



GOVERNMENT OF MALTA

Government response to the establishment of mandatory separation of waste within national waste legislation

January 2023

Environment and Resources Authority
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Executive Summary

Introduction and overview

On 7th November 2022, the Environment and Resources Authority (ERA), in collaboration with the Ministry responsible for the Environment, published the draft *Waste (Amendment) Regulations, 20XX* and the draft *Abandonment, Dumping and Disposal of Waste in Streets and Public Places of Areas (Amendment) Regulations, 20XX* for public consultation.

These Legal Notices were primarily drafted to introduce mandatory waste separation at source requirements in national legislation, in line with the Waste Management Plan for Malta 2021 – 2030 with the ultimate aim of increasing recycling efforts and the quality of recyclable material, as well as decreasing the amount of waste being landfilled, in line with EU commitments.

The Legal Notices were published for public consultation from 7th November 2022 to 5th December 2022 in line with Article 55(1) of the Environment Protection Act (Cap. 549).

The objective of the public consultation was to invite the public to make submissions to ERA with their comments as to why and how these regulations could be amended in line with articles 55(1) of the Environment Protection Act (Cap. 549).

This consultation sought views on why and how these regulations could be amended in line with articles 55(1) of the Environment Protection Act (Cap. 549).

Responses to the consultation and process used to seek stakeholder views

This document is the Government Response to this consultation and sets out the Government's decisions on these matters.

The draft *Waste (Amendment) Regulations, 20XX* and the draft *Abandonment, Dumping and Disposal of Waste in Streets and Public Places of Areas (Amendment) Regulations, 20XX* were jointly subject to a four-week public consultation period, which ran from 7th November 2022 to 5th December 2022. The public consultation was available online on the ERA and konsultazzjoni.gov.mt websites. In addition 2 consultation meetings were held.

In total, 53 submissions were received, including from the Malta Chamber of Commerce, Malta Hotels & Restaurants Association, private businesses, NGOs, and the general public. The queries received as well as ERA's replies are set out in Annex A.

Specific stakeholder consultation sessions were held with the Chamber of Commerce, the Chamber of SMEs, the Malta Hotels and Restaurants Association, and a local manufacturer of waste bags.

Summary of responses and decisions

The following is a summary of the consultation responses received. We would like to thank all those who took the time to respond to the consultation and participate in stakeholder meetings around the consultation exercise.

1. Statistics.

- Total feedback received: 53
- Total feedback received by individuals: 44
- Total feedback received by organisations: 9
- Total feedback received through email: 53
- Total feedback received through online form: X
- Total feedback received by post: X

Feedback was received from various economic operators, organisations representing local businesses, individuals, local government entities and one NGO. The most common concerns raised by the general public related to how often bags will be collected, the collection time and how the bags are handled by the collectors. Other concerns related to how the provisions can be enforced in a fair manner, particularly for apartments, short-lets and guests within hotels, lack of available storage space in small commercial establishments and the level of transparency of the bag.

Following the outcome of the public consultation, certain changes were carried out within the Legal Notices in order to cater for the concerns raised, namely:

1. **Type of waste to be separated:** clarification that it is only “recyclable” waste streams that are to be separated at source, i.e. not all plastic, but only that which is recyclable.
2. **Transparent bags:** clarification that all mixed waste placed for collection shall be in “transparent black bags”, as opposed to simply “transparent bags”. Whilst this provides more legal certainty, it still allows enforcement officers to see the contents of the bag without having to open them, whilst retaining a level of privacy and also creating a certain standard to be applicable for all bags placed for collection of mixed waste, to avoid misidentification of bags by collectors. A clear start date has been included for the entry into force of such obligation, i.e. 1st July 2024, as comments were received requesting the originally proposed deadline of one year to be extended in order to cater for use of existing stock.
3. **Liability for commercial activities:** amendment to the provision establishing the fines for failing to separate waste to include a proviso clarifying that in the case of waste from commercial activities, action may be taken against any person responsible for the enterprise or engaged by it. This would allow officers to impose the fine on persons other than the person who was tasked with taking out the waste, which is usually a lower ranking employee.

Further to the above, additional amendments were carried out to S.L. 549.40 in order to cater for certain changes to the legislation that were required due to the system of regionalised collection of waste being introduced through the regional tenders, and discussed in the context of the amendments to the packaging waste regulations (S.L. 549.43). These amendments include:

1. **Replacing use of “local council” with “regional council”**, where applicable, to ensure consistency between the amended provisions of S.L. 549.43 and the regional tenders.
2. The **schedule of collection** outlined in schedule 3 of S.L. 549.40, currently outlining the collection days and times applicable for each locality, is also being replaced with one collection table applicable for all regions, as outlined in the tender documents. The times for such

collection will be outlined through publication of a Notice in the Government Gazette by ERA following notification of such times by the Department of Local Government to ERA.

3. The definition "**time reasonably approximate**", which determines the length of time in which a person can legally take out bags prior to their collection, has been amended so as to read ten hours provided that they are within the same day of collection. This amendment stems from certain comments made in the context of the public consultation on mandatory separation regarding timing of collection, as well as complaints that are frequently made to ERA, particularly when collection time is scheduled for the afternoon/evening as it is not possible to take out rubbish before going to work and thereby many people effectively miss the daily collection. Such time may be shortened or lengthened as required, through a publication in the Gazette by ERA upon being informed of such need by the department for Local Government.

Implementation

The Legal Notices were published as Legal Notices 35 and 36 of 2023 on 14th February 2023.

Contact Details

If you have any questions regarding this response, please contact: era.policy@era.org.mt

Annex A: List of respondents

Ref No.	Name of Stakeholder / Date	Comments Received	Response / Remarks
1	Bjorn Borg 08/11/2022	Lil min tikkoncerna, Nixtieq naghmel zewg suggerimenti ghas-separazzjoni ta' l-iskart organiku. 1. L-iskart organiku jingabar kulljum, speċjalment fis-sajf. 2. Il-kontenituri zghar ikunu kompletament maghluqin u jkollhom lasktu ma l-ghatu, ghax b'dak li tqassam qabel, in-nemus u d-dud xorta jghaddi. Ghalhekk hemm bzonn li jingabar kulljum. Min se jzomm skart organiku bin-nemus u dud go daru?	Filwaqt li ser ngħaddu s-suggeriment tiegħek lill-entitajiet ikkonċernati, ninfurmawk illi l-ġranet tal-ġbir tal-iskart mhumiex fid-diskrezzjoni tal-ERA.
2	Charmaine Parascandolo 08/11/2022	I believe that for better waste separation, the organic waste must be collected daily. A lot of people lives in small apartments without yards or balcony to put the waste. It is "impossible", especially in hot weather to keep organic waste for more than 1 day.	Setting the time and days for collection of refuse is not within ERA's discretion, however ERA will forward your comment to the relevant entities concerned.
3	Gennaro Vassallo 08/11/2022	Bongu, jien ma naqbilx li separazzjoni ta' l-iskart issir mandatorja, illum il postijiet li qet jinbnew bil kemm qet jkollom wiesa bizzejjed biex tghix ahseb u ara biex toqod izzomm xi 4 boroz differenti ta' zibel. L-iktar haga li hemm bzonn issir li skart jingabar bil lej mhux qet namlu in nofs ta' nhar ta' filghodu hatt ma jista jimxi fuq il bankina barra ir-riha tinten u zjut li johrog mill boroz ta' ikel, u fl-istess hin jonqos it-traffiku wkoll.	Filwaqt li l-kumment tiegħek qed jiġi nnotat, is-separazzjoni tal-iskart hija kruċjali sabiex ikollna ekonomija ċirkolari b'dana illi jiżdied ir-riċiklaġġ u jonqos l-ammont tal-iskart li jintrema fil-landfill. Fir-rigward tas-suggeriment tiegħek dwar il-hin tal-ġbir ta' skart, filwaqt li ser ngħaddu s-suggeriment tiegħek lill-entitajiet ikkonċernati, ninfurmawk illi istabbiliment tal-hin tal-ġbir tal-iskart mhuwiex fid-diskrezzjoni tal-ERA.
4	Dorianne Wells 08/11/2022	Naqbel li lis-skart jiġi b'mod mandatorju biex wieħed jissepara lis-skart skond bzonn, hawn hekk fejn nissuġerixxi li l-borża ta' l-organic il-ġbir jkun aktar regolari għax speċjalment fis-sajf il-fdalijiet ta' l-ikel irrejaħ. Kif ukoll anke l-borża l-hriża jew ħadra min darva gil-gimgħa titla mqarr għal tlett darbiet, kif ukoll inħajru l-	Filwaqt li ser ngħaddu s-suggeriment tiegħek lill-entitajiet ikkonċernati, ninfurmawk illi l-ġranet tal-ġbir tal-iskart mhumiex fid-diskrezzjoni tal-ERA.

