications.

- Should assess whether another exemption applies or prepare a compliant biodiversity gain plan.
- **Local planning authorities**
  - Must update validation guidance, application forms and decision-making procedures.
  - Need to apply the transitional provisions carefully and verify evidence supporting exemptions.
- **Ecologists, planning consultants and environmental teams**
  - Should update advice, biodiversity calculations and project strategies to reflect the revised hierarchy.
  - Need to identify priority or protected habitats that may prevent use of an exemption and retain an auditable basis for recommendations.

Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation (EU) 2025/40	**Changes in the legal register** ☐ yes ☒ no

Jurisdiction: European Union, with direct relevance to businesses placing packaging or packaged goods on the EU market; Northern Ireland applicability should be assessed under the Windsor Framework.

Published: 22 January 2025

Entry into force: 11 February 2025

Application: From 12 August 2026, with further requirements applying in stages through to 2040.

Repeals: Directive 94/62/EC on packaging and packaging waste, subject to transitional provisions.

Summary

Regulation (EU) 2025/40 establishes a harmonised legal framework governing packaging and packaging waste throughout the European Union. It applies across the packaging life cycle, including design, manufacture, placing on the market, use, reuse, refill, collection, recycling and waste management.

The Regulation is intended to prevent unnecessary packaging, reduce packaging waste, improve recyclability, increase recycled content, promote reuse and refill systems, and reduce the presence of harmful substances. It replaces the previous Directive-based regime with directly applicable EU rules, reducing differences between national packaging requirements.

From 12 August 2026, the Regulation applies across the EU and includes an immediately applicable restriction on per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances in food-contact packaging above specified limits.

Key provisions

1. Scope and economic operator responsibilities

- Applies to all packaging placed on the EU market, whether empty or filled, regardless of material, origin or the sector in which it is used.
- Places obligations on manufacturers, importers, distributors, fulfilment service providers, final distributors and other economic operators according to their role.
- Requires packaging placed on the market to comply with applicable sustainability, labelling, conformity and information requirements.

2. Packaging minimisation and prevention

- Requires packaging to be designed so that its weight and volume are reduced to the minimum necessary to maintain functionality.
- Prevents additional packaging weight or volume being justified solely by marketing or consumer acceptance.
- Restricts packaging features such as double walls, false bottoms and unnecessary layers where they create a misleading impression of product volume, subject to specified exceptions.

3. Recyclability and recycled content

- Requires all packaging to be recyclable, including being designed for material recycling and, from 2035, capable of being collected, sorted and recycled at scale.
- Introduces recyclability performance grades from 2030, with stricter market-access requirements applying from 2038.
- Establishes minimum recycled-content targets for specified plastic packaging from 2030 and higher targets from 2040, subject to defined exemptions.

4. Substances of concern and PFAS restrictions

- Requires packaging to be manufactured so that the presence and concentration of substances of concern are minimised.
- Prohibits food-contact packaging containing PFAS above prescribed limits from being placed on the EU market from 12 August 2026.
- Maintains limits for the total concentration of lead, cadmium, mercury and hexavalent chromium in packaging.

5. Reuse, refill and reusable packaging

- Requires reusable packaging to be designed for multiple rotations and to meet safety, hygiene, recyclability and refill requirements.
- Introduces reuse and refill targets for specified packaging formats and sectors, with phased dates and defined exemptions.

- Requires operators using reusable packaging to participate in or establish systems that support return, collection, reconditioning and repeated use.

6. Labelling, information and conformity evidence

- Introduces harmonised labels to communicate packaging material composition, sorting instructions, reusability and other prescribed information.
- Requires manufacturers to conduct conformity assessment and prepare technical documentation and an EU declaration of conformity.
- Supports use of digital data carriers where permitted, while retaining requirements for clear and accessible information.

7. Extended producer responsibility and waste management

- Makes producers responsible for packaging throughout its life cycle, including the costs of collection, sorting, recycling and other waste-management activities.
- Requires producer registration and reporting in each Member State where packaging is first made available, subject to the Regulation and national administrative arrangements.
- Links extended producer responsibility fees to packaging performance, including recyclability and relevant environmental criteria.

Purpose and context

The Regulation is intended to reduce the environmental and health impacts of packaging, support the transition to a circular economy and improve the functioning of the EU internal market through consistent requirements.

The phased framework combines immediate controls applying from August 2026 with later design, recyclability, recycled-content, reuse and waste-reduction obligations. Businesses therefore need both short-term compliance actions and longer-term packaging redesign and supply-chain plans.

Implications for stakeholders

- **Packaging manufacturers and converters**
  - Must review materials, substances, minimisation, recyclability and conformity-assessment requirements.
  - Should develop technical files and evidence supporting each packaging design placed on the EU market.
- **Brand owners, producers and retailers**
  - Need to map packaging formats, identify applicable targets and confirm producer-registration and reporting obligations.
  - Should review unnecessary packaging, empty-space ratios, labelling and reuse or refill opportunities.
- **UK exporters to the European Union**

- Must comply with the Regulation where packaged goods are placed on the EU market and may need to register under national extended producer responsibility schemes.
- Should obtain supplier declarations, material specifications, test reports and conformity evidence before export.

- **Northern Ireland businesses**
  - Should confirm the Regulation's application under the Windsor Framework and monitor Northern Ireland implementation guidance.
  - Need to manage potential divergence between EU-aligned requirements in Northern Ireland and packaging rules applying in Great Britain.
- **Environmental, quality, procurement and compliance teams**
  - Should update legal registers, packaging specifications, supplier controls, product-development procedures and compliance evaluation programmes.
  - Must maintain evidence of applicability reviews, packaging data, producer registrations, testing, conformity decisions and improvement plans.

The REACH (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 2026 (SI 2026/849)	Changes in the legal register ☐ yes ☒ no

Jurisdiction: Great Britain

Made: 16 July 2026

Commencement: 6 August 2026

Made under: Environment Act 2021

Amends: The assimilated version of Regulation (EC) No. 1907/2006 concerning the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals, known as UK REACH.

