

REPAK WELCOMES SIGNING OF NEW WASTE MANAGEMENT (PACKAGING) REGULATIONS

FURTHER CALLS FOR ENFORCEMENT AND INTRODUCTION OF WEIGHT BASED DOMESTIC CHARGES

Dublin - 24th Feb 2003: Repak, the packaging waste compliance scheme, welcomes today's announcement on the signing of the Waste Management (packaging) Regulations 2003 but warns that enforcement is key and calls for the introduction of weight based charges for domestic collection. According to Repak this amendment should help to increase the amount of commercial tonnage of recycled material and help contribute to meeting Ireland's EU packaging waste recycling/recovery targets. The target for 2005 is estimated at 450,000 tonnes, which represents 50% of Ireland's packaging waste and a doubling of the 2001 EU recycling/recovery target.

Although this is a positive development the organisation also pointed out that the key issue facing the new legislation is enforcement. According to Repak lack of enforcement of and non-compliance by many Irish companies to the Waste Management (Packaging) Regulations 1997 is one of the main obstacles facing packaging recycling in Ireland.

Commenting on the new regulations Andrew Hetherington, CEO, Repak said "We welcome Repak's involvement in the drafting of the regulations and see the changes to the regulations as a positive measure but also call for the introduction of weight based charges for household waste to help improve the rate of domestic recycling. This approach would help to reward people who embrace recycling by reducing their waste charges and thereby incentivising people to recycle more of their household waste. An average Irish household produces over one tonne of waste per annum and of that over one third is packaging waste, which could be recycled. Commercial recycling has progressed significantly but greater concentration now needs to be focused on the domestic sector. We are particularly pleased with the clarification in the regulations on the consumption of packaging waste on a business's premises such as in the case of the licensed trade. This means that new areas such as hotels, restaurants and bars that previously believed they were not obligated are now clearly covered by the regulations."

About Repak

Repak is a not-for-profit members based packaging waste compliance scheme established under a voluntary agreement between industry and the Department of the Environment and Local Government. It was established as industry's response to the obligations placed on Ireland by the EU directive on Packaging Waste (94/62/EC) and is the only government approved compliance scheme

under the Waste Management (Packaging) Regulations 1997. Repak succeeded in reaching and exceeding Ireland's National Recycling Target of 25% of packaging waste in 2001.

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