

Digitalization in waste management: NGS launches forward-looking project to digitize and document transboundary waste shipment procedures (notification)

What has been common practice in Germany for many years and has proven itself nationally since its introduction 13 years ago will soon also become standard for cross-border waste shipments in Lower Saxony. In the near future, waste management operators will then be able to apply for the notifications and the processing in the cross-border waste shipment at the Niedersächsische Gesellschaft zur Endablagerung von Sonderabfall mbH (NGS) as competent notification authority digitally by means of an electronic signature. Even the transmission and processing of the endless piles of movement documents can then be carried out electronically.

NGS, for its part, will then finally decide on the notifications – in this respect in anticipation of the upcoming amendment to the EC Waste Shipment Regulation¹ – in electronic form by means of official seals according to the European eIDAS standard. Commissioned by NGS, the software is currently being developed by the company "Infotech" located in Recklinghausen. The implementation will be based on the ZEDAL platform already existing within NGS, which is meanwhile widespread in electronic documentation not only nationally, but also in cross-border waste shipments throughout Europe.

The first "pilots" are scheduled to begin testing as early as summer 2023, with regular operation scheduled for 1 January 2024. Applications in paper form can then still be accepted for a transitional period, the processing of the notification documents and the decisions will only take place in digital form from that date.

NGS as ZEDAL provider for Northern Germany since 2004 is one of the pioneers in the digitalization of waste management processes. "With this project, NGS will once again play a pioneering role and promote digitalization for Lower Saxony also in cross-border waste shipments," explained Managing Director Dr. Bettina Schmidt-Kopp. "This means a significant relief for both the generating and the disposal industry in Lower Saxony without any restriction of existing quality standards in the processing of the complex notification procedures," emphasized Dr. Schmidt-Kopp.

¹ Regulation (EC) No 1013/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 June 2006 on shipments of waste