		publiku biex forsi jagħmlu xi tip ta filter anke hekk forsi johrog xi inċentiv biex in nies innaqsu l-flixken ta ilma.	
5	Melanie Scicluna 08/11/2022	Fl opinjoni tiegħi l borza l griza għandom jizdiedu l granet li tingabar għax fil lokalita tiegħi darba f gimgha biss tingabar umbad l borza s sewda tingabar tlett darbiet fil gimgha .ahjar titnaqqas gurnata gbir tal borza sewda u minflok tizdied gurnata gbir ohra fuq l borza l griza għax ngħid għalijja jien iktar skart ta riciklac ikolli x narmi	Filwaqt li ser ngħaddu s-suggeriment tiegħek lill-entitajiet ikkonċernati, ninfurmawk illi l-granet tal-gbir tal-iskart mhumiex fid-diskrezzjoni tal-ERA.
6	Susan Saliba 08/11/2022	<p>This is a good idea in principle, but I wonder how it is going to be enforced in practice.</p> <p>I have this problem at my summer flat near Ghadira because someone repeatedly deposits unsorted waste outside our block or puts bags out on the wrong day. Sometimes they don't even bother with bags. I have been complaining to the Council for three years and they tell me they can do nothing unless I manage to catch the perpetrator(s) in the act on camera.</p> <p>So my question is "how are you going to manage to link bags to households in blocks of flats including many different households and short holiday lets". Best in mind that older blocks do not always have a property manager.</p> <p>I also suspect that offenders will simply start leaving their bags outside a neighbour's door on their way to work. The only way you'd catch them would be if they were foolish enough to leave an envelope in a bag or if you put up CCTV everywhere.</p> <p>In areas like Ghadira, there would also be the issue of making short-let landlords liable for their tenants because holidaymakers often dump their waste on the last day just before heading for the airport.</p> <p>Personally, I'd be very happy if these regulations succeed, but I am worried that what will happen in practice is that people like me will end up having to sort out their neighbours' waste to avoid being fined instead of the troublemakers.</p>	Comment has been noted.

7	Antoine Apap 08/11/2022	<p>Ma nafx ghalieq waqfet l-inizzjattiva tant tajba li kienu jitqassmu l-boroz ricikabbli u boroz ghal l-organiku b'xejn ghar-residenti mill-Kunsilli Lokali.</p> <p>Cert li inizzjattiva bhal din ghenet mhux ftit biex ir-resident jissepara l-iskart. Issa hemm min gie jaqa' u jqum u sar jitfa kollox fil-borża s-sewda ghax jghidlek li l-Kunsilli Lokali m'ghadhomx jaghtuna boroz (mur ghidilhom li mhux tort tal-Kunsilli li m'ghadhomx iqassmu!)</p> <p>U x'inghidu ghal certu barranin li jghixu fil-kera u jaqghu u jqumu x'jarmu! Min sa jkun responsabbli ghalihom dawn l-inkwilini? Meta sa jergghu jitqassmu l-boroz grizi u organici ghax bilkemm isibu jixtru?</p>	<p>Il-kumment tiegħek gie nnutat. L-intenzjoni ta' din il-igi hija proprju li nkomplu nsaħħu dak li nbeda, billi l-pass li jmiss huwa li ma jibqax aċċettabbli li wiehed iħallat l-iskart fil-borża s-sewda. Ninfurmawk illi filwaqt li l-ERA qatt ma qassmet boroz, is-suggeriment tiegħek ser ikun mgħoddi lil entitajiet konċernati.</p>
8	Kevin-James Fenech FENCI Consulting Ltd. 08/11/2022	<p>When considering any amendments to relevant legal notice(s), which may lead to material changes in how household waste is defined, separated and/or collected, please note that most households already struggle to satisfy existing regulations i.e. Black bag (mixed) + Grey bag (recyclable) + Organic !</p> <p>Kindly appreciate that three types of waste, require households to have three separate bins inside their home. Furthermore, 'glass' necessitates a fourth bin. For most households this is already too taxing and a logistical nightmare.</p> <p>Lastly, on the issue of collection times and fines to households taking rubbish out 'early' please note that some people work till after 6pm and are not at home to take out the rubbish 1-2 hour before collection time! A lot of people live alone in the 21st century so there is no one at home to take out the rubbish at 5-6pm! Perhaps the amendments can factor in peoples' working hours since for some the best time to take the rubbish is in the morning before going to work!</p>	<p>The establishment of mandatory waste separation as proposed in the Legal Notice will not affect how households currently separate their waste. Co-mingled collection of certain recyclables (currently paper, metal and glass) will still be possible as per current dedicated door-to-door separate collection system (i.e. the green/grey bag).</p> <p>The collection times are established by the local councils/regional councils according to the particular needs of the local council. Comment noted and will be forwarded to the relevant entities.</p>
9	Anonymous 08/11/2022	<p>Gheziez membri mit-taqsim tal-ERA, xtaqt naqsam erba' kelmiet magħkhom fuq diversi esperjenzi li jkollna bhala ufficjal tal-inforzar waqt (littering).</p>	<p>L-għan ta' din il-igi huwa proprju li jissaħħaħ dak li diġa' nbena fil-qasam tal-iskart, billi l-pass li jmiss huwa li jkun obligatorju li kull persuna tissepara l-iskart kif suppost. Inoltre, l-obbligu li l-</p>

		<p>Nibda biex nghid li ma naqbel xejn ma certu hinijiet tal-gbir apparti kull lokal differenti..Meta jingabar mas sbieh il-jum dan qed ikun ta ostaklu ghall-kulhadd, ghar raguni li jinhareg mis 6:00 jghaddi l haddiem jitfahom f'kantuniera u qabel il- 11:00 gieli jkun ghadu hemm, fl'opinjoni tieghi dan ghandu jingabar wara 20:00 halli ma jtellef il-moghdija llill-hadd.</p> <p>Meta fill fatt waqt ix-xoghol taghna nosservaw x'tip ta skart jigi mormi ahna ninnotaw li generalment il-parti l-kbira tal publiku meta jmiss il borza ta (recycle) jitfaw kollox fiha u meta jmiss is sewda jsir l-istess..</p> <p>Nixtieq naddi suggeriment fejn forsi jsiru xi tip ta nforzar differenti fejn wiehed igal l individwu jiftah il borza u l ufficjal jiccekja hux kif inhu suppost. Grazzi ta din l-opportunita fejn wiehed jista jilmenta bil-ghan li ssir xi haga ghall-gid ta Malta</p>	<p>borza s-sewda tkun borza sewda trasparenti għandu jkompli jghin fl-infurzar tal-ligi.</p>
10	<p>Marie Therese Cuschieri 08/11/2022</p>	<p>I would like to have the collection of bags from households either late in the evening or early in the morning. This prevents having loads of bags all over the place during all the day, and throwing rubbish on the bags by those eating things in the street.</p> <p>Enforcement is essential!</p> <p>If one person (Environment warden) is paid by the government, to make sure to ensure enforcement - maybe income can go to the council.</p>	<p>Whilst the collection times are established by the local councils/regional councils according to the particular needs of the local council, your comment has been noted and will be forwarded to the relevant entities.</p> <p>Notably, other entities besides ERA (i.e. LESA and Malta Police) shall be empowered to enforce mandatory waste separation; and in order to ensure proper enforcement of this new obligation, the current black bags used for the mixed waste will eventually be replaced with transparent black bags, thus allowing officers to enforce in a more effective manner.</p> <p>In this context, enforcement of the new obligation will be performed gradually (i.e. in a phased approach) to allow for proper adaptation. To maximize visibility and ensure transparency, the enforcement plan will be published by the Minister responsible for the Environment in the Government Gazette.</p>
11	<p>Panagiotis Kolobatsos 08/11/2022</p>	<p>Fix first the mess with the filthy bags out on the streets then the sad sight of black people running behind the trucks with 40 degrees outside temperatures collecting the bags, fix the</p>	<p>Comment noted.</p>

		recycling-before burning the factories once a year and then you man move to waste separation!	
12	Oltion Kacani 08/11/2022	<p>With pleasure I am reading the amendments to the said acts as well as your attention to such a critical situation nowadays for Malta.</p> <p>The environment and the greenery as well the obligation to keep clean our environment is really important.</p> <p>While i encourage the introduction of fines to peoples/ business who do not observe the separation, in my opinion a special focus should be put on peoples that throw a single can, bottles, plastic, food wrap, even in green spaces.</p> <p>How do you deal with such individuals which are a lot and do you think of placing small bins around the island? For example in my place in Ta'Xbiex is the possibility to place small bins without harming the area for people or cars.</p> <p>I would suggest that some areas should be prioritize for deep cleaning because their situation is really bad, not livable for a EU country.</p> <p>Also I would go further, we can even pay a small amount just to have a clean environment because, honestly, is becoming more and more unsupportable.</p> <p>As I mentioned above, my big concern would be the people which are a lot, that throws away single pieces of garbage everywhere. This situation should be addressed urgently and consider placing small bins around the island or just prioritize.</p> <p>You are aware that during summer the smell and cockroaches are everywhere because of such situation.</p> <p>Lastly I would suggest that dedicated team of officers should control and fine people that litter the environment in every corner in order for the latter to keep clean because we cant pay for the other mistakes. Such controls should be performed every day at the beginning until the situation became better.</p>	<p>Comment noted. Your proposal for additional bins will be forwarded to the relevant entities. Kindly note that littering constitutes an offence. Whilst ERA has invested in a number of officers to enforce these regulations, ERA's officers cannot be everywhere at the same time. People are encouraged to report incidents to ERA or LESA.</p>

