

## **INTERPRETATION OF REGULATION (EC) 561/2006**

### **ARTICLE 13.1.(H) : VEHICLES USED IN CONNECTION WITH DOOR-TO-DOOR HOUSEHOLD REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL**

It is the Department for Transport's view that, in order to be considered as exempt from the EU rules on drivers' hours and tachographs, a door-to-door household refuse collection and disposal operation should have the following characteristics:

- It should be carried out either by a public authority or by a private undertaking under contract to a public authority;
- It should involve the primary collection of waste from household<sup>1</sup> or commercial premises, including the collection of street cleansing waste (e.g. litter from public street bins), whereby the transport activity remains subsidiary to the collection. The waste collected from commercial premises must be similar to or of the same kind as that collected from households, it must be collected in the same way (i.e. door-to-door), it must not be subject to any special collection regime or special rules, and must be collected using the same vehicles<sup>2</sup>.
- Such operations might involve longer aggregate journeys where there are a number of stops, particularly in rural areas, but such journeys should not normally exceed a radius of 50 kilometres from the place where a vehicle is normally based<sup>3</sup>.

The views of the Department for Transport are intended for guidance only. The Department has no statutory authority to interpret the law, that being a matter for the Courts.

<sup>1</sup> Door-to-door collections of household waste would include collections from communal waste points and large communal bins on housing estates, and the collection of bulky items such as old furniture and household appliances. But the exemption would not extend to the collection and delivery of skips hired to the public.

<sup>2</sup> Type of vehicle is indicative only. In certain rural areas, for example, conventional goods vehicles may well be used for door to door collections of household waste. In addition, provided that the waste collected from commercial premises is similar to or of the same kind as household waste, it does not have to form part of a mixed load (i.e. with household waste) for the exemption to apply.

<sup>3</sup> The 50 kilometres is indicative only. Where a journey exceeds this (for example, in certain rural areas), VOSA will consider the case for exemption based on its merits. In addition, it makes no difference whether, having collected the waste, the vehicle takes its load to a nearby transfer station only, or continues to a final disposal site, the only determining factor being one of proximity.