

Classification of Waste Wood

Background

The Waste Wood Classification Project¹ began in September 2017 to identify potentially hazardous waste wood items and the extent to which they are still in circulation. As a result of findings to date, SEPA has developed this guidance.

Classification of Waste Wood

The following waste wood types must be segregated and consigned as hazardous waste to sites authorised to accept hazardous waste wood. These items must not be mixed or blended with non-hazardous waste wood.

- Railway sleepers
- Telegraph poles
- Waste wood from hydraulic engineering such as from docks
- Waste wood from industrial applications such as cooling tower timbers
- Waste wood from boats, carriages or trailer beds
- Waste wood treated with creosote
- Waste wood contaminated by other non-wood hazardous items (e.g. asbestos sheet)

Mixed waste wood from Household Waste Recycling Centres and construction and demolition sites which does not contain the items listed above, can be managed using the following non-hazardous codes provided it is destined for panelboard manufacture or IED Chapter IV compliant biomass plants.

- 20 01 38 – mixed waste wood from household waste recycling centres
- 17 02 01 – mixed waste wood from construction and demolition
- 19 12 07 – mixed waste wood from wood processing

Mixed waste wood is not suitable for any other destination. Only Grade A wood, as defined in the Wood Recyclers' Association (WRA) grading scheme², is suitable for markets such as animal bedding, horse menages or fuel for a biomass plant which is not IED chapter IV compliant.

Future Work

This guidance will be kept under review and is subject to the WRA and the National Federation of Demolition Contractors undertaking the following work;

- Continue monitoring the decline of hazardous content in decking and fencing items within the household waste stream.
- Continue to evidence and understand the quantities and types of hazardous waste wood arising from the demolition sector.

¹ A joint project between the Wood Recyclers' Association (WRA) and the four UK Environment Agencies

² <https://woodrecyclers.org/wp-content/uploads/WRA-Waste-Wood-Grades-updated-July-2021.pdf>

This guidance applies only in Scotland. The terms of this guidance may be subject to periodical review and be changed or withdrawn in light of technological, regulatory or legislative changes, future government guidance or experience of its use. SEPA reserves its discretion to depart from the guidance outlined here and to take appropriate action to avoid any risk of pollution or harm to human health or the environment