Summary

The REACH (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 2026 amend UK REACH by extending the statutory deadlines for registration compliance checks and the transitional registration periods applying to substances manufactured in, or imported into, Great Britain.

The amendments provide additional time for businesses and the Health and Safety Executive to prepare for the revised UK REACH registration model. They replace the previous transitional submission dates with deadlines of 27 October 2029, 27 October 2030 and 27 October 2031, depending on substance tonnage and hazard characteristics, and make corresponding changes to the regulator's compliance-check programme.

Key provisions

1. Extension of the first transitional registration deadline

- Extends the first UK REACH transitional registration submission deadline to 27 October 2029.
- Applies to the highest-priority substances within the first tonnage and hazard group specified by Article 127P.
- Provides affected registrants with additional time to assemble information and prepare compliant registration dossiers.

2. Extension of the second and third deadlines

- Extends the second transitional deadline to 27 October 2030 and the third deadline to 27 October 2031.
- Maintains a phased approach based on annual tonnage and the regulatory priority of substances.
- Requires organisations to identify the correct deadline for each substance within their portfolio.

3. Changes to post-IP completion periods

- Amends Article 127P so that references to the earlier 2026, 2028 and 2030 completion periods are replaced by 2029, 2030 and 2031.
- Updates the date ranges used to determine which transitional period applies to relevant registrants and substances.
- Supports continuity for organisations relying on grandfathered registrations or downstream user import notifications.

4. Extension of compliance-check deadlines

- Amends Article 41 by replacing the regulator's compliance-check target years of 2027, 2030 and 2035 with 2030, 2032 and 2036 respectively.
- Aligns the Health and Safety Executive's dossier compliance-check programme with the extended registration timetable.
- Does not remove the regulator's power to examine registrations or request further information before those dates.

5. Continued application of other UK REACH duties

- Extends particular transitional deadlines but does not suspend the wider duties governing registration, authorisation, restriction, classification or supply-chain communication.
- Requires manufacturers, importers and downstream users to continue maintaining accurate substance, tonnage and supply-chain information.
- Does not apply the GB registration regime to Northern Ireland, where relevant EU chemicals rules continue to operate under the Windsor Framework.

Purpose and context

The Regulations are intended to provide legal certainty and sufficient preparation time while the Government develops and implements the Alternative Transitional Registration model for UK REACH. The revised timetable aims to reduce the risk of businesses incurring substantial data costs before the requirements of the new model are finalised.

The changes maintain the phased structure of UK REACH and align the regulator's compliance-check timetable with the later submission dates. They do not remove the obligation to register relevant substances or affect immediate controls on restricted or authorised substances.

Implications for stakeholders

- **Manufacturers and importers**
  - Should confirm which extended deadline applies to each substance and maintain a documented registration plan.
  - Must continue monitoring tonnage bands, legal entity arrangements and changes in substance use or hazard classification.
- **Downstream users and distributors**
  - Should verify that substances and suppliers remain covered by valid UK REACH arrangements.
  - Need to retain supply-chain communications, safety data sheets and evidence supporting continued lawful supply.
- **Chemical, environmental and health and safety teams**
  - Should update legal registers, chemical inventories, compliance trackers and registration project timelines.
  - Must not treat the deadline extensions as a reason to delay substance mapping, data-gap analysis or supplier engagement.
- **Legal, procurement and compliance functions**
  - Should review contracts and supplier assurance controls to confirm responsibility for registration data and associated costs.
  - Need to monitor further legislation and HSE guidance on the Alternative Transitional Registration model.

The Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction Act 2026 (Commencement and Transitional Provision) Regulations 2026 (SI 2026/827)	**Changes in the legal register** ☐ yes ☒ no

Jurisdiction: United Kingdom

Made: 14 July 2026

Commencement: 9 August 2026

Made under: Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction Act 2026

Commences: Sections 2 to 8, section 13, section 21 and section 24 of the Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction Act 2026, together with the Schedule linked to section 3.

Summary

The Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction Act 2026 (Commencement and Transitional Provision) Regulations 2026 bring into force the remaining substantive provisions of the Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction Act 2026 on 9 August 2026.

The commenced provisions implement important elements of the United Nations Agreement on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction. They establish requirements relating to the collection and utilisation of marine genetic resources, onward disclosure, repositories and databases, guidance, and environmental impact assessment screening and procedures.

The Regulations also introduce transitional arrangements that phase in the advance notification period for collecting marine genetic resources. This allows planned and ongoing research activity to adapt progressively to the standard statutory notice requirement.

Key provisions

1. Commencement of marine genetic resource collection requirements

- Brings section 2 of the Act into force, establishing information requirements for relevant persons collecting marine genetic resources in areas beyond national jurisdiction.
- Requires prescribed information to be provided before collection activity, subject to the transitional notice periods.
- Supports transparency and international information sharing concerning planned marine genetic resource collection.

2. Utilisation and onward disclosure

- Commences section 3 and the Schedule governing the utilisation of marine genetic resources and digital sequence information.
- Commences section 4, which addresses onward disclosure of relevant resources, information or material.
- Requires organisations to maintain traceable information supporting research, development, transfer and subsequent use.

3. Repositories, databases and supporting provisions

- Brings sections 5 and 6 into force, applying requirements to repositories and databases holding marine genetic resources or associated digital sequence information.
- Commences section 7, which provides supplementary provisions supporting the operation of the marine genetic resources regime.
- Commences section 8, which establishes relevant exceptions.

4. Guidance and environmental impact assessment procedures

- Brings section 13 into force, enabling guidance on the marine genetic resources requirements.
- Commences sections 21 and 24 concerning screening and procedure for activities requiring assessment under the Act.
- Supports consideration of potential effects from activities in areas beyond national jurisdiction and activities within national jurisdiction that may affect those areas.

5. Transitional notification periods

- Disapplies the standard advance notice requirement for collecting marine genetic resources between 9 August and 8 November 2026.
- Introduces a graduated notice period from 9 November 2026: one month, increasing monthly to six months for collection beginning between 9 April and 8 May 2027.
- Allows the full statutory requirement of at least seven months' advance notice to apply after the transitional period.