13	Dr. John Seychell Navarro 09/11/2022	<p>To be honest I thought it was already mandatory! Hence I personally feel that this legislation is long overdue. An issue I can see is that problems will exist in the case of blocks of flats, so i suggest that bags are personalised in some way. It is also of utmost importance that foreigners are informed on separation procedures as the lack of separation in tourist areas is evident, especially Valletta, Sliema and Bugibba. To give an example, when tourists come to Malta and rent a car, they are given a list of speed cameras with locations so they can be extra careful. This awareness can be shared(enforced) with those renting short let accommodation as a poster showing waste separation day collection on the front door is not enough. Also please see that the fines are not penalties so we wouldn't have the issue as with face masks which penalties were found to be unenforceable as they are not catered for in the Criminal Code. Another issue is waste collectors. Our family separates waste daily, however the waste collector does not collect the grey bag on a Friday and then collects it with the black bag on a Saturday. This is not fair on law abiding citizens.</p> <p>Re food waste please create awareness that certain foods can be used for animal fodder. In older times, people would hang stale bread in bags on the door handles so these are collected by rabbit breeders. Food waste, especially from catering establishments can be reused.</p> <p>Waste can also be sold. More effort should be made to teach people re usable items, spare parts, antiques and electronics but only if made enforceable. Certain spare parts are only found at waste separation centres, and cannot be taken.</p> <p>Lastly please provide an education campaign. I am lost when it comes to what plastics can be recycled or not, and other products like foli.</p>	<p>Your comments have been noted. Educational campaigns are always being carried out in respect of waste separation. You may wish to refer to Wasteserv's guidance as provided through the following link: https://www.wsm.com.mt/en/domestic-waste. However, further educational and awareness-raising campaigns will continue to be carried out.</p> <p>In terms of instances of incorrect collection of bags, one is to note that the mixing of separately collected waste is prohibited in line with regulations 9 and 10(4) of the current Waste Regulations, S.L. 549.63. Therefore any such instances should be reported to ERA and the relevant Local Council or Regional Council.</p>
14	Simone Bonnici	Nixtieq naghti l opinjoni li l iskart organiku hemm bzonn li jibda jingabar kuljum, ma tistax thalli l iskart fix xemx u xita, bin nemel	Filwaqt li ser ngħaddu s-suggeriment tiegħek lill-entitajiet ikkonċernati, ninfurmawk illi l-ġranet tal-ġbir tal-iskart mhumiex

	09/11/2022	idur mieghu. Il hgieg jingabar darbtejn f xahar. Hafna nies, jghixu f appartament, li dan ma jkollokx wisq spazju bix tpoggi il bins. Haga ohra hi li hemm bzonn isir iktar infurzar, tara garbage bags barra anke gurnata qabel il gbir. Nispera li jigu mitkellma dawn l issues, jien ilni nissepara minn meta konna biss bil bring in sites. Grazi	fid-diskrezzjoni tal-ERA. Fir-rigward tal-inforzar tal-ħruġ tal-boroż mhux skont l-Iskeda tal-gbir, l-ERA għandha diversi ufficjali li jinforzaw din id-dispożizzjoni.
15	Martin Bugeja 09/11/2022	I do agree that people should be fined if they refuse to cooperate after receiving a warning - or maybe we should be merciful and make it at least 2 warnings. However, if you expect these same people to cooperate, please ensure that the refuse collectors also do the same i.e. I twice had to phone up Wasteserve to report the contractor serving my street for dumping both the organic and non-organic bags together in his vehicle on two separate Mondays. Good luck with the enforcement.....	Comment noted.
16	Jonathan Camilleri 09/11/2022	It's quite simple, some people are at the risk of poverty and cannot afford contraventions. At risk of poverty - Joe Zahra (timesofmalta.com) You should refer to GEMMA - Know, Plan, Act - Financial Capability Malta (gov.mt) , to understand social security rates for these families. Means test in pipeline for legal aid claimants (timesofmalta.com)	Comment noted. The proposal sought to balance between interests of the environment and social interests – the enforcement will be done in a phased approach, allowing the public time to adapt, and once enforcement beings, the first contravention will be in the form of a warning, following which if the same person is caught doing the same contravention a first fine will be issued. The ultimate aim is to make sure that good quality recyclables are not lost in the black bag, thus decreasing the amount of waste being sent to landfill.
17	Desiree Falzon 10/11/2022	Totally agree! The legislation exempting businesses is fundamentally idiotic - not to say, typically politically-motivated. Businesses are the entities most likely to generate the largest quantity of recyclable waste, and the easiest-to-recycle waste (due to product likely being more homogenous). Keep going!	Comment noted.
18	Andrew Gilmore 10/11/2022	Further to the article in the Times of Malta yesterday, I am furious at the threat of fines for not disposing of recycleable items correctly. Instead of purchasing, no doubt at great cost, machines	Comment noted.

		to feed bottles into, you could at least supply the public with the proper green bags as in the past - why should we have to pay for the privilege of purchasing these? some people will always do the wrong thing and dump rubbish illegally, they should be punished severely, but those of us who try to do the right thing should at least be supplied with free bags.	
19	Marco Farrugia 10/11/2022	<p>One basic step you should take to promote more waste separation at source, is simply to ensure that the collection service is regular and reliable.</p> <p>I used to collect my glass bottles and put them out every first and third Friday regularly. Alas first there was an issue with the plastic bin – it was proposed that glass should not be put out for collection in cardboard boxes but in a plastic bin. This was not only stupid and unnecessary – if they can empty the plastic bin, they can also empty a cardboard box; but my first two plastic bins disappeared. So I stopped using plastic bins, and for some time they still collected the glass from a cardboard box.</p> <p>Unfortunately, more recently, the collection has become unreliable, and they seem to turn up only when they please, and since the collection is only every 2 weeks, this meant that the boxes with the glass bottles remained on the pavement for a long time – not acceptable, especially in the rainy season when the wet cardboard goes soft and all the bottles end up rolling away in the street.</p> <p>Morale of the story – if the collection service is lousy, people will not cooperate. I am willing to separate my glass waste, but not at the cost of having a cardboard box full of bottles in front of my house for 2 or 3 weeks.</p> <p>A suggestion on the same topic – wouldn't it be easier for all, if the glass could be put also in the grey bag with the paper and plastic?</p>	Comment noted. We encourage citizens to report waste collectors that are not fulfilling their obligations to ERA, the Local Council and the Regional Councils. In addition, we would like to refer to the new Waste Management Plan for Malta, which contains a dedicated chapter on how to improve waste collection systems modelled around the regionalisation reform.
20	Audrey Sacco 11/11/2022	Il-multi fuq liema bazi ha jibdew jinghataw? Jigifieri x'inhu l-process ta' kif tinghata l-multa? Irid jinqabad l-persuna li qed johrog l-iskart fil-fatt jew jigi mmultat is-sid tad-dar? Qed nistaqsi	Il-multi jinghataw lill-persuna li jinqabad jagħmel il-kontravvenzjoni.

