



AUDIT  
OFFICE



REPUBLIC  
OF CYPRUS

# MANAGEMENT OF WASTE FROM USED VEHICLE TYRES

## Executive Summary



**AUDIT OFFICE OF THE REPUBLIC  
SPECIAL REPORT no. ΠΕ/01/2021**

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# **MANAGEMENT OF WASTE FROM USED VEHICLE TYRES**

## **Executive Summary**

### **AUDITED ENTITIES**

**Department of Environment**

## Executive Summary

The Waste Tyre Management System (WTMS) is responsible for the organization, on an individual or collective basis, of the collection, transportation, temporarily storage, reuse and utilization of waste tyres and for this purpose a Management Body (MB) is established as a legal entity.

Pursuant to the Waste Law (Law 185(I)/2011) and the Solid and Hazardous Waste (Waste Tyre Management) Regulations (RAA 61/2011), the Minister for Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment licensed four WTMS, of which three operate on a collective and one on an individual basis.

The purpose of the audit was to evaluate the effectiveness of the inspection procedures implemented by the Department of Environment (DE), as the competent Authority and its actions towards the WTMS.

In addition, we evaluated the activities of the WTMS, which are managed by the MB, as well as the information we had about uncontrolled discard of used tyres.

With regard to the management of waste tyres, in the context of our audit we examined whether the competent Authority implements the relevant legislation, at all stages of the tyre's life cycle, so as to prevent any further financial and environmental burden.

The most important findings emerged from the above audit are summarized below:

- ◆ It became clear that there is no information of the number of the inspections carried out by the DE from 2012 until today to the WTMS (collective or individual work basis), in order to ensure their compliance with the conditions of their license.

- ◆ According to the annual reports that MBs are required to prepare and submit, the schedule for waste tyres collection and transportation is not attached, or any other information in regards to tenders published for the specific years. Also, there is no mention in the reports about the measures taken to prevent the generation of waste tyres as well as about the environmental awareness program of the year.
- ◆ In some cases, the environmental awareness programs that the MB presented in its annual reports submitted to the competent Authority, are incomplete and do not meet the relevant conditions of its license.
- ◆ The DE does not document the inspections carried out to ensure that the MB keeps relevant records and the accuracy and integrity of the data as well.
- ◆ The weight forms submitted to the WTMS are incomplete and filled in by hand. In most times they present only the total quantity of tyres with no details about the category or per each piece and this makes difficult their verification and identification with the coupons at the final stage of the waste tyre management cycle.
- ◆ We observed the accumulation of huge quantities of used tyres in Vassiliko Cement Works, which had not been managed, despite the fact that the relevant fee was paid, and that these were included in the quantities reported to the European Commission as having being managed. We pointed out the serious dangers emerging from the accumulation of such large quantities of tyres.
- ◆ It turned out that, for some years, the quantity of tyres managed by the management unit (Vassiliko Cement Works) was much larger than the quantity of tyres received by it from WTMS, due to the receipt, over time, of additional quantities of tyres from importers and collectors/carriers operated outside the collective systems.
- ◆ Government paid the costs for the transportation and integrated management of waste tyres stored in Dali and Agios Sozomenos

industrial area, and while this cost should have been recovered from the owner company of the tyres, this has not realized yet.

- ◆ We noticed a weakness in a MB, regarding the renewal of the agreements with the tyre producers, members of the system. Also, new members were added to the abovementioned MB, for which the DE was not informed about.

**We suggested that DE, as the competent Authority, conducts systematic inspections of WTMS to ensure that the terms of their licenses as well as the obligations arising therefrom are met. Also, to reevaluate the way tyre management fee is being paid, so that the entire amount is not prepaid before the completion of the tyres management.**

The DE informed us that our recommendations will be considered, and that the systems will be informed accordingly, so that appropriate corrective action can be taken.