



Statutory guidance

SR2022 No 1: treatment of waste to produce soil, soil substitutes and aggregate

Updated 1 May 2026

Applies to England

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Introductory note

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

When referred to in an environmental permit these rules will allow the operation of a waste facility where soils, soil substitutes and aggregates are manufactured from wastes at a specified location, providing that the permitted activities are not within:

- 500 metres of a European site, Ramsar, Site of Special Scientific Interest or Marine Conservation Zone;
- 250 metres within the presence of Great Crested Newts where it is linked to the breeding ponds of the newts by good habitat;
- 50 metres of a National Nature Reserve, Local Nature Reserve, Local Wildlife Site, Ancient woodland or Scheduled Ancient Monument;
- 50 metres of a site that has species or habitats protected under the Biodiversity Action Plan that the Environment Agency considers at risk to this activity;
- 10 metres of a watercourse;
- a groundwater source protection zone 1;
- an Air Quality Management Area designated for particulate matter PM₁₀.
- treatment must be done within a building, or in accordance with measures specified in Technique 2, Operating techniques if its within 200 metres of a workplace or residential dwelling

These rules will permit:

- sorting, separation, screening, crushing, and blending
- acceptance of waste types in Table 2.3a to produce aggregates
- acceptance of waste types in Table 2.3b to produce soils and soil substitutes

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, so far as is reasonably practicable, including those risks 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 or the permit shall have convenient access to a copy of the permit and the rules.

1.1.4 The operator shall comply with the requirements of an approved competence scheme (or other approval issued by the Environment Agency).

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

Table 2.1

Activity reference	Description of specified activity	Limits of specified activity
AR1 - treatment of waste to produce soil, soil substitutes and aggregates.	R3: Recycling and reclamation of organic substances which are not used as solvents. R5: Recycling and reclamation of other inorganic materials.	Treatment is limited to sorting, separation, screening, crushing and blending of waste for recovery as a soil, soil substitute or aggregate. Treatment does not include soil or aggregate washing. No more than 75,000 tonnes of waste types listed in Table 2.3b, except soil and stones waste code 17 05 04 shall be accepted per year. No more than 250,000 tonnes of waste in total shall be accepted per year. Treatment of slags and ashes for recovery shall not exceed 75 tonnes per day. Wastes used to produce aggregate are limited to those waste codes and types listed in Table 2.3a. Wastes used to produce soil and soil substitutes are limited to those waste codes and types listed in Table 2.3b.

- (d) 250 metres within the presence of Great Crested Newts where it is linked to the breeding ponds of the newts by good habitat;
- (e) 10 metres of a watercourse;
- (f) a groundwater source protection zone 1;
- (g) an Air Quality Management Area designated for particulate matter PM₁₀.

2.3 Waste acceptance

2.3.1 Waste shall only be accepted at the site if all the following apply:

- (a) it is of a type listed in this rule and in Tables 2.3a or 2.3b.
- (b) it conforms to the description in the documentation supplied by the producer and holder.
- (c) its chemical, physical and biological characteristics make it suitable for the treatment intended for it; and
- (d) in the case of soils other than from domestic premises, road subbase and road planings, you have obtained the following in writing:
 - information about the pollutants that could be present in the waste; and
 - an assessment to determine if the waste has hazardous properties based on representative sampling and analysis; and
 - confirmation of the appropriate waste code, based on the assessment.

2.3.2 Any waste that does not comply with rule 2.3.1 shall be rejected and:

- removed from the site; or

- (d) a combination of fixed and mobile dust suppression units shall be used to control point sources of dust;
- (e) wind breaks shall be used to minimise wind whip and dust from stockpiles and the treatment area;
- (f) plant shall be inspected daily and managed to ensure it is operating to minimise the generation of dust;
- (g) plant and the areas around it and including access roads shall be cleaned to prevent dust generation.

Technique 3

Waste listed in Tables 2.3a and 2.3b shall be stored, treated and handled on either a hardstanding or an impermeable surface with a sealed drainage system.

Technique 4

Waste listed in Table 2.3c shall be stored, treated and handled on an impermeable surface with a sealed drainage system, when located within a groundwater source protection zone 2.

Technique 6

All sumps, tanks, lagoons, collection points and channels in the drainage system shall be inspected daily and managed to prevent the escape of contaminated water from the site.

Improvement condition

Operators of existing facilities (permits issued before 18 December 2024) shall by 18 December 2025 comply with Technique 2.

