

Digitalization in waste management

NGS launches pioneering project for digitization and documentation of transboundary waste shipment procedures (notification)

What has already been common practice in Germany for many years and has meanwhile proven itself nationally since its introduction 13 years ago is soon to become standard for transboundary waste shipments in Lower Saxony as well. Notifications and processing in transboundary waste shipments can then be applied for digitally with an electronic signature by waste management participants at the Niedersächsische Gesellschaft zur Endablagerung von Sonderabfall mbH (NGS) as the competent authority. The extensive accompanying documents can then also be submitted and processed digitally.

The NGS, for its part, will then decide on the notification applications - in anticipation of the upcoming amendment to the EC Waste Shipment Regulation - in electronic form using the authority seal in accordance with the European eIDAS standard. The software is currently being developed by the company „Infotech“ from Recklinghausen, which has been commissioned by NGS for this purpose. Implementation will be based on the ZEDAL platform already in place at NGS, which is now widely used throughout Europe for electronic documentation, not only nationally but also in cross-border waste shipments.

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

NGS has been a ZEDAL provider for northern Germany since 2004 and is one of the pioneers in the field of digitization of waste management processes. „With this project, NGS will once again take on a pioneering role and advance digitalization for Lower Saxony in cross-border waste shipments as well,“ explained Managing Director Dr. Bettina Schmidt-Kopp. „This means a significant relief for the producing and disposing economy in Lower Saxony without any restrictions of the existing quality standards in the processing of the complex notification procedures“, Schmidt-Kopp emphasized.