

## Regulatory position statement

### The disposal by burning (other than at a dockside) of waste plant tissue and wood as required under a Plant Health notice

**If you comply with the requirements below, we will allow the burning of waste plant tissue or wood used to wedge or support ship's cargo (dunnage), other than at the site of production.**

#### Background

'Dunnage' is waste plant tissue or wood of any kind – including packaging material, spacers and pallets – used to wedge or support ship's cargo. Dunnage needs to be burnt on arrival at a dockside to avoid beetles, etc. being introduced from abroad. The burning of dunnage at the dockside where the cargo is unloaded is exempt from environmental permitting.

For practical or logistical reasons, it is not always possible to burn all the waste plant tissue or wood at the dockside. Instead the waste is burnt at the place where the goods are delivered to, but this does not qualify for the exemption.

We are satisfied that there is no additional environmental risk to burning dunnage away from the docks provided it is done under a Plant Health notice issued by the Forestry Commission. Such notices are issued under Article 32 of the Plant Health (England) Order 2005 or Article 32 of the Plant Health (Wales) Order 2006.

#### Our approach

We will not pursue an application for an environmental permit for the activity where:

- The waste is kept securely before being burnt.
- Only the waste required to be disposed of under the Plant Health notice is burnt.
- The total quantity of waste burned or stored over any period of 24 hours does not exceed 10 tonnes.
- The waste is burnt as soon as is practicable following the removal of the product it is packaging.
- A copy of the Plant Health notice is kept by the person it is served on for up to six months following the burning and is made available to our officers on request.

- You meet the relevant objectives of the Waste Framework Directive;  
    '... ensuring that waste management is carried out without endangering human health, without harming the environment and in particular:  
        (i) without risk to water, air, soil, plants or animals;  
        (ii) without causing a nuisance through noise or odours; and  
        (iii) without adversely affecting the countryside or places of special interest.'

## Enforcement

In not pursuing an application for a permit, we will not normally take enforcement action unless the activity has caused, or is likely to cause, pollution or harm to health. For a more detailed explanation of this enforcement position, please see our [Enforcement and Sanctions](#) statement.

This regulatory position will be reviewed by July 2020.

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