

ESSENTIAL STATUS FOR RECYCLERS

COUNTRY	SECTOR	STATUS AS ESSENTIAL	STATUS RESTRICTED TO CERTAIN STREAMS (HOUSEHOLD / COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL WASTE) OR MATERIALS	CONSEQUENCES OF CLASSIFICATION	ADDITIONAL INPUT
Austria	All sectors classified as waste*	Yes (for waste companies)	No restrictions.	No consequences, state aids are possible.	*All our products are legally waste
	General Information: https://bit.ly/39ESW3S				
Belgium	Textiles	Yes			
	General Information: https://go4circle.be/fr/covid-19-mesures-pour-notre-secteur , https://www.info-coronavirus.be/en/				
Bulgaria	Textiles	No list with essential activities	There is just an order in which it is written which units have to stop their activities (restaurants, shopping centers, etc.). all other units may work if they can fulfill strict epidemic measures.		
Czech Republic	Collecting & sorting of second hand clothes	No			
Denmark	Metals	No		State support for staff that has been sent home.	
Finland	All waste sectors	Yes		The waste sector is working but of course volumes specially from industrial sector are at lower level. After 17th March the volumes have gone down and now it seems that there is 70-75% of the "normal" volume. Municipal waste centers have some restrictions how many customers can be at the same time on the yard.	
	Ferrous and non-ferrous scrap		At moment no restrictions but must apply normal precautions. Materials are recycled normally from industry	It's hard to say how much the turnovers have dropped. Good indication is that	

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			<p>and households to the scrap yards and forward to mills and other users</p>	<p>ferrous scrap prices has sank almost 40 % during the last month.</p> <p>Some companies have some shortage from specific scarp materials and some still have normal flow that comes in. The biggest challenge here in Finland is that we have so small homeland markets that we are depending the exports possibilities quit a lot.</p> <p>In Finland we have 2 steel mills that are running normally and accepts scrap. Then there is chance that they must shut down everything because of Codvi-19 or some drastic market movements. We have also SSAB in Raahe and they haven't accepted scarp for months from scrap companies which has made the situation even worse.</p> <p>Concerns are that scrap is pile up to dealers' yards and price continues falling. Most of the companies are trying to have some help from government money (different organizations where from to apply) or temporary layoffs to help companies' cashflow.</p>	

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France	All sectors classified as waste	Yes, we are awaiting the drafting of a decree which should define the essential activities able to apply derogatory measures to social law, in particular on the hours of work.	<p>Some activities are prohibited as Non-food stores, Restaurants; Dance halls and games rooms; libraries, museums, schools.</p> <p>Outside of these activities, there is no restriction and necessity to continue the economic activity as much as possible.</p>	<p>Around 70% of recycling companies stay opened. 74% of companies use Partial Unemployment: 50% of companies feel they have lost more than 60% of their business.</p> <p>Health side: concern about the protection of employees' health (respect for barrier gestures and lack of stock of regulatory masks outside the epidemic)</p> <p>Economic side: no consequence, economics aids are in theory possible</p>	For recovered paper: the collection, sorting and recycling of paper is continuing and no shortages for papermills to be expected.
Germany	All sectors	<p>It varies by different federal states; The Federal Government considers entire waste management as essential: https://www.euwid-recycling.de/news/politik/einzelansicht/Artikel/bundesregierung-gesamte-abfallbehandlung-systemrelevant.html</p> <p>In nearly all federal states waste management has the status of essential infrastructure (e.g. BY, BW, NRW, SH, HE, TH). It is mostly required that the respective activity is necessary for the maintenance of the infrastructure / in other federal states the status is unclear.</p>	<p>Special childcare offered while schools etc. are closed ("Notfallbetreuung").</p> <p>National state aids are available for all companies, not only for essential sectors.</p>		

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			Household waste is nation-wide classified essential. For commercial and industrial waste, it depends on federal state decisions/regulations.		
	Recycling, in case of certificated waste management company	Yes	Status of the moment, aggravation reserved.	Permission to remain open / produce.	
	Car workshops (without retail stores)	Yes	Special safety and health protection measures if customer relation is necessary (breathing mask, disinfection).	Permission to remain open.	
	Metals	Partly <i>Status is not essential in all federal states (Länder). There is not a common national decision yet.</i>		Permission to remain open.	
	General Information: https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-de/themen/coronavirus https://www.umweltbundesamt.de/dokument/abfallverbringung-ergebnisse-abfrage-bundeslaender				
Greece	Recycling Sector			The recycling sector has been included in the activities entitled to receive state aid also in Greece.	
Hungary	Waste management sector	Partly <i>However, our Government officially does not use the term "essential" or any other similar one to sectors.</i>	There is no differentiation between certain streams so far.	With effect from 17th of March, the Government ruled that all commercial facilities (shops) must be closed from 3 PM. According to our interpretation, waste management and especially scrap metal recycling facilities do not fall under the scope of the requirement. From 28th of March, citizens are not allowed to leave their homes, with some exemptions stipulated in the applicable governmental decree. Using services related to waste management is among the exemptions.	