		ghax f'kaz li post ikun jinkera il-multa tinghata dak il-hin lil persuna li johrog l-iskart (gifieri lil min qed jghamel il-kontravvenzjoni) jew is-sid tad-dar (li ma ghandu l-ebda htija ghal mod kif qed jissepara l-iskart l-inkwilin)?	
21	Grazio Farrugia 12/11/2022	<p>Kif se tigi indirizzata jekk ikun hemm sitwazzjoni fejn persuni li ma jseparwx iz-zibel fil-borza is-sewda u dawn flok johorguha quddiem biebhom ipogguh quddiem bieb hadd iehor, aktar u aktar wara dak li jkun ikun jaf li il-vittma tkun qeda xoghol.</p> <p>Kif se jideterminaw ta min itkun il borza taz-zibel mhux separata? Jekk issib xi envelop mormi b'indirizz fiz-zibel jista jejn imma jekk dak li jkun joqod attent u ma jhalli xejn x'se jigri?</p> <p>Sitwazzjoni aktar ghar hija meta bhat-triq ta fejn noqod jien Triq Pietru d'Armenja Pembroke, ghad baqa nies li johorgu iz-zibel mhux quddiem biebhom imma quddiem il-blokka taghhom kollha gozz, jew ghar jitfawhom fejn l-iskeps li suppost tazel iz-zibel fijhom.</p> <p>Dan isir quddiem il-camera li ghamel il-kunsill u imbierek alla baqet issir din il-haga sena u nofs wara li ghamlu il-cameras.</p>	Il-multi jinghataw lill-persuna li jinqabad jaghmel il-kontravvenzjoni. L-użu ta' borza sewda trasparenti għandha tgħin fl-infurzar ukoll.
22	Kimberley Debono 13/11/2022	<p>I understand there is currently a public consultation underway and here are some of the points which perhaps might be taken into consideration.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Although beneficial, waste separation is not as convenient to everyone as one might think. We currently have a system where different bags are collected on separate days which means that sometimes this means having to keep full rubbish bags at home, sometimes days at a time. • It seems to me that collecting the black bag 3 times a week is too little especially for those who are caring for babies and the elderly at home. • Same goes for the organic bag which to my mind, not only is it unhygienic to keep laying around but also produces a stench. 	Setting the time and days for collection of refuse is not within ERA's discretion, however ERA will forward your comment to the relevant entities concerned.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Even more laughable is the once-a-week grey bag collection like we have here in Iklin, absurd when everything comes in some sort of packaging and should one miss the collection, they have to keep it for another week! <p>All this is making people nostalgic to a time when we did not have to separate waste. In order to make waste collection more sustainable, I would like to propose the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That all types of waste are collected daily. 2. That collection happens during the night, like abroad. <p>Scammel trucks are a nuisance to follow at around 7:30 in the morning while trying to get to work as they make their rounds at 10/20km an hour max and cause a lot of traffic in both side streets and main roads. Furthermore, I find it demeaning seeing kids moving like mice around garbage bags as they make their way to school. It does not look good, and again, thoroughly unhygienic.</p>	
23	Stephen Vella 13/11/2022	Regarding the new policy about fines related to garbage segregation. A lot of foreigners living in Malta do not go by the segregation rules.. they only take out the Black plastic bag where you can see plastic and food waste all dumped in there. More strict rules should apply to make them aware that they NEED to segregate.	Comment noted. Awareness-raising is key for the successful implementation of mandatory waste separation on the ground. In addition and in order to facilitate its enforcement, current fully opaque black bags will eventually be replaced with transparent black bags.
24	Simone Bonnici 15/11/2022	Nixtieq li ukoll ngħid ukoll, li il borza griza tkun tista tingabar darba f xahar peress li il kontenut ta fiha se jonqos u il borza sewda darbtejn f gimgha, filwaqt kif diga ghedt f e mail ohra, l organic jingabar kuljum u il hgieg darbtejn f xahar.grazzi	Il-kumment tiegħek gie nnotat
25	Christabel Pace 15/11/2022	I do not require any data or information but I would like to make a suggestion. I have just seen the following article, https://tvmnews.mt/news/is-separazzjoni-tal-iskart-se-ssir-obbligatorja/ and I totally agree with it, however if you would like for the Maltese residents to separate their waste it is of utmost importance that you re-start to offer free organic and recycle bags. This service used to be offered from the local councils around	Comment noted.

		Malta, however this was discontinued. Taking in consideration the increase in our dialy needs, I think that the residents are seeing it of an extra expense to stay buying 3 different types of rubbish bags.	
26	Ms Chetcuti 18/11/2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concerned with privacy if black bags will not be allowed and will become transparent. Many people dispose of medical items (not medicine) and would not want to expose to the general public what is being disposed of. 	The intention is not for bags to be fully clear / transparent, however for the black bags to have a certain level of transparency so that there is a balance between enforceability and the issue of privacy.
27	Mario Muscat 24/11/2022	<p>Għadni kemm qrajt l-aħbar li fiż-żmien li ġej se jibdew jintużaw boroz trasparenti minflok is-suwed. Filwaqt li nifhem il-bżonn ta' aktar edukazzjoni u infurzar rigward is-separazzjoni tal-iskart niġbed għall-attenzjoni tagħkom ir-rimi ta' skart mediku. Sa ffit tax-xhur ilu, qabel ħallietna l-mama, il-maġġoranza kbira tal-kontenut tal-borza s-sewda tagħna kienet tkun pull-ups u ħrieqi li kienet tuża l-mama. Ġieli anke 7 jew aktar f'ġurnata. Xi drabi xi wħud mill-boroz suwed kienu tant irqaq li l-kontenut tagħhom kien kwazi jidher. Naċċertak li d-dehra tal-kontenut ta' ġewwa xejn ma kienet waħda sabiħa. U meta kelb għal aktar minn darba fettillu qatta xi boroz fit-triq tagħna...id-dehra tagħhom żgur ma kenitx waħda pjaċevoli.</p> <p>Lanqas nimmagħina noħroġ dan il-materjali f'boroz kompletament trasparenti. Illum ħafna drabi noħroġ biss borza żgħira (sewda) darba fil-ġimgħa biss. Imma l-esperjenza li għaddejna minnha tagħmilni konxju tal-bżonnijiet ta' familji li jkunu għaddejjin minn dawn is-sitwazzjonijiet.</p> <p>Inselli għalik. Hassejt li għandi npoġġi din is-sitwazzjoni għal attenzjoni tagħkom.</p>	L-intenzjoni tal-leġislatur ma kinitx li l-boroż ikunu totalment trasparenti. Filfatt l-abbozz ġie emendat sabiex ġie kjarifikat li l-boroż iridu jkunu suwed trasparenti biex jinħoloq bilanċ bejn l-infurzar, id-dehera u l-privatezza tal-individwi.
28	Alfred Pule' 24/11/2022	<p>I agree with the proposed enforcement, but it is about time that garbage bags will be collected during night-time instead of daytime.</p> <p>It is really an eyesore seeing all the streets full of garbage bags on pavements, sometimes that one cannot walk through the</p>	Comment will be forwarded to the relevant entities responsible for establishing the collection times.

		pavement. This will avoid garbage collection trucks blocking the traffic flow. In my opinion this should start first and asap , taking in consideration the heavy traffic nowadays	
29	Carmel Kitcher 25/11/2022	Xse jgri fil kaz, ta appartamenti, fejn il boroz jithallew barra gozz. Kif ser jinarfu.	Il-multi jingħataw lill-persuna li jinqabad jagħmel il-kontravvenzjoni.
30	Alison Bonnici 25/11/2022	Hi for the tickets that will be given out for not recycling. how will you know who to give the ticket too if its an apartment building with multiple tenants?	To note that the first contravention will be in the form of a warning. A fine will be associated with the second and subsequent contraventions. The person caught doing the contravention will be fined.
31	Anna Galea 25/11/2022	Penzjonanti se jingħataw boroz trasparenti bxejn? Grazzi	Ninfurmawk illi filwaqt li l-ERA qatt ma qassmet boroz, is-suggeriment tiegħek ser ikun mgħoddi lil entitajiet konċernati.
32	Anne Marie Mallia 25/11/2022	I came across an article this morning that black bags might be substituted with transparent bags. I appreciate the efforts to recycle and I know it's in the interest of the environment, but did it occur to you the humiliation thousands of women will go through every month? That our privacy will be deprived from us? I am all for the grey/green bags being transparent and more action should be taken in that regard to properly recycle plastic, metal etc... But some things should remain private and not disclosed to your neighbourhood or the picker. Unless you introduce drop off bins where we can put the bags in the morning I am not comfortable to disclose all my waste disposal and leave it behind my door for all to see. Certain things will still need to remain private in a black bag. Please do reconsider as this amendment is humiliating for most and not fair that we will be facing a penalty for something that we have no control over and not ready to disclose with the neighbourhood!	The intention is not for bags to be fully clear / transparent, however for the black bags to have a certain level of transparency so that there is a balance between enforceability and the issue of privacy.
33	Andre Haber 25/11/2022	Ma naqbilx.....	Comment noted.

34	Ġuża Bonello 29/11/2022	Ma tistgħux tagħmlu l-boroż trasparenti, minħabba l-GDPR. Apparti l-boroż suwed għall-landfill, aħjar ikun hemm oħrajn għal skart mediku kontaminat, sanitary pads u nappies.	Filwaqt li l-GDPR ma japplikax, l-intenzjoni mhijiex li l-boroż ikunu totalment trasparenti imma li jkunu suwed trasparenti biex jiffaċilitaw l-infurzar.
35	Maureen Gauci 02/12/2022	First of all I would like to thank you for sending such information through e mail, since certain populations like myself do not watch the tv/news. I am totally in favour of waste separation at source and I do see the logic to changing the black bag to a transparent one. However working in the the health sector I have a lot of patients who are really frustrated with this as they feel this is an infringement of their privacy. There are some patients for example who use nappies and do not wish to make it public by showing off their soiled nappies!	The intention is not for bags to be fully clear / transparent, however for the black bags to have a certain level of transparency so that there is a balance between enforceability and the issue of privacy.
36	Karina Ellul Bonici 02/12/2022	In my area, Msida, collection of grey bags(recyclebles) is effected only once a week-on Tuesdays, which is ridiculous, as such waste takes much more space, than organic waste, that is collected 3 timesa week, so I am forced to put it in black bag& dispose on saturdays. So if black bags are going to be removed-extra days for grey bags(recyclables) have to be added to the weekly collection.	Setting the time and days for collection of refuse is not within ERA's discretion, however ERA will forward your comment to the relevant entities concerned.
37	Annie Camilleri Cima Restaurant 03/12/2022	In our restaurant we have been recycling for a long time the only problem I find is the third country national staff and sometimes even local, to know which material goes in the right bag. We need clear illustrated signs to show them what goes in the appropriate bag. Look forward for the scheme	WasteServ Malta has published a very useful guide with information on what is to be thrown in which bin: https://www.wsm.com.mt/en/waste-separation-guide The intention is ensure a continuing educational campaign to further explain the obligations related to waste separation.
38	Vanessa Schembri 03/12/2022	I have a take away kiosk and by the beach and limited space available to keep different bins for waste. Apart from that if its not picked up daily we have no where to store it especially in the busiest time of the year. Dont take me wrong i am not against the idea but its not easy for everyone to impliment it. Thanks	Comment noted, however the area where bins and waste bags will be stored will be left up to the discretion of the business owner, so long as conducted in line with any applicable legislation. Once the legislation is published, there will be a period of two months prior to its entry into force, allowing some time for the business environment to adapt to the new rules. Furthermore, enforcement will be conducted in a phased

			approach, as will be detailed in Notices published through the Government Gazette, which are made available to the public.
39	Paul Bugeja Barone Cafe, Mdina 03/12/2022	Regarding small businesses who operate in very small premises, perhaps some sort of allowance to allow sorting and/or storage of recycled rubbish in another place should be considered.	Comment noted, however the area where bins and waste bags will be stored will be left up to the discretion of the business owner, so long as conducted in line with any applicable legislation. Once the legislation is published, there will be a period of two months prior to its entry into force, allowing some time for the business environment to adapt to the new rules. Furthermore, enforcement will be conducted in a phased approach, as will be detailed in Notices published through the Government Gazette, which are made available to the public.
40	Joseph Zerafa 03/12/2022	I would like to recommend that the black bag should not be bigger than 19 inches x 32 inches.	Comment has been noted.
41	Tania Borg San Gwann Local Council 03/12/2022	<p>Good morning and Thanks for your invitation re. proposal request Please consider we live in Malta, an extremely hot climate from June through October, food and food containers smell in Summer. It is damaging comparing Malta to any other non-similar climate or dimensions, as we had discussed before.</p> <p>I ask you to consider children who are care givers and thus need to leave the house early for school.</p> <p>I ask you to consider the elderly who cannot go down daily to leave the food bag.</p> <p>I ask you to consider people who work night shifts and hence leaving the house at night and returning home when the rubbish is collected.</p> <p>I ask you to consider people who live on their own and hence only manage to collect one rubbish bag weekly</p> <p>I ask you to consider non-homogenous individuals who cannot afford to purchase organic bags to later throw away, it is illogical really, purchasing trash containers.</p> <p>My proposal is for you to be more considerate of People who do not fall within the norm.</p>	Comment will be forwarded to the relevant entities responsible for establishing the collection schedule and times.

		<p>Consider also the rubbish collectors, at san Gwann I see the worker daily collecting rubbish at 0530 on foot. He should be awarded haddiem tas-sena, his work is immeasurable. I hope he is well compensated financially for the early shifts and tough work, I also hope he is medically insured by the contractor.</p> <p>Also educational projects and national campaigns on the lines of reduce reuse and recycle which Profs Paul Pace at Ceer university of Malta has been working on for the last 25 years since the s.development goals at Rio.</p> <p>Consider the business owners and the expenses local councils are paid to throw trash away.</p> <p>On a tangent, Please also consider rain water and how badly it is wasted and managed. I am sure this calls for a state sponsored PhD, I suggest you discuss this with MCAST, we have the right candidates. Also Currently used Trucks are too large on the Maltese streets.</p>	
42	Ylenia Peresso 03/12/2022	<p>Can you kindly do what it takes to have waste separation at MCAST. I work at ICA and we constantly find obstacles in having waste separation at the college. This is such a wasted opportunity and goes beyond what we educate at the actual college. I would love to see this happen at the earliest</p>	<p>Once the regulations enter into force, waste separation will be mandatory for every person and therefore institutions will have to cater for such an obligation.</p>
43	Tonio Cini Malta Hotels & Restaurants Association 03/12/2022	<p>First, thank you so much for your contribution to the members meeting yesterday. The feedback is very positive, and many have expressed their satisfaction for having you there and explain in detail and answer most of their concerns.</p> <p>In the meeting I am compiling a list of remarks received so that they will be included as part of the public consultation process which closes on Monday.</p> <p>Below please find the comments received from our members up till now</p> <p>Enforcement of Regulations and fines</p> <p>How shall the enforcement work and identify whose bag is it when you have many establishments like restaurants and bars next to</p>	<p>Your feedback has been noted. Please find replies to separate sections below:</p> <p>Re Enforcement of Regulations and fines</p> <p>Enforcement will primarily rely on catching contraveners red handed while taking out the bag containing waste not properly sorted. To note that the first contravention will be in the form of a warning. A fine will be associated with the second and subsequent contraventions.</p> <p>Awareness-raising is key for the successful implementation of this new obligation on the ground (vide following replies).</p> <p>Re Implementation Time</p>

	<p>each other and residential bags in the road, and how this will be reflected on the contravention as per regulation?</p> <p>Our hoteliers are concerned about the consequences and fines of guest not separating correctly in their rooms and how this will be reflected on the hotels.</p> <p>It is important to implement a strategic marketing / educational campaign on all airlines, public places, assist in producing educational leaflets to be placed in hotel rooms so that the message is passed that Malta is implementing the regulation of separation.</p> <p>Implementation Time It is definitely not possible to implement such a change by the 1st of January 2023 as mentioned by one of the ERA representatives present. We certainly need more time to discuss this matter and the Festive period, given that it is one of the busiest times of the year, is definitely not ideal.</p> <p>Waste Separation in Guest Rooms I cannot see how it is possible for all guests in a hotel to abide by this new procedure since this is not common practice in many countries. As I explained during the meeting, I cannot expect that our employees can go through the 4 rubbish bins of each individual guest room and physically remove any pieces of litter disposed off in the wrong bin. In our case, this would mean around 1000 bins daily.</p> <p>ERA should understand that if you have a household is one thing but to have like 360 rooms to ensure they all separate at source is a completely different issue. It will be a steep learning curve for all.</p> <p>Swill Room Since the waste collector will not collect all types of waste on a daily basis, the swill rooms available in our Hotel and presumably</p>	<p>Once the regulations are published, they will enter into force within a period of 2 months, to allow some time for the sector to adapt. Furthermore, enforcement of the new obligation will be performed gradually (i.e. in a phased approach) to allow for adaptation. To maximize visibility and ensure transparency, the enforcement plan will be published by the Minister responsible for the Environment in the Government Gazette. Notably, the first phase will be purely educational, namely fines will not be issued. Similarly, the proposed fine mechanism duly acknowledges the importance of awareness-raising for the successful implementation of mandatory waste separation on the ground, as contraveners are subject to a warning upon first contravention.</p> <p>Re Waste Separation in Guest Rooms and Swill Room The LNs duly acknowledge the fact that i) education is key for the successful implementation of this new obligation and ii) sufficient time is needed for the industry (and households alike) to adapt their operations to said obligation.</p> <p>Capital Expenditure Comment noted.</p> <p>As per previous replies, enforcement of the new obligation will be performed gradually (i.e. in a phased approach) to allow for proper adaptation. To maximize visibility and ensure transparency, the enforcement plan will be published by the Minister responsible for the Environment in the Government Gazette.</p>
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		<p>in many others are not sufficient in size to store the waste separated for a number of days.</p> <p>Capital Expenditure</p> <p>As you may appreciate such a change requires a substantial capital expenditure. Therefore, the idea put forward during the meeting that MHRA pools all hotels together to source the best price for the numerous purchases required is something which should be taken into consideration.</p> <p>I just hope that the implementation will be considered after a long trial fase with enough awareness created local and abroad, ensuring all guest know what to expect when having a vacation in Malta.</p>	
44	<p>Tonio Cini Malta Hotels & Restaurants Association 03/12/2022</p>	<p>A clarification, bags we can use transparent white or different colours</p>	<p>The intention is to shift towards black bags that are not fully opaque so as to facilitate enforcement. Hence, the wording “transparent bags” has been replaced with “transparent black bags”,</p>
45	<p>Howard Hughes 03/12/2022</p>	<p>With reference to the draft Waste (Amendment) Regulations, and the draft Abandonment , Dumping and Disposal of Waste in Streets and Public Places of Areas (Amendment) Regulations we would like to draw to your attention consideration of licence holders for holiday furnished premises.</p> <p>Many of these holiday furnished premises are self-catering apartments where the waste is taken out by guests themselves. It is important to note that although waste disposal instructions are communicated to the guests, including waste collection schedules and times and even though guests are informed of possible fines if these instructions are not adhered to, there are still many times where guests do not adhere to these rules. In view of this, we had enquired as to how the procedure of handing out fines will be as we licence-holders have little to no control over guests at self-catering apartments not adhering to these rules. Most of the time</p>	<p>Enforcement will primarily rely on catching contraveners red handed while taking out the bag containing waste not properly sorted. To note that the first contravention will be in the form of a warning. A fine will be associated with the second and subsequent contraventions.</p>