Purpose and context

The United Kingdom ratified the BBNJ Agreement in July 2026, and the Agreement entered into force for the UK on 9 August 2026. The domestic Act and these Regulations implement the UK's obligations relating to conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction.

The regime is intended to improve transparency, traceability and benefit sharing associated with marine genetic resources, strengthen environmental assessment of relevant activities, and support area-based conservation and international cooperation.

The transitional notification arrangements avoid an immediate seven-month barrier for research already planned close to commencement, while progressively moving affected organisations towards the full notice requirement.

Implications for stakeholders

- **Marine scientific research organisations**
  - Must identify planned collection activity in areas beyond national jurisdiction and apply the correct transitional or full notification period.
  - Should integrate BBNJ information requirements into cruise planning, research approvals and project governance.
- **Universities, biotechnology and pharmaceutical organisations**
  - Need traceable records where marine genetic resources or digital sequence information are collected, received, utilised or disclosed.
  - Should review research agreements, material transfer arrangements and intellectual property processes.
- **Repositories and database operators**
  - Must assess duties applying to collections and databases holding marine genetic resources or associated digital sequence information.

- Should ensure identifiers, provenance information, access records and disclosure information are accurate and retained.
- **Operators of UK vessels and project sponsors**
  - Should assess whether planned activities in areas beyond national jurisdiction, or activities capable of affecting those areas, require screening, notification or further environmental assessment.
  - Need to allocate sufficient lead time for regulatory submissions before mobilisation.
- **Environmental, legal and compliance teams**
  - Should update legal registers, research procedures, due diligence controls and environmental assessment processes.
  - Must maintain evidence of applicability decisions, notifications, resource provenance, utilisation, disclosures and compliance with published guidance.

The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) (Amendment) Order 2026 (SI 2026/896)	**Changes in the legal register** ☐ yes ☒ no

Jurisdiction: England; the Order extends to England and Wales but has practical effect in England.

Made: 29 July 2026

Laid before Parliament: 30 July 2026

Commencement: 27 August 2026

Made under: Town and Country Planning Act 1990

Amends: Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015, Part 14 of Schedule 2.

Summary

The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) (Amendment) Order 2026 amends permitted development rights for renewable energy equipment on domestic premises. It changes Class A, covering solar equipment on domestic buildings and buildings within their curtilage, and Class B, covering stand-alone solar equipment.

The Order introduces specific planning controls for plug-in solar equipment, distinguishes restrictions applying to dwellinghouses and blocks of flats, and clarifies how the existing permitted development rights apply to emerging small-scale solar technologies. It also provides transitional protection for development begun before commencement.

Key provisions

1. Amendments to domestic solar permitted development rights

- Amends Class A of Part 14 of Schedule 2 to the 2015 Order, which grants planning permission for the installation, alteration or replacement of solar photovoltaic and solar thermal equipment on domestic premises.
- Separates the limitations applying to blocks of flats from those applying to dwellinghouses.
- Maintains restrictions intended to protect listed buildings, highway safety, visual amenity and sensitive locations.

2. Plug-in solar on blocks of flats

- Introduces specific restrictions preventing plug-in solar from being installed on a wooden wall, balcony or enclosure, or on a timber-clad exterior of a block of flats under the permitted development right.
- Prevents reliance on Class A for equipment on a block of flats, or a building within its curtilage, where the block is a listed building.
- Requires building owners and installers to confirm construction materials and listed status before installation.

3. Restrictions applying to dwellinghouses

- Restates and clarifies the conditions under which wall-mounted solar equipment on a dwellinghouse is not permitted development, including limits on projection beyond a wall adjoining a highway.
- Retains controls relating to equipment installed above the highest part of a roof, excluding chimneys.
- Maintains additional restrictions for listed buildings, scheduled monuments and specified protected land.

4. Stand-alone solar equipment

- Amends Class B, which provides permitted development rights for stand-alone solar equipment within the curtilage of a dwellinghouse or block of flats.
- Updates limitations and terminology to ensure consistency with the amended domestic solar framework.
- Requires compliance with existing controls concerning equipment size, height, location and impact on protected buildings or land.

5. Definitions and transitional provision

- Amends the interpretation provisions in paragraph P of Part 14 to support the revised solar equipment rights.
- Provides transitional arrangements for development begun before 27 August 2026.
- Ensures qualifying installations already underway are not required to restart the planning assessment under the amended rules.

Purpose and context

The Order is intended to support wider domestic deployment of solar technology while maintaining proportionate planning safeguards. The amendments recognise the development of plug-in solar products and provide clearer controls for their installation on dwellinghouses and blocks of flats.

Permitted development rights grant planning permission automatically where all relevant limitations and conditions are met. Where a proposal falls outside the amended rights, a planning application may still be required before installation.

Implications for stakeholders

- **Homeowners and residential property owners**
  - Should confirm whether proposed solar equipment satisfies the amended Class A or Class B limitations.
  - Must obtain planning permission where an installation falls outside the permitted development right.
- **Landlords, freeholders and managing agents**
  - Need to assess building construction, listed status, lease restrictions and fire or structural safety before approving plug-in solar on blocks of flats.
  - Should maintain records of planning, building safety and installation decisions.
- **Solar installers, designers and suppliers**
  - Must update site assessment and customer advice to reflect the new plug-in solar restrictions.
  - Should verify wall, balcony, cladding, roof and curtilage conditions before confirming that planning permission is not required.
- **Local planning authorities**
  - Should update public guidance and officer procedures for domestic and stand-alone solar equipment.
  - Need to apply the transitional provision to installations begun before commencement.
- **Environmental, estates and compliance teams**
  - Should update planning checklists, renewable energy procedures, project approvals and legal registers.
  - Must retain evidence showing why an installation qualifies as permitted development or why planning permission was obtained.

