

## **Standard rules SR2015 No15**

### **Waste electrical and electronic equipment authorised treatment facility (ATF) excluding ozone-depleting substances**

#### **Introductory note**

This introductory note does not form part of these standard rules.

When referred to in an environmental permit, these rules will allow the operator to operate a Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) authorised treatment facility at a specified location. The total quantity of waste that can be accepted at a site under these rules must be less than 25,000 tonnes a year.

The rules will not permit the treatment of WEEE containing ozone-depleting substances but it can be accepted for storage only. The treatment and storage of WEEE must meet the technical requirements of the WEEE Directive (2012/19/EU). Treatment of WEEE must be carried out using Best Available Treatment, Recovery and Recycling Techniques (BATRRRT). Guidance on BATRRRT is provided in the document “Guidance on Best Available Treatment, Recovery and Recycling Techniques (BATRRRT) and treatment of Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE)” published jointly by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the Welsh Assembly Government and the Scottish Executive.

WEEE treatment must be carried out inside a building. There must be no point source emissions to air outside the building. Treatment includes, dismantling, separation, shredding, screening, grading, baling, shearing, compacting, crushing, granulation, repair or refurbishment, or cutting of waste into different components for recovery.

The permitted activities must not be carried out within 200 metres of a European Site<sup>1</sup>, Ramsar site or a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). The activities shall not be carried out within 50m of any well spring or borehole used for the supply of water for human consumption. This must include private water supplies. These rules will also not permit the burning of any wastes, either in the open, inside buildings or in any form of incinerator.

These rules do not allow any point source emission into surface waters or groundwater. However, under the emissions of substances not controlled by emission limits rule:

- Liquids may be discharged into a sewer subject to a consent issued by the local water company.

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<sup>1</sup> A candidate or Special Area of Conservation (cSAC or SAC) and proposed or Special Protection Area (pSPA or SPA) in England and Wales.

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- Liquids may be taken off-site in a tanker for disposal or recovery.
  - Clean surface water from roofs, or from areas of the site that are not being used in connection with storing and treating waste, may be discharged directly to surface waters, or to groundwater by seepage through the soil via a soakaway.

**End of introductory note**

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# Rules

## 1 – Management

### 1.1 General management

1.1.1 The operator shall manage and operate the activities:

(a) in accordance with a written management system that identifies and minimises risks of pollution, including those arising from operations, maintenance, accidents, incidents, non-conformances, closure and those drawn to the attention of the operator as a result of complaints; and

(b) using sufficient competent persons and resources.

1.1.2 Records demonstrating compliance with rule 1.1.1 shall be maintained.

1.1.3 Any person having duties that are or may be affected by the matters set out in these standard rules shall have convenient access to a copy of them kept at or near the place where those duties are carried out.

1.1.4 The operator shall comply with the requirements of an approved competence scheme.

### 1.2 Avoidance, recovery and disposal of wastes produced by the activities

1.2.1 The operator shall take appropriate measures to ensure that:

(a) the waste hierarchy referred to in Article 4 of the Waste Framework Directive is applied to the generation of waste by the activities; and

(b) any waste generated by the activities is treated in accordance with the waste hierarchy referred to in Article 4 of the Waste Framework Directive; and

(c) where disposal is necessary, this is undertaken in a manner which minimises its impact on the environment.

1.2.2 The operator shall review and record at least every four years whether changes to those measures should be made and take any further appropriate measures identified by a review.