		<p>it is also impossible to pin-point which guest in a building is infringing the rules. We believe that in such cases, the guest not adhering to the rules should be held accountable therefore the procedure for giving out fines should take these scenarios into consideration and not hold the licence-holder accountable.</p> <p>Not taking these scenarios into consideration and holding the licence-holder accountable will push further HFPs out of business since it is already very difficult to make reasonable profits when comparing short-lets to long-lets taking into account VAT, Eco-contribution, commissions paid to OTAs, social security contributions, water and electricity charges etc. HFPs also find it difficult to drive the costs, such as cleaning and laundry fees, down due to not being able to reach economies of scale levels to be able to operate at a cost-efficient manner. Issuing fines for these contraventions will be the last blow to this short-let market which is a totally different market to the hotel industry and is required to serve a good market share of tourists who would otherwise not look into the hotel accommodation industry. Wiping out this sector of the short-term rental market will be detrimental to the attractiveness of what Malta can offer as a tourist destination.</p>	
46	Mario Desira 04/12/2022	<p>First, I find it objectionable that the public is given hardly one month for comments. In may case I only stumbled upon these proposed amendments accidentally, just a couple of days ago. Not everyone has the time or the circumstances for a timely response. I simply did not have the time to go through the Long Term Waste Management Plan 2021-2030, so hopefully some concerns mentioned below have already been addressed.</p> <p>A little rant before I continue: Although in principle I agree with the amendments, they merely reflect punishing the many, because of the failure and non-compliance of the few. Another step along a worldwide attempt at dictatorial governance by post-covid19 governments worldwide. And another step in the EU-Nazi enslavement of Europeans. Not everyone is unaware that the</p>	<p>Comment noted. It should be clarified that the new obligation to separate waste at source will not bring about any change on how households separate their waste: co-mingled door-to-door separate collection of plastic, metal and paper will still be allowed as per current system (i.e. green and grey bags). Similarly, organic waste will still have to be collected separately as per current system (i.e. white bag). Regarding the comment on collection time, it will be forwarded to the relevant entities responsible for establishing such collection times.</p>

	<p>whole European project is just the Third Reich, and supported by the federalist elements within the EU.</p> <p>Not everyone forgot how the EU told Malta to remove its system of recycling glass bottles, operational up to the early 2000s, and which worked properly, sacrificed upon the altar of economic competition! And nobody in the EU is speaking about how manufacturers continentally bombard us with a litany of built-in obsolescence articles. I am old enough to remember (as an example) when your battery operated torchlight failed, you just went out, bought a battery and/or bulb, replaced the old ones and the torchlight continued giving good service. Today – no, if the LED torchlight goes out neither the battery (rechargeable) nor the bulbs can be replaced, forcing the ‘consumer’ to throw it out. Talk about a classic example of throwing out the baby with the bathwater! All with the blessings of governments and companies. I am also wary of many so-called scientists and experts. They used to say polystyrene and certain plastic would last for hundreds of years. Now they found out they actually degrade after a few decades.</p> <p>And why is polystyrene (EPS/XPS) wasted by being thrown in the general black bag instead of recycled as requested by regulations? I had plastic plant pots, designed for all weather and sun exposure and supposedly UV resistant, crumble in my hands after barely two years. Personal experience shows me that so-called persistent materials like plastic, are no match for the constant merciless exposure of our Mediterranean sun.</p> <p>I hope ERA is aware of the schizophrenic attempts at waste management. Separate Coloured bags were initially introduced for separate metals, plastic, paper etc.</p> <p>Then the one size fits all grey/green bags were introduced – and now we are going back to separate bags again it seems.</p> <p>Also objectionable is the lack of common sense in some strategies. I use wood shavings as cat litter, deeming this to be the most</p>	
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	<p>environmentally and healthy option. Simple biology would tell you these are organic materials. But not in Malta! You have to throw this in a black bag, not the organic one. In other countries this is absolutely not the case but we have to be special.</p> <p>Also plastic wrappers such food packets. Wasteserv is telling people these are not recyclable. But I have emails dating around 2015 saying yes they can be recycled.</p> <p>The manufactures continue to remain unaccountable for disposal of their products after consumer use, putting the onus on the public to clean and sort items at their own expense. No consumer is compensated for the water used to clean items for recycling.</p> <p>Another item is the crazy times and dates for recycling. For goodness sake, people have a life. They need to go out to work. You cannot penalise Common Citizen for leaving a garbage bag at 6.00 in the morning, when the pick up time is 2.00 pm, because that is the time Common Citizen leaves for work, and cannot do otherwise!</p> <p>Another extreme in Malta is the quality of organic bags. These are flimsy and tear apart at the slightest contact with liquids, oil or mechanical pressure. Studies abroad show that biodegradable organic bags remain intact for as long as three years in a rubbish dump. Here, locally available bags barely manage to remain intact after three days.</p> <p>Not only. In the past people used to put all rubbish in one plastic black bag. That included organic food stuff. Thus it was disposed of, diluted with other stuff, in a tough black bag. Then the organic bag was introduced. What happened? We now had bags filled with ONLY food and organic items, which tore at the slightest provocation and spilled their contents all over the streets. And then we wonder what has caused the sudden explosion of hornets in the recent years in Malta! We always had people throwing away foodstuff in the roads and countryside. But the advent of</p>	
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	<p>the organic bag proved to be the ultimate fuel for expanding the hornet population.</p> <p>I am not critical of the biodegradable organic bag: indeed I believe it should be the only bag available for domestic use, bar construction - related bags. But we need to legislate to ensure a minimum standard and strength of biodegradable and organic bags to ensure they last long enough to be of proper use. And for goodness sake make expiry dates mandatory on these bags, the older batches simply turn to dust and shreds when you touch one! Another issue is it seems some bureaucrats impose laws and directives without they themselves having any real or practical experience of people's daily life.</p> <p>Suppose one paints a room and uses newspapers to cover the floor to protect the flooring against drops of paint. Logic would tell you dispose of these in the (present) general black bags, Are we now going to penalise such people because they correctly disposed of these newspapers as general waste and not as paper?!</p> <p>What about toxic stuff that may have, visibly or invisibly, tainted a normally recycled bottle or container? Shall people be penalised for including this with the present black bag destined for incineration? If one cuts a PVC pipe, and the dust/shreds are collected in an otherwise recyclable plastic bottle or container, will the citizen be punished for being conscientious?</p> <p>And what of composite materials? If a plastic box or wrapper is plastic on the outside and aluminum on the inside, does this go with plastic waste and is this really correct?</p> <p>A typical 'maltempata' results in half a dozen large clay pots being broken. The citizen conscientiously puts these in a carton box and the box in turn is put in a plastic bag, so that handlers can avoid being hurt by sharp edges of the broken pots. Shall the nazi-</p>	
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	<p>style police or wardens now castigate and fine the citizen for improper disposal?</p> <p>I take great pains to make sure I manage waste as environmentally friendly as possible. One thing politicians and regulatory bodies never address is the huge amount of tiny plastic bits and pieces forced upon us by manufactures, who are the ones who should be harassed about this. To name but a few examples, you buy an item of clothing and you have to contend with tiny bits of what seem to be nylon wire that hold clothes or socks intact. Or pieces of plastic wire or tags that keep the plastic package of bread intact. Or plastic tabs that seal liquids in cartoons. The list is endless.</p> <p>I personally am so disgusted by this state of affairs that I personally keep empty plastic herb/spice plastic bottles for collection of these tiny plastic bits because honestly I do not trust any government, authority or organization to properly handle these plastic bits if dispersed in the recycling bags without further thought!</p> <p>Despite the 'war' against single use plastic, it seems this war was somewhat selective of its targets!</p> <p>I also find the latest BCRS scheme of recycling items objectionable. It is simply for some people to make money as there is already the grey/plastic bag in place to address these items. The hassle of traveling, queuing and disposing these items has a far larger environmental footprint than the plastic bottle/can itself. Especially for elderly or invalid individuals, or people like myself who, in true environmental spirit, never bought a car and for whole decades always public transport.</p> <p>And regarding clothes and their recycling, are the authorities aware of, let alone addressing the release of thousands of plastic microfibers with potentially every laundry washing people do at home and at work ?!</p> <p>To conclude, there are all sorts of shades and nuances that need to be addressed. We seem to have forgotten that the mantra of</p>	
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		Reduce, Reuse and Recycle, has as its first priority to reduce, the others are secondary and tertiary priorities. As things stand, with built-in obsolescence and the way we build and construct and furnish our homes places of work, the standard is for things to degrade sooner and later and need to be replaced sooner rather than later. Unless this core issue is addressed, proper waste management becomes a lost battle.	
47	Odette Longo 05/12/2022	For the sake of preparedness vis-à-vis importation, pls could you advise what new regulations are in the offing regarding the black refuse bags. Needless to say we do not want to overstock if these are going to be phased out and we would also like to know the approximately when these regulations are to be enforced and exactly what these regulations are. Wasteserv have mentioned something about the bags being “clear black”.. however, we are concerned about the strength of such bags if they are of a certain size.	The originally proposed draft regulations envisaged the transition towards bags that are transparent within a year of publication, so as to facilitate enforcement of the new obligation for everyone to separate waste at source prior to their separate collection. In order to allow the general public and economic operators to adapt their operations to this new requirement, this transitional period is being extended such that this obligation will apply from 1 st July 2024. In addition and in order to clarify the intent for the said transition towards bags that are not fully opaque, the wording “transparent bags” has been replaced with “transparent black bags”.
48	Gabriella Dalmas 05/12/2022	Firstly, I commend the inclusion of separation of wastes in public areas (since apart from beaches, these were still very limited), as well as in commercial establishments. When resources are available, site inspections of such establishments should be encouraged since they produce considerable amounts of waste. Secondly, it would be useful to consider alternative ways for people to dispose waste other than door-to-door collection; since many people have different schedules, routines and/or experiences that may discourage/ deter/ prevent them from separating waste appropriately and taking out waste at the correct times; mainly through the use of dedicated skips (amongst other possible alternatives). While bring-in sites are available for recyclables, and somewhat available for black bag disposal, alternatives for organic bags are unavailable which have caused people to dispose organic bags within the black bag because they	Comment noted.