Guidance: Mandatory biodiversity net gain for nationally significant infrastructure projects	**Changes in the legal register** ☐ yes ☒ no

Jurisdiction: England

Published: 27 August 2026

Application: Mandatory biodiversity net gain applies to relevant nationally significant infrastructure project applications submitted on or after 2 November 2026.

Issued by: Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Supports: Planning Act 2008, as amended by section 99 and Schedule 15 to the Environment Act 2021; applicable biodiversity gain statements; statutory biodiversity metric.

Summary

Defra has published guidance explaining how developers of nationally significant infrastructure projects must design, calculate, secure, deliver and report mandatory biodiversity net gain through the Development Consent Order process.

From 2 November 2026, relevant applications for development consent in England must meet the biodiversity gain objective set by the applicable biodiversity gain statement. In most cases, this requires delivery of at least a 10% increase in biodiversity value compared with the pre-development baseline.

The guidance covers the full project lifecycle, including early design, application preparation, examination, consent requirements, updated and phase gain plans, commencement, operation, long-term habitat management, monitoring and reporting.

Key provisions

1. Scope and commencement of mandatory BNG

- Applies to relevant NSIP Development Consent Order applications submitted on or after 2 November 2026.
- Applies to NSIPs, or relevant components of them, in England as far as the mean low-water mark, including the intertidal zone but excluding the marine environment beyond it.
- For cross-border projects, requires the BNG baseline, boundary plan, metric calculation and counted enhancements to relate only to habitats in England.

2. Biodiversity gain objective and applicable statement

- Requires applicants to identify and follow the biodiversity gain statement applying to the relevant NSIP sector.
- Where no National Policy Statement has effect, the dedicated biodiversity gain statement sets out how BNG must be calculated, delivered and reported.
- Requires the Secretary of State to be satisfied that the biodiversity gain objective will be met before granting development consent.

3. Mitigation hierarchy and project design

- Requires applicants to avoid biodiversity impacts where possible before minimising, restoring and compensating for residual effects.

- Encourages BNG to be integrated into site selection, route alignment, design development and land requirements at an early stage.
- Requires separate and appropriate treatment of irreplaceable habitats, which are not assessed solely through the standard biodiversity metric.

4. Baseline and biodiversity metric calculations

- Requires use of the statutory biodiversity metric and its supporting guidance to calculate pre-development and post-development biodiversity value.
- Requires applicants to define the BNG boundary, establish an evidence-based baseline date and include relevant habitats affected by the project.
- Requires appropriate ecological surveys, condition assessments, plans and calculation files to support the application and examination.

5. Delivery hierarchy and biodiversity gains

- Allows BNG to be delivered through onsite habitat creation or enhancement, registered offsite biodiversity gains and, as a last resort, statutory biodiversity credits.
- Requires offsite gains to be allocated to the development through the biodiversity gain site register before they can count towards the objective.
- Requires applicants considering statutory credits to estimate costs and demonstrate why the required units cannot reasonably be secured through onsite or offsite delivery.

6. Development Consent Order application requirements

- Requires the application to explain the BNG approach and provide supporting evidence suitable for examination.
- Expects applicants to prepare an outline biodiversity gain plan and draft enforceable DCO requirements securing later approvals, implementation and monitoring.
- Requires interfaces between BNG, environmental assessment, land acquisition, habitats regulation and other mitigation commitments to be clearly managed.

7. Post-consent gain plans and commencement

- Requires an updated biodiversity gain plan, or appropriate phase gain plans, following grant of development consent.
- Requires offsite gains to be allocated and statutory credits purchased before the relevant development or phase can commence, where those mechanisms are used.
- Requires applicants to address material or non-material changes to the DCO and demonstrate that the biodiversity gain objective remains achievable.

8. Long-term management, monitoring and reporting

- Requires habitat gains to be secured, managed and monitored for the period specified by the applicable legal mechanism and biodiversity gain statement.
- Requires responsibilities, funding, monitoring methods, reporting intervals and corrective measures to be set out clearly.

- Expects evidence to remain available throughout construction, operation and the habitat-management period.

Purpose and context

The guidance supports implementation of the statutory BNG regime for major infrastructure while allowing essential infrastructure to be delivered alongside measurable nature recovery. It is intended to establish a consistent approach across NSIP sectors and provide applicants, examining authorities and decision-makers with a clear evidence framework.

The Government confirmed in April 2026 that mandatory BNG for NSIPs would begin in November 2026. Sector-specific and cross-sector biodiversity gain statements provide the legal objective, while this guidance explains the practical steps expected at each stage of the consenting and delivery process.

Implications for stakeholders

- **NSIP developers and promoters**
  - Must integrate BNG into project design, land strategy, consenting and programme planning before submitting applications from 2 November 2026.
  - Should secure ecological expertise, clear governance and sufficient funding for delivery and long-term management.
- **Ecologists and environmental consultants**
  - Need to complete defensible surveys, baseline assessments, metric calculations and habitat-delivery proposals.
  - Must ensure BNG evidence remains consistent with the environmental statement, mitigation commitments and DCO documentation.
- **Local authorities and prescribed consultees**
  - Should develop capability to review complex BNG evidence and advise the Examining Authority.
  - Need to consider how local nature recovery priorities, strategic significance and long-term enforcement may affect proposals.
- **Landowners and offsite biodiversity providers**
  - May supply registered biodiversity units where onsite delivery is insufficient.
  - Must ensure habitat commitments are legally secured, registered, funded, managed and monitored.
- **Environmental, planning, legal and compliance teams**
  - Should update legal registers, DCO procedures, project gateways, assurance reviews and records-management arrangements.
  - Must retain an audit trail covering applicability, baseline decisions, calculations, consultation, approvals, delivery, monitoring and corrective action.

HEALTH & SAFETY	
The Railway Safety (2002 Act) (Commencement No. 1) Order (Northern Ireland) 2026 (SR 2026/154)	**Changes in the legal register** ☐ yes ☒ no

Jurisdiction: Northern Ireland

Made: 12 August 2026

Commencement: 13 August 2026

Made under: Section 8(2) of the Railways Safety Act (Northern Ireland) 2002

Commences: Sections 2 and 3 of the Railways Safety Act (Northern Ireland) 2002 for the purpose of making regulations, together with the associated offence provisions.