3. Emissions and monitoring

3.1 Emissions and monitoring

3.2.1 Emissions from the activities shall be free from dust 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 dust management plan, to prevent or where that is not practicable, to minimise, the dust.

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 dust, submit to the Environment Agency for approval within the period specified, a dust management plan.
- (b) implement the approved dust management plan, from the date of approval, unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Environment Agency.

3.3 Odour

3.3.1 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.

3.3.2 The operator shall:

- (a) if notified by the Environment Agency that the activities are giving rise to pollution outside the site due to odour, submit to the Environment Agency for approval within the period specified, a revised odour management plan which identifies and minimises the risks of pollution from odour.
- (b) implement the approved revised odour management plan, from the date of approval, unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Environment Agency.

(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 in writing 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:

- off-site environmental effects; and
- matters which affect the condition of the land and groundwater.

4.1.2 The operator shall maintain convenient access, in either electronic or hard copy, to the records, plans and management system required to be maintained by this permit.

4.2 Reporting

4.2.1 All reports and notifications required by these standard rules shall be made in writing, using the contact details supplied by the Environment Agency. Where reports and notifications must be made immediately they may be provided verbally.

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.

4.2.3 The operator shall keep records of the material exported from the site as non-waste including the type of material, the tonnage of material, the batch number and the date of export. These records shall be maintained for at least 2 years.

4.2.4 In the event:

- inform the Environment Agency;
- take the measures necessary to limit the environmental consequences of such an incident or accident; and
- take the measures necessary to prevent further possible incidents or accidents.

(b) of a breach of any permit condition the operator must immediately:

- inform the Environment Agency; and
- take the measures necessary to ensure that compliance is restored within the shortest possible time.

(c) of a breach of permit condition which poses an immediate danger to human health or threatens to cause an immediate significant adverse effect on the environment, the operator must immediately suspend the operation of the activities or the relevant part of it until compliance with the permit conditions has been restored.

4.3.2 Written confirmation of actual or potential pollution incidents and breaches of emissions 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.

4.3.4 Following the detection of an issue listed in rule 4.2.4 the operator shall review and revise the management system, and implement any changes as necessary to minimise the risk of reoccurrence of the issue.

4.3.5 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.

‘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.

‘building’ means a permanent enclosure designed to protect against the weather, minimise noise breakthrough and prevent releases of dust from the building.

‘CIRIA C736 Containment systems for the prevention of pollution’ means the updated guidance published in 2014.

‘D’ means a disposal operation provided for in Annex I to Directive 2008/98/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on waste.

‘disposal’ means any of the operations provided for in Annex IIA to Directive 2006/12/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 April 2006 on Waste.

‘emissions management plan’ (EMP) means a plan which is informed by a risk assessment and which sets out site-specific control measures to prevent and minimise the risk and impact of pollution due to emissions from the site. Different EMPs should be produced for different pollutants, for example, odour, noise and vibration, dust and particulates, mud, litter. These EMPs form part of the site’s management system.

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

‘European site’ means a European site within the meaning of Regulation 8 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017, and refers to a candidate or Special Area of Conservation and proposed or Special Protection Area in England and Wales.

‘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.

‘groundwater source protection zone 1’ means a zone within 50m of a point at which water is abstracted for domestic or food production purposes from any underground strata, or defined by a 50-day travel time for

(c) result in damage to material property; or

(d) impair or interfere with amenities and other legitimate uses of the environment.

Where pollution relates to an offence to the senses, this shall be as perceived by an authorised officer of the Environment Agency.

‘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.

‘recovery’ means any of the operations provided for in Annex IIB to Directive 2006/12/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 April 2006 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:

(e) no liquid will run off the surface otherwise than via the system

(f) except where they may lawfully be discharged to foul sewer, all liquids entering the system are collected in a sealed sump

‘secure’ means that all reasonable precautions are taken to ensure that the waste cannot escape and that members of the public are unable to gain access to the waste.

‘Site of Special Scientific Interest’ is 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.