## 2 – Operations

### 2.1 Permitted activities

2.1.1 The operator is only authorised to carry out the activities specified in table 2.1 below (activities).

**Table 2.1 activities**

Description of activities	Limits of activities
<b>R13:</b> Storage of wastes pending any of the operations numbered R1 to R12 (excluding temporary storage, pending collection, on the site where it is produced)	Treatment consisting only of sorting, dismantling, separation, shredding, screening, grading, baling, shearing, compacting, crushing, granulation, repair or refurbishment, or cutting of waste into different components for recovery.
<b>R3:</b> Recycling/reclamation of organic substances which are not used as solvents	There shall be no treatment of WEEE containing ozone depleting substances.
<b>R4:</b> Recycling/reclamation of metals and metal compounds	There shall be no treatment of batteries except for sorting.
<b>R5:</b> Recycling/reclamation of other inorganic materials	There shall be no mechanical treatment of cooling equipment or display equipment.
<b>D15:</b> Storage pending any of the operations numbered D1 to D14 (excluding temporary storage, pending collection, on the site where it is produced)	The maximum quantity of non-hazardous waste subject to a shredding operation shall not exceed 75 tonnes per day.
	The maximum quantity of hazardous waste treated for disposal or recovery activity shall not exceed 10 tonnes per day. This does not include the manual sorting, manual dismantling, repair or refurbishment of WEEE.
	Wastes shall be stored for no longer than 1 year prior to disposal or 3 years prior to recovery.
	The maximum quantity of hazardous waste stored at the site shall not exceed 50 tonnes at any one time of which no more than 10 tonnes shall be stored for disposal. This does not include WEEE awaiting manual sorting, manual dismantling, repair or refurbishment.

## 2.2 Waste acceptance

2.2.1 Waste shall only be accepted if:

- (a) it is of a type and quantity listed in table 2.2 below; and
- (b) it conforms to the description in the documentation supplied by the producer and holder.

<b>Table 2.2 Waste types and quantities</b>	
<b>Maximum Quantities</b>	
The total quantity of waste accepted at the site shall be less than 25,000 tonnes a year of which the total quantity of batteries accepted shall be less than 5000 tonnes a year.	
<b>Exclusions</b>	
Wastes having any of the following characteristics shall not be accepted:	
• Consisting solely or mainly of dusts, powders or loose fibres	
<b>Waste Code</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>09</b>	<b>WASTES FROM THE PHOTOGRAPHIC INDUSTRY</b>
09 01	wastes from the photographic industry
09 01 11*	single-use cameras containing batteries included in 16 06 01, 16 06 02 or 16 06 03
09 01 12	single-use cameras containing batteries other than those mentioned in 09 01 11
<b>15</b>	<b>WASTE PACKAGING; ABSORBENTS, WIPING CLOTHS, FILTER MATERIALS AND PROTECTIVE CLOTHING NOT OTHERWISE SPECIFIED</b>
15 01	packaging (including separately collected municipal packaging waste)
15 01 06	mixed packaging
<b>16</b>	<b>WASTES NOT OTHERWISE SPECIFIED IN THE LIST</b>
16 02	wastes from electrical and electronic equipment
16 02 09*	transformers and capacitors containing PCBs
16 02 10*	discarded equipment containing or contaminated by PCBs other than those mentioned in 16 02 09
16 02 11*	discarded equipment containing chlorofluorocarbons, hydrochlorofluorocarbons and hydrofluorocarbons
16 02 12*	discarded equipment containing free asbestos
16 02 13*	discarded equipment containing hazardous components other than those mentioned in 16 02 09 to 16 02 12
16 02 14	discarded equipment other than those mentioned in 16 02 09 to 16 02.13
16 02 15*	hazardous components removed from discarded equipment
16 02 16	components removed from discarded equipment other than those mentioned in 16 02 15
16 06	batteries and accumulators
16 06 01*	lead batteries
16 06 02*	Ni-Cad batteries
16 06 03*	mercury-containing batteries
16 06 04	alkaline batteries (except 16 06 03)
16 06 05	other batteries and accumulators
<b>20</b>	<b>MUNICIPAL WASTES (HOUSEHOLD WASTE AND SIMILAR COMMERCIAL, INDUSTRIAL AND INSTITUTIONAL WASTES) INCLUDING SEPARATELY COLLECTED FRACTIONS</b>
20 01	separately collected fractions (except 15 01)
20 01 21*	fluorescent tubes and other mercury-containing waste
20 01 23*	discarded equipment containing chlorofluorocarbons
20 01 33*	Batteries and accumulators included in 16 06 01, 16 06 02 or 16 06 03 and unsorted batteries and accumulators containing these batteries.
20 01 34	Batteries and accumulators other than those mentioned in 20 01 33
20 01 35*	discarded electrical and electronic equipment other than those mentioned in 20 01 21 and 20 01 23 containing hazardous components

20 01 36	discarded electrical and electronic equipment other than those mentioned in 20 01 21, 20 01 23 and 20 01 35
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## 2.3 Operating techniques

2.3.1 The activities shall be operated using the techniques and in the manner described in Table 2.3 below.

**Table 2.3 Operating techniques**

1. You will follow the Fire Prevention Plan approved by the Environment Agency
2. Treatment of WEEE
  - shall be carried out within a building provided with a weatherproof covering;
  - shall be carried out on an impermeable surface with sealed drainage system with provision of spillage collection facilities and, where appropriate, decanters and cleanser degreasers.
3. Storage
  - All WEEE, disassembled spare parts, components materials and residues shall be stored on an impermeable surface with sealed drainage system with provision of spillage collection facilities and, where appropriate, decanters and cleanser degreasers;
  - Batteries, lamps, PCB/PCT containing capacitors and disassembled parts/components containing liquids or hazardous wastes must be stored in dedicated, labelled, sealed containers. Either the containers must provide weatherproof covering or the containers must be stored in areas with a weatherproof covering.
  - The following shall be stored in areas with a weatherproof covering or in sealed containers providing weatherproof covering:
    - a) WEEE, disassembled spare parts and components that may be re-used or may be used to provide spare parts;
    - b) Residues from any shredding or granulating operation;
    - c) Any WEEE containing liquids or hazardous waste which is damaged to the extent that the liquid or hazardous waste could be released.
4. Buildings, covered areas or containers shall meet the following requirements:
  - buildings, covered areas, or containers shall be designed, constructed and maintained to prevent ingress of rain and surface water;
  - rain and uncontaminated surface water shall be kept separate from contaminated water and other liquids;
  - containers shall be stored on an impermeable surface with sealed drainage system.

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## 2.4 The site

- 2.4.1 The activities shall not extend beyond the site, being the land shown edged in green on the site plan attached to the permit.
- 2.4.2 The activities shall not be carried out within 200 metres of a European Site or a SSSI.
- 2.4.3 The activities shall not be carried out within 50m of any well spring or borehole used for the supply of water for human consumption. This includes private water supplies.

## 2.5 Technical requirements

- 2.5.1 WEEE shall be treated using best available treatment, recovery and recycling techniques (BATRRRT).
- 2.5.2 Hazardous waste shall not be mixed, either with a different category of hazardous waste or with other waste, substances or materials, unless it is authorised by table 2.1 and appropriate measures are taken.
- 2.5.3 As a minimum, the substances, preparations and components specified in table 2.4 shall be removed from any separately collected WEEE unless the WEEE is being prepared for re-use or the operator has taken appropriate measures to ensure their removal following transfer off site.

**Table 2.4 Substances, preparations and components to be removed from separately collected WEEE**

- Capacitors containing Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB)
- Mercury-containing components, such as switches or backlighting lamps
- Batteries
- Printed circuit boards of mobile phones generally, and of other devices if the surface of the printed circuit board is greater than 10 square centimetres
- Toner cartridges, liquid and paste, as well as colour toner
- Plastic containing brominated flame retardants
- Asbestos waste and components which contain asbestos
- Cathode ray tubes
- Hydrofluorocarbons (HFC), or hydrocarbons (HC)
- Gas discharge lamps
- Liquid crystal displays (together with their casing where appropriate) of a surface greater than 100 square centimetres and all those back-lighted with gas discharge lamps

