

New EPA Victoria environmental laws 1 July 2021

EPA Victoria will have increased powers from 1 July 2021 to prevent harm to public health and the environment from pollution and waste.



As a tyre retailer it is your responsibility to make sure you understand the laws that apply to your business to minimise the risk of harm to the environment and human health. It's also your responsibility to make sure all employees understand requirements under the new laws.

2021
JULY
1

The following laws will apply to your business from 1 July 2021:

General Environmental Duty

All Victorian businesses must take action to protect the environment and human health.

- ▶ Ensure environmental risk of pollution to land, air or water is assessed for all business activities.
- ▶ Put in place measures to eliminate or control risks
- ▶ Keep documented records of risk assessments and action plans.

The **EPA Victoria website** (<https://www.epa.vic.gov.au/about-epa/laws/new-laws>) provides tools to help conduct risk assessments, including: **EPA Self-Assessment Tool** (<https://www.epa.vic.gov.au/for-business/find-a-topic/small-business-self-assessment-tool#self-assessment-tool-for-small-business>), and **Assessing and Controlling Risk Business Guide** (<https://www.epa.vic.gov.au/about-epa/publications/1695-1>).

The following activity tables can help as a start:

Tyre Storage

Complying with new laws: Reducing fire risk

Actions:

- ▶ Store tyres in accordance with [TSA Best Practice Guidelines](https://www.tyrestewardship.org.au/guidelines/storage-guideline/) (<https://www.tyrestewardship.org.au/guidelines/storage-guideline/>)
- ▶ Make sure extinguishers and fire hose reel testing is up to date (every 6 months)

Emergency Plans

Complying with new laws: Protecting people from harm

Actions:

- Make sure emergency planning is up to date
- All staff are trained, and Emergency evacuations are practiced

Chemical storage

Complying with new laws: Reduce pollution risk

Actions:

- Store oil drums on bunded pallets, keep spill kits stocked.
- Use drip trays for all cleaning chemicals
- Use chemical storage cabinets where needed

Inspections

Complying with new laws: Ongoing monitoring

Actions:

- Regularly check your workplace
- Identify new risks and put a plan in place to prevent or reduce the risk.
- Keep a record of inspections
- Ensure you have actioned any recommendations from TSA online self assessment or onsite audit, where applicable

Waste Tyre Tracking

You must make sure tyres are legally transported and processed.

- Sign up to the **EPA Waste Tracking System** (<https://www.epa.vic.gov.au/for-business/business-forms-permits-online-tools/waste-tracker>)
- Check your tyre collector is also using the EPA Waste Tracking system

Using TSA Accredited Collectors and/or Recyclers (<https://www.tyrestewardship.org.au/accreditation/find-accredited-recyclers-collectors/>) **will assist you to meet this requirement**

Check the EPA Website for video's to help with using the new **EPA Waste Tracker**, or call the EPA on 1300 372 842 (1300 EPA VIC). You can also email via contact@epa.vic.gov.au for more assistance.

Note: EPA Waste Tracker does not replace TSA reporting required as part of your accreditation. Please contact getonboard@tyrestewardship.org.au for assistance with TSA reporting.

Tyre Storage

EPA Registration is required for storing more than 5 cubic metres of waste tyres. Your business has up until the 2 January 2022 to register.

- ▶ Tyre pile volumes will vary depending on how you store. Where possible use tyre lacing storage to efficiently store tyres.
- ▶ To maintain waste tyre storage below 5 cubic metres it is important to set aside a storage area with set dimensions and only keep waste tyres in that area, e.g. a storage cage that is 2m wide x 2m long x 1.25m high.
- ▶ If you don't register your business with the EPA, then you need to ensure that you have **less than 5 cubic metres** stored at your business at any one time.
- ▶ As tyre sizes vary always monitor the volume you store on site.

The following table can be used as a general guide to work out how many tyres make up 5 cubic metres.

Pile type	Approx. number of tyres per 5 cubic metres		
	Passenger	Light Truck / SUV	Heavy Truck
Laced	90	45	25
Barrel Stack	75	35	20
Loose	60	30	10

Remember: For permission to store more than 5 cubic metres you need to **register with the EPA** (<https://www.epa.vic.gov.au/for-business/new-laws-and-your-business/permissions/registrations>).

In relation to stored unused tyres which are to be sold then the above limits will not apply, but the General Environmental Duty will apply to your business.



To learn more about the new laws and EPA Victoria's new powers watch a video here [EPA webinar](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g8jY4_zFl3s) (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g8jY4_zFl3s) and in particular Chapter 6: EPA permissions – licenses, permits, registrations, determinations.

It's everybody's responsibility to comply with the new laws. EPA will have powers to enforce the new laws, including issuing sanctions and fines. Refer to epa.vic.gov.au for non-compliance actions.