‘workplace or residential dwelling’ means a place where people are likely to be present for more than 6 hours at any one time. This does not apply to the operators of the permitted facility, their staff when they are at work or to

10 Wastes from thermal processes

Waste code	Waste type
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10 01	Wastes from power stations and other combustion plants (except 19)
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10 01 01	Bottom ash and slag
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10 01 02	Pulverised fuel ash
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10 01 15	Bottom ash and slag from co-incineration other than those mentioned in 10 01 14
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10 02	Wastes from the iron and steel industry
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10 02 01	Blast furnace slag filter bed media free from sewage contamination
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10 11	Wastes from manufacture of glass and glass products
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10 11 12	Clean glass other than those mentioned in 10 11 11
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10 12	Wastes from manufacture of ceramic goods, bricks, tiles and construction products
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10 12 08	Ceramics, bricks, tiles and construction products (after thermal processing)
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10 13	Wastes from manufacture of cement, lime and plaster and articles and products made from them
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10 13 14	Concrete
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15 Waste packaging, absorbents, wiping cloths, filter materials and protective clothing not otherwise specified

Waste code	Waste type
17 05 04	Soil and stones other than those mentioned in 17 05 03 including stone filter media free from sewage contamination
17 05 06	Dredging spoil other than those mentioned in 17 05 05 (sand and aggregate only)
17 05 08	Track ballast other than those mentioned in 17 05 07
17 09	Other construction and demolition wastes
17 09 04	Mixtures of soil, bricks, stones and concrete
19 Wastes from waste management facilities, off-site waste water treatment plants and the preparation of water intended for human consumption and water for industrial use	
Waste code	Waste type
19 08	Wastes from waste water treatment plants not otherwise specified
19 08 02	Washed sewage grit (waste from desanding) free from sewage contamination
19 12	Wastes from the mechanical treatment of waste (for example sorting, crushing, compacting, pelletising) not otherwise specified
19 12 05	Glass free from contamination
19 12 09	Minerals (for example sand, stones)
19 12 12	Incinerator bottom ash aggregate (IBAA)

Waste code	Waste type
02 01	Wastes from agriculture, horticulture, aquaculture, forestry, hunting and fishing
02 01 01	soil from cleaning and washing vegetables
02 03	wastes from fruit, vegetables, cereals, edible oils, cocoa, coffee, tea and tobacco preparation and processing; conserve production; yeast and yeast extract production, molasses preparation and fermentation
02 03 01	soil from cleaning and washing vegetables
02 04	wastes from sugar processing
02 04 01	soil from cleaning and washing beet
03 Wastes from wood processing and the production of panels and furniture, pulp, paper and cardboard	
Waste code	Waste type
03 01	Wastes from wood processing and the production of panels and furniture
03 01 01	Bark and cork
03 03	Wastes from pulp, paper and cardboard production and processing
03 03 01	Bark and wood

10 Wastes from thermal processes

Waste code	Waste type
19 05	Wastes from aerobic treatment of solid wastes
19 05 03	Compost from source segregated biodegradable waste
19 09	Wastes from the preparation of water intended for human consumption or water for industrial use
19 09 02	Sludges from water clarification
19 12	Wastes from the mechanical treatment of waste (for example sorting, crushing, compacting, pelletising) not otherwise specified
19 12 09	Minerals (sand)
19 13	Wastes from soil and groundwater remediation
19 13 02	Solid wastes from soil remediation other than those mentioned in 19 13 01
19 13 04	Sludges from soil remediation other than those mentioned in 19 13 03
20 Municipal wastes (household waste and similar commercial, industrial and institutional wastes) including separately collected fractions	
Waste code	Waste type
20 02	Garden and park wastes (including cemetery waste)
20 02 02	Soil and stones

Waste codes	Waste type
17 05	Soil (including excavated soil from contaminated sites), stones and dredging spoil
17 05 06	Dredging spoil other than those mentioned in 17 05 05
17 08	Gypsum-based construction material
17 08 02	Gypsum other than that mentioned in 17 08 01
19 Wastes from waste management facilities, off-site waste water treatment plants and the preparation of water intended for human consumption and water for industrial use	
Waste codes	Waste type
19 05	Wastes from aerobic treatment of solid wastes
19 05 03	Compost from source segregated biodegradable waste
19 09	Wastes from the preparation of water intended for human consumption or water for industrial use
19 09 02	Sludges from water clarification
19 12	Wastes from the mechanical treatment of waste (for example sorting, crushing, compacting, pelleting) not otherwise specified
19 12 12	Incinerator bottom ash aggregate (IBAA)
19 13	Wastes from soil and groundwater remediation
19 13 02	Solid wastes from soil remediation other than those mentioned in 19 13 01