- External electric cables
- Components containing refractory ceramic fibres
- Components containing radioactive substances with the exception of components that are below the exemption thresholds set in Article 3 of and the Annex I to Council Directive 96/29/Euratom of 13 May 1996 laying down basic safety standards for the protection of the health of workers and the general public against the dangers arising from ionising radiation
- Electrolytic capacitors containing “substances of concern” (height > 25mm, diameter > 25 mm or proportionately similar volume)

2.5.4 All fluids contained within any WEEE shall be removed prior to further treatment.

2.5.5 Separately collected components of WEEE specified in table 2.5 shall be treated in accordance with the methods specified in that table unless the WEEE is being prepared for re-use or the operator has taken appropriate measures to ensure their removal following transfer off site.

<b>Table 2.5 Specified Treatment Methods for separately collected components of WEEE</b>	
<b>Component</b>	<b>Specified Treatment</b>
Cathode ray tubes	The fluorescent coating shall be removed.
Equipment containing hydrofluorocarbons or hydrocarbons such as refrigeration and cooling equipment	The gases must be properly extracted and properly treated.
Gas discharge lamps	The mercury shall be removed.

2.5.6 Equipment shall be provided to record the weight of untreated WEEE accepted at, and components and materials leaving the site.

### **3 – Emissions and monitoring**

#### **3.1 Emissions of substances not controlled by emission limits**

3.1.1 There shall be no point source emissions to air from the site.

3.1.2 Emissions of substances not controlled by emission limits (excluding odour) shall not cause pollution. The operator shall not be taken to have breached this rule if appropriate measures, including, but not limited to, those specified in any approved emissions management plan, have been taken to prevent or where that is not practicable, to minimise, those emissions.

3.1.3 The operator shall:



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- (a) if notified by the Environment Agency that the activities are giving rise to pollution, submit to the Environment Agency for approval within the period specified, an emissions management plan;
  - (b) implement the approved emissions management plan, from the date of approval, unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Environment Agency.
- 3.1.4 All liquids in containers, whose emission to water or land could cause pollution, shall be provided with secondary containment, unless the operator has used other appropriate measures to prevent or where that is not practicable, to minimise, leakage and spillage from the primary container.

## **3.2 Odour**

- 3.2.1 Emissions from the activities shall be free from odour at levels likely to cause pollution outside the site, as perceived by an authorised officer of the Environment Agency, unless the operator has used appropriate measures, including, but not limited to, those specified in any approved odour management plan, to prevent or where that is not practicable, to minimise, the odour.
- 3.2.2 The operator shall:
- (a) if notified by the Environment Agency that the activities are giving rise to pollution outside the site due to odour, submit to the Environment Agency for approval within the period specified, an odour management plan;
  - (b) implement the approved odour management plan, from the date of approval, unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Environment Agency.

## **3.3 Noise and vibration**

- 3.3.1 Emissions from the activities shall be free from noise and vibration at levels likely to cause pollution outside the site, as perceived by an authorised officer of the Environment Agency, unless the operator has used appropriate measures, including, but not limited to, those specified in any approved noise and vibration management plan, to prevent or where that is not practicable, to minimise, the noise and vibration.
- 3.3.2 The operator shall:
- (a) if notified by the Environment Agency that the activities are giving rise to pollution outside the site due to noise and vibration, submit to the Environment Agency for approval within the period specified, a noise and vibration management plan;
  - (b) implement the approved noise and vibration management plan, from the date of approval, unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Environment Agency.

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## **4 – Information**

### **4.1 Records**

4.1.1 All records required to be made by these standard rules shall:

- (a) be legible;
- (b) be made as soon as reasonably practicable;
- (c) if amended, be amended in such a way that the original and any subsequent amendments remain legible or are capable of retrieval; and
- (d) be retained, unless otherwise agreed by the Environment Agency, for at least 6 years from the date when the records were made, or in the case of the following records until permit surrender:
  - (i) off-site environmental effects; and
  - (ii) matters which affect the condition of land and groundwater.