		could not take it out in time (e.g. due to non-regular work schedules, short-lets, etc.). Such disposal areas should be accessible, securely closed and emptied regularly to prevent pests.	
49	Polina Venka BirdLife Malta 05/12/2022	<p>BirdLife Malta has analysed the proposed amendments to the Waste Regulations and the Abandonment, Dumping and Disposal of Waste in Streets and Public Places of Areas Regulations and we would like to provide our feedback as follows.</p> <p>The mandatory separation of waste is a necessary and positive step towards reaching a better state of the Maltese environment and fulfilment of the respective national and EU obligations. However, it is important to remember that any legislative initiative cannot be viable without proper implementation and enforcement. Before adopting such amendments, we strongly recommend to work out the strategy for its practical implementation. An ongoing educational campaign is an important part of such a strategy and special attention should be devoted to it. We also suggest considering closely the opportunity to introduce a nation-wide deposit-refund for different recyclables (following the initiative for plastic beverage bottles) which would greatly contribute to waste separation and reduction of dumping and disposal of recyclable types of waste.</p>	<p>Comment noted. Awareness-raising is key for the successful implementation of this new obligation on the ground.</p>
		<p>In terms of enforcement, it is not clear how the ownership of the waste bag is going to be detected in case of issuing of a fine, how such check-ups of waste bags/bins are to be arranged, and whether ERA has enough staff capacity to oversee the implementation and enforcement of mandatory waste separation. Therefore, the success of the initiative raises consequent questions. Using such an instrument as fines proves to be more effective in combination with positive reinforcement and incentives (such as deposit-refund system, subsidies, discounts, etc.).</p>	<p>Enforcement will primarily rely on catching contraveners red handed while taking out the bag containing waste not properly sorted.</p> <p>In order to strengthen enforcement of this new obligation on the ground, S.L. 549.40 has also been amended so that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Other entities besides ERA (i.e. LESA and Malta Police) are empowered to enforce mandatory waste separation; and - The current black bags used for the collection of mixed residual waste will be replaced with partly opaque black bags, thus allowing to identify e.g. big recyclable items without the need to open the bag.

			<p>Furthermore, one is to note that the fine mechanism established therein is not only punitive, but also educational in nature. In fact, first contravention will be in the form of a warning. A fine will be associated with the second and subsequent contraventions.</p> <p>In this context, enforcement of the new obligation will be performed gradually (i.e. in a phased approach) to allow for proper adaptation. To maximize visibility and ensure transparency, the enforcement plan will be published by the Minister responsible for the Environment in the Government Gazette.</p>
		<p>More importantly, we urge ERA to propose and implement different scenarios for waste management (including separation and collection) in different areas, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ urban (households/offices etc.); ○ urban (open spaces/streets/street cafes etc.) ○ rural; ○ protected and natural areas (with site-specific scenarios developed); ○ campsites, etc. <p>The conditions, capacity and character of such areas vary significantly, therefore, it will be highly beneficial to take into account the differences and propose suitable strategies both in terms of environmental implications and the waste management. According to the consultation document, the amendments to the Waste Regulation will touch the areas already equipped with the necessary bins for separation. This means that a large part of public spaces will remain outside the scope of this new regulation. In this context, we suggest that the proposed enforcement plan should include the timeframe within which the required bins are to be installed in appropriate public places as needed for proper</p>	<p>Comment noted.</p>

		<p>implementation of these amendments. While on the subject, the opportunity should not be missed for rat-proof bins (leak resistant, covered with a fitting lid, not prone to tipping) to be installed especially for such types of waste as organic and mixed waste. We suggest the installation of CCTV cameras and other surveillance equipment at collection points to be able to identify and penalise persons dumping inappropriately or illegally.</p>	
		<p>The adoption of the proposed amendments will likely create the need to change the current waste collection schedule (door-to-door collection) in order to adapt it to a new reality of increased volumes of other types of waste at the expense of decreased “black bag” waste: at the moment black bag collection is organised more frequently than the pick-up of recyclables; organic waste should be collected daily. Alternatively and/or additionally more bins/containers for waste separation/bring-in points can be installed in each locality. To support this, the education campaign should be launched, ensuring a wide dissemination of information available to the public of where they can legally dump the separated waste. Strategically, it can be worth assessing the alternatives to the door-to-door collection system.</p>	<p>Comment noted. Potential changes to current collection frequency fall outside the scope of this consultation. However, we would like to refer to the new Waste Management Plan for Malta, which contains a dedicated chapter on how to improve waste collection systems modelled around the regionalisation reform.</p>
		<p>With the new amendments in force, waste separation will be mandatory on board of vessels (such as tourist boat operators) and should be subject to regular spot checks and enforcement, having weight of waste collected and paid for on receipts for waste collection by private businesses. It is necessary to provide incentives and support for boat operators to adapt to the new regulations. Additionally, coastal areas with pontoons, promenades and ferry terminals should have increased infrastructure for waste separation, along with increased surveillance and enforcement over the summer months when tourist frequency is high. Many of these coastal touristic hubs border marine protected areas and Natura 2000 sites, and in the case of inadequate waste management, could result in a</p>	<p>Comment noted.</p>

		<p>significant impact on wildlife. Clear signs in different languages should be placed in these areas describing the sites, the regulations and fines for misconduct.</p>	
		<p>Concerning is the proposal to reduce the minimum fine for illegal dumping from 3000 to 400 euro. With the establishment of a stricter regulation for waste separation, the illegal dumping has a potential to increase, therefore lowering the fine does not have justification but can rather lead to harmful consequences. This should be evaluated carefully in terms of potential environmental impacts and risks.</p> <p>At present, due to high fines for non-separated waste imposed onto waste collection companies, we witness the situation when dumping of waste can sometimes be an easier option for the collectors. This is especially a concern for the Natura 2000 sites, where there is no waste separation infrastructure present; therefore waste collectors can opt for dumping of such waste over collection (However, the new amendments do not make it clear whether the fines established for waste collection companies shall be eliminated with the responsibility for waste separation put on the individuals). In view of these risks and the proposed amendments, we believe that this system should be changed. Apart from developing a separate plan/scenarios for waste management (including separation) within the protected areas, the financial incentives for waste companies who collect the larger volumes of separated waste can be introduced. Furthermore, the collectors should be obliged to provide the WasteServe with receipts containing relevant information, like the weight of the collected waste per site, per waste type, etc. which would help with waste monitoring.</p>	<p>Comment noted. The lowered fine will apply only in cases of items that are not already listed and catered for in waste not listed in paragraphs (a), (b) and (c) of regulation 10(4), and only in cases wherein the amount is minimal, thus ensuring a more proportionate fine for the offence.</p>
50	Charles Micallef 05/12/2022	<p>“The transition of the current black bags used for the collection of residual waste to transparent bags” is a breach of personal data. Who should know what I consumed as food this evening? Who should know what sanitary pads my daughter uses? NOBODY!</p>	<p>The proposed regulations envisage the transition towards bags that are not fully opaque as opposed to fully transparent bags, so as to facilitate enforcement of this new obligation on the ground. In order to clarify the true intention for the said</p>