Summary

The Railway Safety (2002 Act) (Commencement No. 1) Order (Northern Ireland) 2026 is the first commencement order made under the Railways Safety Act (Northern Ireland) 2002. It brings sections 2 and 3 of the Act into operation on 13 August 2026 for the purpose of enabling detailed regulations to be made.

The commenced provisions concern departmental approval before new or altered railway works, plant or equipment are brought into use, and the reporting, follow-up and investigation of railway accidents. The Order also activates the associated offence provisions, creating an enforceable basis for the future secondary legislation.

The Order is principally an enabling commencement measure. Detailed operational duties will depend on regulations made under the commenced sections and should be monitored separately.

Key provisions

1. Commencement of departmental approval provisions

- Brings section 2 of the 2002 Act into operation for the purpose of making regulations.
- Enables regulations to require approval from the Department for Infrastructure before specified new railway works, plant or equipment are brought into use.
- Enables comparable approval requirements following alteration of existing railway works, plant or equipment.

2. Accident reporting requirements

- Brings section 3 of the 2002 Act into operation for the purpose of making regulations on reporting railway accidents to the Department.
- Enables regulations to prescribe reportable events, notification routes, timescales and required information.

- Supports consistent collection of accident information for regulatory oversight and safety improvement.

3. Follow-up action and investigation

- Enables future regulations to address follow-up action after an accident has been reported.
- Supports investigation where appropriate to establish causes, contributing factors and necessary corrective action.
- Provides a statutory basis for evidence gathering and learning from railway accidents.

4. Associated offence provisions

- Brings into operation offences associated with sections 2 and 3 of the 2002 Act.
- Includes offences connected with bringing works, plant or equipment into use without the required approval.
- Includes offences for failing to meet statutory duties concerning accident reporting and investigation.

5. Enabling nature of the Order

- Does not itself set the full technical approval process or detailed accident reporting procedure.
- Allows the Department for Infrastructure to make the required subordinate regulations under the commenced provisions.
- Requires affected organisations to monitor the forthcoming regulations, guidance and implementation arrangements.

Purpose and context

The Order begins the operational implementation of the Railways Safety Act (Northern Ireland) 2002 by activating powers needed to regulate the introduction and alteration of railway assets and to establish a formal accident reporting and investigation framework.

The provisions are intended to ensure that safety-critical works, plant and equipment are subject to appropriate regulatory approval before use, and that accidents are reported and investigated consistently. This supports preventative action, regulatory learning and clearer accountability across the Northern Ireland railway system.

Implications for stakeholders

- **Railway operators and infrastructure managers**
    - Should identify projects involving new or altered railway works, plant or equipment that may require departmental approval under forthcoming regulations.
    - Need to review existing accident notification, escalation and investigation procedures.

- **Designers, engineers and project managers**
  - Should plan for regulatory approval within design, testing, commissioning and handover programmes.
  - Must retain technical evidence showing that new or altered assets are safe and suitable before use.
- **Maintenance providers and contractors**
  - Should ensure changes to works, plant or equipment are identified and assessed before recommissioning.
  - Need clear contractual responsibilities for reporting accidents, preserving evidence and supporting investigations.
- **Health and safety, legal and compliance teams**
  - Should add the Order to the legal register as an enabling commencement measure and assign responsibility for monitoring the detailed regulations.
  - Need to update incident procedures, training, assurance reviews and records once the subordinate requirements are published.
- **Department for Infrastructure**
  - Can develop the detailed approval and accident-reporting regulations authorised by sections 2 and 3.
  - Will need to communicate requirements, establish administrative processes and support consistent enforcement.

The Plugs and Sockets etc. (Safety) Regulations 1994 and Electricity Safety, Quality and Continuity Regulations 2002 (Amendment) Regulations 2026 (SI 2026/848)	**Changes in the legal register** ☐ yes ☒ no

Jurisdiction: United Kingdom for the product-safety amendments; Great Britain for the electricity installation and operation amendments.

Made: 16 July 2026

Laid before Parliament: 17 July 2026

Commencement: 27 August 2026

Made under: Electricity Act 1989 and Consumer Protection Act 1987

Amends: Plugs and Sockets etc. (Safety) Regulations 1994; Electricity Safety, Quality and Continuity Regulations 2002.

Summary

The Regulations create a controlled legal route for approving, supplying, installing and operating plug-in solar microgenerators connected to a low-voltage consumer installation through a standard plug and socket.

They amend the product-safety framework so that a standard plug intended for a compliant plug-in microgenerator may be approved even though BS 1363 ordinarily prohibits or restricts use of a plug to connect an electricity-generating device to a socket outlet. They also amend the electricity safety framework in Great Britain so that a plug-in microgenerator may only be installed or operated when it complies with the prescribed interim product specification.

The Regulations are narrow enabling measures. They do not remove the need to comply with the referenced technical specification, electrical installation requirements, manufacturer instructions and other applicable safety duties.

Key provisions

1. Approval route for non-standard generating plugs

- Allows a notified body to approve a type of standard plug intended to be fitted to, or supplied for use with, a plug-in microgenerator.
- Allows approval where the plug fails to conform to BS 1363 only because that standard prohibits or restricts connecting an electricity-generating device to a socket outlet.
- Requires conformity with the remaining relevant BS 1363 requirements and the Plug-in Solar Device Interim Product Specification.

2. Inspection, testing and production assurance

- Requires the notified body to assess samples through inspection or testing before approving the plug type.
- Requires reasonable assurance that normal manufacture and design will produce plugs corresponding to the approved samples.
- Supports consistent product quality and traceable evidence for the approved plug design.

3. Definition of a plug-in microgenerator

- Defines a plug-in microgenerator as a source that generates electricity by direct conversion of sunlight.
- Limits the maximum rated alternating-current output to 800 watts.
- Requires the equipment to be intended for connection to a low-voltage consumer installation by a standard plug and socket and to operate in parallel with a distributor's network.

4. Mandatory interim product specification

- Amends the Electricity Safety, Quality and Continuity Regulations 2002 so that, in Great Britain, a plug-in microgenerator must not be installed or operated unless it complies with the Plug-in Solar Device Interim Product Specification.
- Makes compliance with the defined specification a legal precondition for installation and use, rather than voluntary good practice.

- Requires users, installers and suppliers to confirm that the correct specification and product evidence apply.

5. Territorial application

- The amendments to the 1994 product-safety Regulations extend to England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.
- The amendments to the 2002 electricity safety Regulations extend to England and Wales and Scotland only.
- Requires organisations operating across the UK to distinguish the applicable product-safety and electrical-network requirements by jurisdiction.

Purpose and context

The Regulations are intended to enable limited plug-in solar generation while maintaining electrical and product safety controls. Before the amendment, the BS 1363 restriction on connecting generating equipment through a standard plug prevented approval of this type of product under the 1994 Regulations.

The new approval route addresses that regulatory barrier but retains technical safeguards through notified-body approval, sample testing, production assurance and mandatory compliance with the interim product specification. The framework supports small-scale renewable generation without treating ordinary household sockets as an unrestricted route for connecting generating equipment.

Implications for stakeholders

- **Manufacturers and importers**
  - Must ensure plug-in microgenerators and associated plugs satisfy the interim specification and applicable product-safety requirements.
  - Need approval evidence, technical documentation, test results and production controls supporting conformity.
- **Notified bodies and product assurance organisations**
  - Must assess applications against the limited BS 1363 departure, the remaining standard requirements and the interim specification.
  - Should retain inspection, testing and approval records demonstrating the basis of each decision.
- **Suppliers and retailers**
  - Should verify approval and specification compliance before making plug-in solar products available.
  - Must provide accurate customer information and avoid implying that any solar generator can lawfully be connected through a standard socket.
- **Installers, electricians and facilities teams**
  - Must confirm that the product and proposed installation comply with the interim specification and applicable electrical installation requirements.

- Should assess circuit suitability, protective devices, socket condition, manufacturer instructions and safe operation before connection.
- **Health and safety, estates and compliance teams**
  - Should update legal registers, electrical safety procedures, procurement controls and contractor requirements.
  - Must retain evidence of product approval, technical compliance, installation checks, inspection, maintenance and user information.

The Supply of Machinery (Safety) (Amendment etc.) and the EU Machinery Regulation (Enforcement etc. in Northern Ireland) Regulations 2026 (SI 2026/867)	Changes in the legal register ☐ yes ☒ no

Jurisdiction: Great Britain and Northern Ireland, with distinct provisions for each market.

Made: 22 July 2026

Commencement: 20 January 2027

Made under: European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018; Product Regulation and Metrology Act 2025.

Amends: Supply of Machinery (Safety) Regulations 2008; Product Safety and Metrology etc. (Amendment etc.) (EU Exit) Regulations 2021.

Supports and enforces: Regulation (EU) 2023/1230 on machinery, as it applies in Northern Ireland under the Windsor Framework.

Summary

The Regulations update the machinery safety framework in response to Regulation (EU) 2023/1230 replacing the EU Machinery Directive from 20 January 2027. They clarify that the Supply of Machinery (Safety) Regulations 2008 will continue to apply in Great Britain, while the EU Machinery Regulation will apply directly in Northern Ireland under the Windsor Framework.

For Great Britain, the amendments preserve domestic machinery safety requirements and establish routes for machinery complying with the EU Machinery Regulation, including qualifying Northern Ireland goods, to be placed on the GB market. For Northern Ireland, the Regulations establish enforcement, market surveillance, UK notified-body and UK (NI) marking arrangements needed to support the directly applicable EU regime.

Key provisions

1. Territorial separation of the machinery regimes

- Confirms that the Supply of Machinery (Safety) Regulations 2008 extend to England and Wales and Scotland only from commencement.
- Provides that Regulation (EU) 2023/1230 applies directly to machinery placed on the Northern Ireland market.

- Requires organisations trading across the UK to distinguish between the GB and Northern Ireland conformity regimes.

2. Great Britain conformity routes

- Retains the domestic route under the amended 2008 Regulations for machinery placed on the GB market.
- Recognises specified machinery that complies with the EU Machinery Regulation, enabling continued access to the GB market subject to the amended conditions.
- Maintains requirements concerning essential health and safety requirements, conformity assessment, marking, declarations, instructions and technical documentation.

3. Qualifying Northern Ireland goods

- Preserves access to the GB market for qualifying Northern Ireland machinery meeting the applicable Northern Ireland requirements.
- Supports the United Kingdom Internal Market and unfettered-access arrangements for qualifying Northern Ireland goods.
- Requires suppliers to retain evidence showing the origin, conformity route and qualifying status of machinery relying on this route.

4. UK notified bodies and UK (NI) marking

- Allows United Kingdom conformity assessment bodies to act as notified bodies for machinery placed on the Northern Ireland market.
- Requires the UK (NI) indication to accompany CE marking where a UK notified body carries out the relevant conformity assessment.
- Provides for a register of UK notified bodies supporting the Northern Ireland machinery regime.

5. Northern Ireland market surveillance and enforcement

- Designates relevant enforcement bodies as market surveillance authorities for the EU Machinery Regulation in Northern Ireland.
- Confirms that the Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland will enforce requirements relating to machinery intended for use at work.
- Provides enforcement authorities with powers to investigate non-compliance, require corrective action, restrict or prohibit supply and remove unsafe machinery from the market.

6. Offences, penalties and information sharing

- Creates offences and penalties supporting enforcement of the EU Machinery Regulation in Northern Ireland.
- Allows relevant information to be disclosed to the European Commission and EU Member States where required for market surveillance and regulatory cooperation.

- Supports coordinated action where machinery presents a risk or fails to satisfy applicable conformity requirements.

7. Transitional arrangements

- Preserves the previous legal treatment of machinery placed on the Northern Ireland market before 20 January 2027.
- Protects qualifying certificates, approvals and conformity activity completed under the previous machinery framework where the statutory conditions are satisfied.
- Requires businesses to identify the date machinery was placed on the market and the conformity regime on which it relies.

Purpose and context

The Regulations are intended to maintain a workable and enforceable machinery safety system following replacement of the EU Machinery Directive by the directly applicable EU Machinery Regulation. They address the regulatory divergence between Great Britain and Northern Ireland while preserving lawful trade routes within the United Kingdom.

The measures ensure that Northern Ireland has the notified-body, market surveillance, enforcement and penalty arrangements required under the EU regime. They also amend the GB framework so that manufacturers and suppliers have clear conformity routes when placing machinery on the GB market after 20 January 2027.

Implications for stakeholders

- **Machinery manufacturers**
  - Must identify whether machinery will be placed on the GB market, the Northern Ireland market or both.
  - Need to apply the correct essential requirements, conformity assessment, marking, declaration and technical documentation route.
- **Importers and distributors**
  - Should verify manufacturer details, conformity markings, declarations, instructions and traceability before supply.
  - Must distinguish CE-only, CE plus UK (NI), and applicable GB conformity routes and avoid placing incorrectly marked machinery on the market.
- **UK conformity assessment bodies**
  - May continue supporting Northern Ireland conformity assessment through the UK notified-body framework.
  - Must maintain appropriate designation, competence, records and use of the UK (NI) indication.
- **Machinery users, employers and purchasers**
  - Should update procurement checks to confirm that machinery supplied for use at work meets the applicable territorial requirements.

- Need to retain declarations, instructions, commissioning information and evidence of conformity as part of machinery safety documentation.
- **Health and safety, quality and compliance teams**
  - Should update legal registers, product compliance procedures, supplier questionnaires and market-access checklists before 20 January 2027.
  - Must map affected product lines, confirm transitional status, train relevant staff and retain an audit trail for each conformity route used.

QUALLITY

Update: ISO 9001:2026	Changes in the legal register ☐ yes ☒ no

Jurisdiction: International, with relevance to organisations using or certified to ISO 9001 worldwide.

August update: ISO announced on 7 August 2026 that ISO/FDIS 9001 had been approved with overwhelming international support.

Status: Under publication, at ISO stage 60.00, following approval of the Final Draft International Standard.

Scheduled publication: 16 September 2026

Will replace: ISO 9001:2015, including Amendment 1:2024 concerning climate-change considerations.

Summary

The revision of ISO 9001 reached its final publication stage in August 2026 after ISO/FDIS 9001 was formally approved. The sixth edition is scheduled for publication on 16 September 2026 and will replace ISO 9001:2015.

The revision is an evolution of the existing quality management system framework rather than a complete redesign. It retains the process approach, risk-based thinking, the Plan-Do-Check-Act cycle and the Harmonized Structure, while clarifying and strengthening requirements in areas that have become more important since 2015.

The approved direction places stronger emphasis on quality culture, ethical behaviour, leadership accountability and continual improvement. Organisations should use the August approval as the trigger for structured transition planning, while confirming final requirements against the published standard rather than relying solely on earlier drafts.

Key developments

1. Final Draft International Standard approved

- ISO/FDIS 9001 received overwhelming international approval following the formal ballot.
- The technical content has therefore passed the final voting stage and entered production for publication.
- Only final editorial and production work remained at the end of August 2026.

2. Publication timetable confirmed

- ISO lists the sixth edition for publication on 16 September 2026.
- Publication will formally replace ISO 9001:2015 as the current international requirements standard.
- National standards bodies will subsequently publish or adopt corresponding national editions, including the British Standard edition.

3. Quality culture and ethical behaviour

- Strengthens the emphasis on quality culture and ethical behaviour within the organisation.
- Places clearer responsibility on leadership to promote values and behaviours supporting consistent quality outcomes.
- Encourages organisations to assess whether day-to-day conduct, incentives and decision-making align with QMS commitments.

4. Risks, opportunities and change

- Clarifies the distinction between addressing adverse risks and pursuing beneficial opportunities.
- Reinforces the need to connect risk and opportunity decisions with objectives, operational controls and improvement.
- Strengthens the treatment of planned change across strategic and operational QMS processes.

5. Climate change and organisational context

- Incorporates the 2024 climate-change amendment into the revised standard.
- Requires organisations to consider whether climate change is a relevant issue affecting the QMS and whether interested parties have related requirements.
- Does not require every organisation to establish environmental objectives, but does require a reasoned and evidenced relevance assessment.

6. Organisational knowledge and modern business conditions

- Further clarifies the management and availability of knowledge needed for effective processes and conformity.
- Reflects increased use of digital tools, data and emerging technologies within quality management and operational decision-making.

- Requires organisations to maintain control and accountability where technology supports, automates or influences QMS processes.

7. Clarification rather than wholesale restructuring

- Many changes are editorial clarifications to the 2015 edition rather than wholly new requirements.
- The familiar clause structure and core requirements remain recognisable.
- A more detailed Annex A is expected to support consistent interpretation, but informative guidance should not be treated as a separate set of auditable requirements.

Purpose and context

ISO 9001 is revised periodically to maintain its relevance to changing organisational, technological and stakeholder conditions. The 2026 edition responds to experience gained from applying the 2015 standard and to developments including climate-related risks, digital transformation, ethical expectations, organisational resilience and the need for stronger quality culture.

The August approval confirms that the revision has moved beyond draft consultation and formal voting into publication. However, organisations should avoid rewriting their QMS solely against superseded DIS material. Final gap analysis should use the published ISO 9001:2026 text and any confirmed certification-transition rules.

Implications for stakeholders

- **ISO 9001-certified organisations**
  - Should establish a controlled transition project and identify ownership, resources and governance.
  - Need to complete a clause-by-clause gap analysis once the final standard is available.
- **Top management**
  - Should review how leadership demonstrates quality culture, ethical conduct and accountability.
  - Need to ensure QMS priorities remain aligned with strategic direction, interested-party expectations and business risks.
- **Quality managers and process owners**
  - Should review risk and opportunity methods, change controls, knowledge management, objectives and improvement processes.
  - Need to identify which procedures, forms, records and training materials require amendment and which remain effective.
- **Internal auditors**
  - Should receive transition training before auditing against the revised requirements.

