

# Legislation Outlook

February 2019

This monthly legislation briefing is a **supplement** to your Activ Comply service to help you to **plan ahead** for maintenance of your ISO 14001, OHSAS 18001/ISO 45001, ISO 50001 and ISO 27001 systems. In addition to giving you advance warning about important legislation that will affect your compliance with the standards, we'll provide news, newly-published guidance and government consultations that you might find useful, as well as any other significant legislation beyond the scope of the standards listed that we think may have an impact on your organisation. Unlike other services, we only report items of value: we don't waste your time on items such as an increase in administrative fees or changes that only affect enforcement agencies.

When legislative changes are announced with short notice (<1 month) they are not reported here. All changes are automatically delivered direct into your [Activ Comply](#) system as they come into effect so you can be confident that you are always 100% up to date.

January was another quiet month, as legislators continued to focus almost exclusively on Brexit. This month's briefing is therefore very...brief!

## Upcoming Standard-Related Legislation

Although there has been plenty of legislation released by Parliament during January, it has all been in preparation for the UK's withdrawal from the EU. Such legislation has been designed to address the deficiencies in our current legislation, such as references to EU law or EU institutions that will no longer be relevant post-Brexit. The changes ensure that there will be legal continuity and minimal disruption, but none of the legislation released in the last month will affect you. We will keep you informed when any new Brexit-related legislation changes your legal obligations in relation to the ISO standards.

A significant amount of legislation, including primary legislation relating to trade, agriculture and fisheries and around 600 items of secondary legislation, will need to be passed before the UK leaves the EU.

At Activ Comply we have been preparing for the anticipated surge in legislation ever since Article 50 was triggered nearly two years ago. We are resourced and ready to analyse the increased volume of new legislation quickly to ensure that Activ Comply remains fully up-to-date at all times. As ever, your Activ Comply system will filter out all the noise and highlight only the specific changes that are relevant to your organisation. All you need to do to stay current is run a new legal compliance questionnaire.

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## News

### Brexit Uncertainty Continues

Following voting in the House of Commons on 29 January, Theresa May is set to return to Brussels to attempt to renegotiate the Irish border arrangements of the Withdrawal Agreement, despite the EU having repeatedly said it will not change the legal text agreed with the UK Prime Minister.

Any revised agreement will return to the Commons to be voted on. In what continues to be a very fluid situation, the government's stated plan at the time of publication is that if no new agreement has been reached with the EU by 13 February, the Prime Minister will table an amendable motion for debate on Valentine's Day.

## Consultations

### Electrical Equipment

The EU Commission has launched a [consultation](#) to assess the effectiveness, efficiency, relevance and coherence of the Low Voltage Directive 2014/35/EU, which was implemented in the UK by the Electrical Equipment (Safety) Regulations 2016. The Commission is seeking views from sellers and manufacturers of electrical equipment regarding any issues arising with the Directive and potential improvements.

### Water

The Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs has launched a [consultation](#) seeking proposals to modernise water regulation and to improve long-term planning of water resources and drainage.

### Like to know more?

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### What about “other requirements”?

### Coming Soon: Agreements Manager

A new Activ module is in development to complement Comply. **Agreements Manager** will take care of cataloguing and assessing compliance against the “other requirements” that your organisation is committed to. Next month we will start to take registrations from organisations that would like to beta test and help to refine the functionality before the new module is publicly launched later this year.

If you would like to participate, watch this space!