			transition towards bags that are not fully opaque, the wording “transparent bags” has been replaced with “transparent black bags”.
51	Ing. Stefan De Marco The Malta Chamber 05/12/2022	<p>1. Overview</p> <p>The Malta Chamber welcomes this initiative to mandate separate waste collection as it is necessary to address the national deficit in terms of reaching recycling targets and transitioning to a circular economy. Standardising different waste streams collection should be part of a national plan to create a circular economy, where waste generation is brought down to a minimum and made best use of, either transforming into energy or reuse.</p>	Comment noted. The establishment of mandatory waste separation is indeed one key measure emanating from the Long Term Waste Management Plan for Malta 2021-2030, which is the sets a holistic strategy aimed at reflecting Malta’s ambition to move towards a true Circular Economy.
		<p>2. Clarifications</p> <p>The Malta Chamber requires more clarifications on:</p> <p>Environment Protection Act (Cap. 549) Waste (Amendment) Regulations: pg 1: 2, 12A (1): Clarification is needed to what this exactly means: “Provided that co-mingled collection of certain streams may be allowable only if carried out in line with the provisions of Schedule 3 of the Abandonment, Dumping and Disposal of Waste in Streets and Public Places or Areas Regulations”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does this relate to a bin approved in the Environment Protection Act (Cap. 549) Abandonment, Dumping and Disposal of Waste in Streets and Public Places of Areas (Amendment) Regulations? • If yes, what is this bin and how will this operate? • What will this mean in terms of waste collection? • Do waste collectors need new equipment? • Does the implementing agency foresee increased collection rounds? 	<p>The provision in question serves the purpose of allowing co-mingled collection of certain recyclable waste streams according to the available door-to-door separate collection system (i.e. the green and grey bags). To date, the streams allowed for co-mingled collection are recyclable plastic, paper and metal. In view of this:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • this provision does not relate to a bin approved according to S.L. 549.40; • no change to the current door-to-door collection systems is envisaged due to the aforementioned provision. On the other hand, those making use of a private collector will have to ensure that waste is – as a minimum - sorted according to such requirements prior to its separate collection; • waste collectors will have to ensure that sorted waste deposited for separate collection is not mixed during collection and transport to an authorised treatment facility. In this regard, one is to note that the mixing of separately collected waste is already prohibited in line with regulations 9 and 10(4) of the current Waste Regulations, S.L. 549.63;

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the establishment of mandatory waste separation does not affect the number of collection rounds in terms of the systems set up by the Local Councils/Regional Councils.
		<p>Further clarity is required on how the proposed measures are to be implemented in practice. The Malta Chamber is of the opinion that the implementation approach should ensure that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Waste producers are aware of their responsibilities in terms of how they need to segregate waste at source and commission waste management service providers. Waste collectors need to be well cognisant of the responsibilities entrusted to provide, and the waste depository done solely to licensed facilities Waste facilities should be equipped to receive segregated wastes and are able to trace rejected materials to the source, to ensure that appropriate corrective action is taken. <p>Logistic arrangements should be practically feasible, and commercially viable. While transparent bags may be suitable for certain industrial/commercial operations, this would not be feasible for others where waste volumes are higher requiring use of skips or hook loaders.</p>	<p>Comment noted. Awareness-raising is key for the successful implementation of this new obligation on the ground. To also note that i) the mixing of separately-collected waste is already prohibited at law; and ii), in line with regulation 12(5) of the Waste Regulations, waste can only be deposited at a waste management facility duly permitted by ERA.</p> <p>The proposed legislation does not prohibit the use of skips or hook loaders for waste generated in large volumes, as long as the relevant recyclable streams are segregated according to the proposed requirements. The transparent black bags are mainly intended for the door-to-door collection of mixed waste in accordance with Schedule 3 of S.L. 549.40.</p>
		<p>The strategy also needs to ensure that the system allows traceability of wastes and prevents commingling of wastes after these have been collected from waste producers - particularly if carrier rounds systems are employed. Enforcement needs to be effective yet proportionate, identifying failure points and appropriate solutions. For this reason, further clarification is needed on how bags will link to households within buildings of multiple units with further clarity on enforcement and penalties.</p>	<p>Comment noted. As per previous replies, the mixing of separately collected waste is already prohibited at law.</p> <p>Enforcement will primarily rely on catching contraveners red handed while taking out the bag containing waste not properly sorted. In this context, it is also to be noted that enforcement will be performed gradually through a phased approach as established by the Minister in the Government Gazette: the first phase will be purely educational, so as to allow for a period of adaptation. Similarly, the first contravention will be in the form</p>

			of a warning, whilst a monetary fine will be associated with the second and subsequent contraventions.
		<p>3. Feedback</p> <p>Waste management in our urban community remains a steep challenge. Improved Waste Management is required as established in the last waste management strategy published in late 2021 and reiterated in Malta's Recovery and Resilience Plan. The Malta Chamber believes that establishing these regulatory standards will require a change in culture which should be partially addressed through two points, being:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mandatory garbage collection solutions for all new developments of multiple units, such as dedicated garbage rooms for coordination of refuse collection. This should be a requirement across the board for all new applications with the dimensions of garbage rooms relative to the size of building. • Introduction of a Garbage Bag Barcode system to regularize householders who sort their garbage incorrectly. This measure will contribute towards a higher proportion of waste sorting at source and a higher degree of value recyclable products in Malta. <p>The Malta Chamber welcomes the fact that a more integrated approach towards effective waste separation is being embarked towards. Establishing mandatory measures for both business or residential, will help improve bridging the gap of achieving our European targets.</p>	Comment noted.
		<p>The Malta Chamber would also like to raise the following recommendations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Such a change needs a prolonged campaign which is well articulated with a phased approach. b) Specific enforcement bodies need to be assigned the right to open the bags for verifications. Waste Scanners should 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Awareness-raising is pivotal for the successful implementation of this new obligation on the ground. This is also reflected in both the planned enforcement of this new obligation as well as related fine mechanism. b) Comment noted;

		<p>also be considered for use. Whilst transparent bags will help in leading the public to separate more, thus reducing the need of enforcement, overreliance on this solution should be cautioned.</p> <p>c) The reason behind ‘Transparent Black Bags’ is to have a form of visibility of the waste content. In this context, there is a general concern of privacy (such as sanitary ware) and such exposed waste will impact the aesthetics on our streets if mishandled.</p> <p>d) The bags need to be of the right thickness to avoid tearing up easily, ending up with waste and leaks on pavements.</p> <p>e) There is still the issue of having commercial and domestic waste collected which questions the reliability of the system and may downplay the importance of such actions.</p>	<p>c) The wording “transparent bag” in Schedule 3 of the LN amending S.L. 549.40 has been replaced with “transparent black bags” to clarify the intent behind this provision, namely to move towards bags that are not fully transparent, but rather partially opaque, so as to facilitate enforcement whilst, at the same time, ensuring that the content of such bags is not fully visible;</p> <p>d) Comment noted. The proposed legislation solely aims at ensuring the bags for the collection of residual waste are not fully opaque; and</p> <p>e) Comment noted.</p>
		<p>4. Conclusion</p> <p>The Malta Chamber feels that a revised holistic waste strategy which includes specific actions and KPIs is required, particularly to ensure proper implementation issues. The Malta Chamber also suggests more consultation, via specific themed workshops to brainstorm on how to best address the circular economic challenges ahead of us. This approach would help in identifying the challenges faced by businesses in a granular and detailed approached.</p> <p>The Malta Chamber would like to thank all the member of its Circular Economy Thematic Committee who contributed to the consultation.</p>	<p>Comment noted.</p>

LATE COMMENTS

Ref No.	Name of Stakeholder / Date	Comments Received
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1	Regjun Tramuntana 09/12/2022	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lower fines should only apply if the potential offender presents proof that he/she genuinely attempted to follow the parameters of the law; 2. For Hazardous Waste the maximum possible fines would automatically apply; 3. Creation of waste HOTLINE for reporting of contravention (see something, say something concept) 4. Organized garbage disposal/bulky days (practice widely used in EU)- for instance one every three months month in specific localities, at particular spots, which may help reduce the abuse and will encourage reuse and recycling! 5. Fines applicable if commercial waste (including that from construction sites, and finishing of apartment blocks) is passed on to municipal collection at a cost to the local councils.
2	Denise Vella 13/12/2022	<p>As an MTA short let licence holder, I would like to take up the invitation which I have received to submit the following observations. The points below are restricted to what I believe will be the impact of the proposed garbage collection procedures on self catering establishments.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The current system of separation is already very complicated for the huge number of self-catering units on the islands of Malta and Gozo. Making it even more cumbersome will only result in increased mess on the streets and more visual pollution. In my view this will cancel out and even supersede any environmental gains which are made from a greater volume of separated waste. One can hardly expect visitors to get used to the intricacies of the system in the few days which they spend on the islands. 2. Many licence holders simply ignore garbage collection regulations. Their cleaners visit their properties at irregular intervals to clean up after the departure of guests and they simply dump garbage bags on the kerb outside short rental properties at any time of night and day. They do this in the full knowledge that there is no enforcement. In my view, landlords of short lets should be compelled to clearly inform their guests to leave their garbage in properly closing bins inside their properties. These would then be taken out at the appropriate time by the landlords or their employees. Failure to do so should result in forfeiture of licence. Any new system should incorporate this responsibility. 3. The only way that garbage on kerbs at all hours can be avoided is by organising collections of ALL types of bags daily and most importantly at the same time. For Gozo, which is a special case due to Maltese visitors who vacate their properties on Sunday afternoons and nights, there should be a special collection on Sunday evenings. 4. Evidently all of this costs money and it is only logical that the extra efforts to keep the islands clean is borne by landlords and owners of second properties. After all , it is in the interest of landlords whose lifeline is the tourism sector to keep the islands clean and attractive.