- Need to test effective implementation rather than seeking unnecessary new documentation.
- **Certification bodies and consultants**
  - Will need to align audit programmes, competence and client guidance with the final publication and accreditation rules.
  - Should distinguish confirmed requirements from commentary based on earlier draft editions.

Recommended implementation actions

- Record ISO 9001:2026 as a standards-development and transition item rather than a statutory legal obligation.
- Obtain the final published standard and confirm the applicable national adoption and certification-transition arrangements.
- Prepare a documented gap analysis covering quality culture, ethics, risks and opportunities, climate relevance, organisational knowledge and change management.
- Update the QMS proportionately, avoiding wholesale re-documentation where current controls already satisfy the revised intent.
- Plan awareness, internal audit, management review and certification-body engagement against a controlled transition timetable.
- Retain evidence of decisions, gap findings, revised controls, competence, audits and management approval.

The Occupational Pension Schemes (Collective Money Purchase Schemes) (Extension to Unconnected Multiple Employer Schemes and Miscellaneous Provisions) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2026 (SR 2026/151)	**Changes in the legal register** ☐ yes ☒ no

Jurisdiction: Northern Ireland

Made: 30 July 2026

Commencement: 31 July 2026

Made under: Pension Schemes Act 2021

Amends: Pension Schemes Act 2021; Occupational Pension Schemes (Collective Money Purchase Schemes) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2024; related pensions legislation concerning collective money purchase benefits.

Summary

The Regulations remove the exclusion preventing pension schemes used, or intended to be used, by two or more unconnected employers from qualifying as collective money purchase schemes under Part 2 of the Pension Schemes Act 2021.

They establish an authorisation and supervisory framework for unconnected multiple-employer collective money purchase schemes. A scheme must be authorised by the Pensions Regulator before operating and must meet enhanced requirements concerning design, financial sustainability, governance and central coordination by a scheme proprietor.

Collective money purchase schemes pool employer and member contributions and provide target, rather than guaranteed, retirement benefits. Investment and longevity risks are shared collectively across members, distinguishing the model from traditional defined benefit and individual defined contribution arrangements.

Key provisions

1. Extension to unconnected multiple-employer schemes

- Extends the statutory definition of a qualifying scheme to include schemes used, or intended to be used, by multiple employers that are not connected with one another.
- Enables commercial and sector-wide schemes to seek authorisation as collective money purchase schemes.
- Broadens employer access beyond the previous single-employer and connected-employer-group model.

2. Authorisation by the Pensions Regulator

- Requires an unconnected multiple-employer scheme to obtain authorisation before it may operate as a collective money purchase scheme.
- Introduces scheme-specific application information and evidence for the Pensions Regulator.
- Allows authorisation only where the Regulator is satisfied that the statutory criteria are met.

3. Scheme proprietor and fit-and-proper requirements

- Requires central coordination by a scheme proprietor and applies fit-and-proper-person requirements to relevant individuals.
- Places responsibility on the proprietor for the scheme's commercial strategy, financial support and key continuity arrangements.
- Supports clear accountability where participating employers are otherwise unconnected.

4. Design, viability and financial sustainability

- Requires the scheme design to be sound and supported by an actuarial viability report.
- Requires an appropriate business strategy and sufficient financial resources to establish and operate the scheme.
- Addresses the financial resources needed to respond to triggering events and protect members during continuity action.

5. Governance, systems and communications

- Requires effective governance, administration and operational systems proportionate to a multiple-employer scheme.
- Applies controls to promotion and marketing so that employers and members receive fair and understandable information.
- Requires appropriate member communications concerning target benefits, adjustments and the absence of a guaranteed pension outcome.

6. Ongoing supervision and reporting

- Requires annual accounts and notification of significant events affecting the scheme or proprietor.
- Enables the Pensions Regulator to issue risk notices and monitor compliance with the authorisation criteria.
- Requires continuing evidence that the scheme remains viable, sustainable and properly governed after authorisation.

7. Triggering events and continuity options

- Adapts the triggering-event and continuity framework for unconnected multiple-employer schemes.
- Requires notification, an implementation strategy and regulatory approval where a relevant event threatens normal operation.
- Provides an orderly route for resolving difficulties, transferring members or winding up where continued operation is not viable.

Purpose and context

The Regulations are intended to widen access to collective pension provision while maintaining member protection and confidence. Before this change, collective money purchase schemes in Northern Ireland were limited to single employers or connected employer groups.

The framework recognises that schemes serving unrelated employers need stronger central coordination and financial controls because no single employer group provides the organisational connection. The authorisation and supervision requirements are therefore designed to ensure that only well-designed, well-run and adequately financed schemes enter and remain in the market.

Implications for stakeholders

- **Prospective scheme proprietors and providers**
  - Must secure authorisation before operating and demonstrate scheme design, governance and financial sustainability.
  - Need documented business, continuity and member-communication strategies.
- **Trustees and scheme managers**
  - Must maintain effective administration, actuarial oversight, risk management and regulatory reporting.

    - Should clearly distinguish target benefits from guaranteed benefits in member information.
- **Participating employers**
    - Can consider joining a collective arrangement without being connected to the other participating employers.
    - Should undertake due diligence on authorisation, charges, governance, communications and exit arrangements before participation.
- **Members and employee representatives**
    - Should receive clear information about contribution structures, target benefits, benefit adjustments and shared risks.
    - Need to understand that collective money purchase benefits are not guaranteed in the same manner as defined benefits.
- **HR, payroll, finance and compliance teams**
    - Should update pension governance, procurement, payroll and employee-communication procedures where participation is proposed.
    - Must retain evidence of provider due diligence, employer decisions, member communications, contribution controls and ongoing scheme oversight.