4.1.2 The operator shall keep on site all records, plans and the management system required to be maintained by these standard rules, unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Environment Agency.

### **4.2 Reporting**

4.2.1 The operator shall send all reports and notifications required by these standard rules to the Environment Agency using the contact details supplied in writing by the Environment Agency.

4.2.2 Within one month of the end of each quarter, the operator shall submit to the Environment Agency using the form made available for the purpose, the information specified on the form relating to the site and the waste accepted and removed from it during the previous quarter.

### **4.3 Notifications**

4.3.1 The Environment Agency shall be notified without delay following the detection of:

- (a) any malfunction, breakdown or failure of equipment or techniques, accident or emission of a substance not controlled by an emission limit which has caused, is causing or may cause significant pollution;
- (b) the breach of a limit specified in these standard rules; or
- (c) any significant adverse environmental effects.

4.3.2 Written confirmation of actual or potential pollution incidents and breaches of emission limits shall be submitted within 24 hours.

4.3.3 Where the Environment Agency has requested in writing that it shall be notified when the operator is to undertake monitoring and/or spot sampling, the operator shall inform the Environment Agency when the relevant monitoring and/or spot sampling is to take place. The operator shall provide this information to the Environment Agency at least 14 days before the date the monitoring is to be undertaken.

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4.3.4 The Environment Agency shall be notified within 14 days of the occurrence of the following matters except where such disclosure is prohibited by Stock Exchange rules:

a) Where the operator is a registered company:

- any change in the operator's trading name, registered name or registered office address; and
- any steps taken with a view to the operator going into administration, entering into a company voluntary arrangement or being wound up.

b) Where the operator is a corporate body other than a registered company:

- any change in the operator's name or address; and
- any steps taken with a view to the dissolution of the operator.

c) In any other case:

- the death of any of the named operators (where the operator consists of more than one named individual);
- any change in the operator's name(s) or address(es); and
- any steps taken with a view to the operator, or any one of them, going into bankruptcy, entering into a composition or arrangement with creditors, or, in the case them being in a partnership, dissolving the partnership.

## **4.4 Interpretation**

4.4.1 In these standard rules the expressions listed below shall have the meaning given.

4.4.2 In these standard rules references to reports and notifications mean written reports and notifications, except when reference is being made to notification being made "without delay", in which case it may be provided by telephone.

"accident" means an accident that may result in pollution.

"authorised officer" means any person authorised by the Environment Agency under section 108(1) of The Environment Act 1995 to exercise, in accordance with the terms of any such authorisation, any power specified in Section 108(4) of that Act.

"best available treatment, recovery and recycling techniques" shall have the meaning given to it in the document published jointly by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the Welsh Assembly Government and the Scottish Executive on 27th November 2006, entitled "Guidance on Best Available Treatment, Recovery and Recycling Techniques (BATRRT) and Treatment of Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE);

"building" means a construction that has the objective of providing sheltering cover and minimising emissions of noise, particulate matter, odour and litter.

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“controlled substances” means chlorofluorocarbons, other fully halogenated chlorofluorocarbons, halons, carbon tetrachloride, 1,1,1-trichloroethane, methyl bromide, hydrobromofluorocarbons and hydrochlorofluorocarbons listed in Annex I of Regulation (EC) No 2037/2000 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 June 2000 on substances that deplete the ozone layer, including their isomers, whether alone or in a mixture, and whether they are virgin, recovered, recycled or reclaimed.

“D” means a disposal operation provided for in Annex I to Directive 2008/98/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 November 2008 on Waste.

“emissions of substances not controlled by emission limits” means emissions of substances to air, water or land from the activities, either from emission points specified in these standard rules or from other localised or diffuse sources, which are not controlled by an emission limit.

“European Site” means a European site within the meaning of Regulation 8 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017.

“groundwater” means all water, which is below the surface of the ground in the saturation zone and in direct contact with the ground or subsoil.