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Italy	Metals & waste paper	Yes		<p>As of 30 March 2020, the Italian Ministry of Environment has delegated all Regions to increase the quantity of storage. The waste recovery and storage facilities are currently waiting for the local decrees to be adopted to ask for a bigger quantity of storage, increasing their authorized capacity in the maximum limit of half.</p> <p>The measures of the Ministry and the Regions were issued, because in Italy the waste treatment plants are authorized by the Regions.</p> <p>The increase in authorized storage capacity also applies to waste paper.</p> <p>It must be noted that recovered paper in Italy is a secondary raw material and so outside the waste legislation.</p>	
	Waste and of materials derived from waste recovery	Yes		<p>The Italian Ministry of Environment has addressed the Regions, with a series of indications to overcome the problems in waste management determined by the COVID-19 emergency. The indications aim at ensuring the proper management of waste and, at the same time, ensure safety for workers in the specific sector, as well as the protection of public health and the environment.</p> <p>As outlined by the Ministry, Italian context is characterized by plant scarcity, different methods of collection of waste from households (despite the indications provided by ISS and SNPA) and difficulties in cross-border movements of waste.</p> <p>In order to prevent the shutdown of the waste management service, the Ministry has provided a series of indications to the competent bodies that are willing to use, for the duration of the emergency, the instrument of the</p>	

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				<p>contingibile and urgent ordinance ex art. 191 of Legislative Decree no. 152/2006. In particular, under certain conditions, it should be allowed an increase in annual storage capacity, as well as instant storage capacity, up to 50% of the authorised capacity.</p> <p>In addition the Ministry, to ensure the closing of urban waste management cycle in this emergency context, suggests to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •authorize incineration plants to reach the maximum thermal capacity assessed in the authorisation, giving priority to undifferentiated urban waste •modify the authorisations by allowing the landfilling of waste generated from the treatment of municipal waste, differentiated and undifferentiated, with no alternative destinations. <p>The Law Decree 17 march 2020, n. 18, provides for the extension to 30 June 2020 of some fulfilments envisaged by environmental regulations, while landscape authorizations and environmental authorizations, however named, should be extended during the conversion into law.</p>	
<p>General Information: https://www.minambiente.it/notizie/coronavirus-ecco-la-nuova-circolare-ministeriale-con-le-indicazioni-sulle-criticita-nella , www.iss.it/Rapporto+ISS+COVID-19</p>					
Netherlands	Collection, transport and processing of waste	Those are covered by vital professions		<p>The collection, transport and processing of waste are covered by the vital professions. This can be explained broadly, there is no strict demarcation from the Ministry (for the time being). We now explain it in such a way that the entire chain falls under the vital professions, so also including recycling.</p>	

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				<p>This is of course not 100% conclusive because through reasoning this would mean that the production chain in which the recycle is applied should therefore also be covered. But so far we (and employees of our members) have not encountered any problems with this way of interpreting 'collection, transport and waste processing'.</p> <p>The Netherlands is not in a complete lockdown and all actors in our sector can go to work.</p>	
	Tyres	No			
	Textiles	Yes			
	General Information: https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/onderwerpen/coronavirus-covid-19/veelgestelde-vragen-per-onderwerp/kinderopvang/cruciale-beroepen				
Norway	Parts of the value chain for hazardous waste, household waste and commercial waste	Yes	<u>Hazardous waste</u> : Applies for waste where there is not sufficient storage capacity, storage is related to health or environmental risks or stop may entail that other activities critical to society stops.	Qualify for receiving public services of schools/ kindergarten for children of critical employees (ordinary schools and kindergartens in Norway are now closed).	
			<u>Household/commercial waste</u> : Applies for waste where collection, transport, storage and treatment is critical to avoid challenges with odor, pests (rats, etc.), infections or fire, if not handled properly.	Quality for dispensations to current quarantine regulations for critical personnel.	
Poland	Steel and scrap industry			In Poland, there are no restrictions for the steel and scrap industry, except for the obligation to apply general safety rules.	

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Republic of Serbia	Metals / Plastic	No	Recycling sector is not mentioned at all, and we can say it's not essential at all as we asked special permissions to be issues for some of our workers to stay longer on work to fulfill the business obligations but we were refused.	At the moment there are permissions that the police are issuing on a company demand for workers that need to stay at work after the police hour starts at 5PM every day. For now, we are working normally but we cannot stay after 5PM on the street. Something was mentioned that maybe we will have a total restriction of going out valid for 24h.	
Slovakia	Metals	Yes <i>Since 30 March 2020.</i>	Until 29 March 2020, the operations of collection of metal scrap had to be closed due to governmental restriction.	The losses of turn-over and profit can lead to firing of employees and closure (bankruptcy) of operations.	
Spain	Household (Domestic) Waste in General (including Textile)	Yes	No restrictions for collection of textile waste yet. Some local administrations have agreed with certain collectors to stop.	Sorting centers closed. In our case due to failure of internal customers (our closed 2nd hand shops). From today, increased alert stage in Spain. Our sorting work would be non-essential.	
	Collection, management and treatment of hazardous waste, as well as hazardous and non-hazardous solid waste from urban areas, paper industry and the industry of manufacturing	Yes		Companies in the paper and cardboard waste recovery and recycling sector will be able to continue with waste collection, management and treatment services, as well as supplying raw materials to the paper industry. On the other hand, the government has presented financial aid to companies such as temporary records of employment regulation, suspension of contracts and reduction of workday.	

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	of packaging related to food and beverages				
	Glass	Yes		Plants dealing with glass are open and there are no restrictions at all. Our services are considered as essential and we are operating in a “normal” way (with the healthy observances).	
	General Information: https://www.boe.es/biblioteca_juridica/codigos/codigo.php?id=355				
United Kingdom	Waste Disposal Sectors	Yes		All those frontline staff who work in the collection, processing, recycling and disposal of waste, including scrap metal, are designated as ‘critical workers’. This applies to roles including mobile collectors, yard operatives and other employees that perform tasks that cannot be undertaken from home. We believe, however, that managerial, accounting and wider office staff as well as those who offer guidance and advice, are not included. More information can be found here: https://mailchi.mp/recyclemetals.org/covid-19-24-march-update?e=73d8405807	
	Tyres	Yes	All tyres, commercial and private.	Permission to remain open.	
	General Information: https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus , https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision				