

# WAS-G-HAZ-06

Classification of Waste Wood

## Version 2.0 – August 2025

## Introduction

This guidance provides advice on the classification of waste wood.

## Hazardous Waste Wood Items

Unless analysed to demonstrate otherwise, 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 treated with creosote
* 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 contaminated by other non-wood hazardous items (e.g. asbestos sheet)

## Mixed Waste Wood not containing hazardous items

Mixed waste wood from Household Waste Recycling Centres and demolition sites which does not contain the items above, can be classified as non-hazardous using the following codes:

* 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

## Uses of mixed waste wood

Only segregated, visibly clean and untreated waste wood (Grade A wood, as defined in the Wood Recyclers’ Association (WRA) grading scheme) is suitable for uses such as composting, animal bedding, horse ménages or combustion in an incinerator or co-incinerator which is not Industrial Emissions Directive (IED) Chapter IV compliant.

Treated non-hazardous waste wood is unsuitable for any of the activities listed above. However, it is suitable for combustion in an incinerator or co-incinerator which is Industrial Emissions Directive (IED) Chapter IV compliant or for the manufacture of engineered or composite board.

**Disclaimer**

This guidance is based on the law as it stood when the guidance was published.

Whilst every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this guidance, SEPA gives no warranty, covenant or undertaking (express or implied) regarding the fitness for purpose of, or any error, omission or discrepancy in this guidance. Reliance on its contents and the contents of any websites that are linked to or from this guidance is entirely at the user’s own risk. SEPA is not liable for any loss or damage that may come from using this guidance. This includes:

* any direct, indirect and consequential losses
* any loss or damage caused by civil wrongs, breach of contract or otherwise

SEPA reserves the right to depart from this guidance and take appropriate action as it considers necessary or appropriate.  Applicants and authorised persons are responsible for ensuring that they are compliant with the law. If necessary, independent legal / specialist advice should be sought.

If you would like this document in an accessible format, such as large print, audio recording or braille, please contact SEPA by emailing equalities@sepa.org.uk