“hazardous waste” has the meaning given in the Hazardous Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2005 (as amended).

“impermeable surface” means a surface or pavement constructed and maintained to a standard sufficient to prevent the transmission of liquids beyond the pavement surface, and should be read in conjunction with the term “sealed drainage system” (below).

“ozone-depleting substances” “ODS” means “controlled substances” contained in refrigeration, air-conditioning and heat pump equipment, equipment containing solvents, fire protection systems and fire extinguishers.

“pollution” means emissions as a result of human activity which may—

- (a) be harmful to human health or the quality of the environment,
- (b) cause offence to a human sense,
- (c) result in damage to material property, or
- (d) impair or interfere with amenities and other legitimate uses of the environment.

“quarter” means a calendar year quarter commencing on 1 January, 1 April, 1 July or 1 October.

“R” means a recovery operation provided for in Annex II to Directive 2008/98/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 November 2008 on Waste.

“sealed drainage system” in relation to an impermeable surface, means a drainage system with impermeable components which does not leak and which will ensure that:

- (a) no liquid will run off the surface otherwise than via the system;
- (b) except where they may lawfully be discharged to foul sewer, all liquids entering the system are collected in a sealed sump.

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“SSSI” means Site of Special Scientific Interest within the meaning of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000).

“Waste code” means the six digit code referable to a type of waste in accordance with the List of Wastes and in relation to hazardous waste, includes the asterisk. ‘List of Wastes’ means the list of wastes established by Commission Decision 2000/532/EC replacing Decision 94/3/EC establishing a list of wastes pursuant to Article 1(a) of Council Directive 75/442/EEC on waste and Council Decision 94/904/EC establishing a list of hazardous waste pursuant to Article 1(4) of Council Directive 91/689/EEC on hazardous waste, as amended from time to time.

“weatherproof covering” means covering which will prevent the ingress of rainwater.

“WEEE” means waste electrical and electronic equipment and has the meaning given by Regulation 2 of The Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Regulations 2013.

“WEEE Directive” means Directive 2012/19/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 4<sup>th</sup> July 2012 on waste electrical and electronic equipment..

“where appropriate” in relation to weatherproof covering means where weatherproof covering is required to minimise the contamination of clean surface and rain waters, to facilitate the reuse of whole appliances and components intended for reuse, to assist in the containment of hazardous materials and fluids or where hazardous WEEE is stored.

“year” means calendar year commencing on 1<sup>st</sup> January.

When the following terms appear in the waste code list in table 2.2 for that table they have the meaning given below:

‘hazardous substance’ means a substance classified as hazardous as a consequence of fulfilling the criteria laid down in parts 2 to 5 of Annex I to Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008

‘heavy metal’ means any compound of antimony, arsenic, cadmium, chromium (VI), copper, lead, mercury, nickel, selenium, tellurium, thallium and tin, as well as these materials in metallic form, as far as these are classified as hazardous substances

‘PCBs’ means

- polychlorinated biphenyls
- polychlorinated terphenyls
- monomethyl-tetrachlorodiphenyl methane, Monomethyl-dichloro-diphenyl methane, Monomethyldibromo-diphenyl methane
- any mixture containing any of the above mentioned substances in a total of more than 0,005 %by weight

‘transition metals’ means any of the following metals: any compound of scandium, vanadium, manganese, cobalt, copper, yttrium, niobium, hafnium, tungsten, titanium, chromium, iron, nickel, zinc, zirconium, molybdenum and tantalum, as

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well as these materials in metallic form, as far as these are classified as hazardous substances.

‘stabilisation’ means processes which change the hazardousness of the constituents in the waste and transform hazardous waste into non-hazardous waste.

‘solidification’ means processes which only change the physical state of the waste by using additives without changing the chemical properties of the waste.

‘partly stabilised wastes’ means wastes containing, after the stabilisation process, hazardous constituents which have not been changed completely into non-hazardous constituents and could be released into the environment in the short, middle or long term.

**End of standard rules**