Persimmon PLC	lssue Ref:	ENV006
Environmental Alert	Issued:	AS
Bulletin Issue Sheet	Revision:	-

Topic:	Waste Exemptions

Original Issued By:	Andrew Staufenbiel	Original Issue Date:	10/01/2024
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Distribution	Х	Commercial	Finance	Х	Administration/MD
	х	Technical	Sales		Land
	х	Construction	Customer Care	х	PLC
			IQC		

Description

From April 2024 waste exemptions (in England & Wales) are changing.

What is happening?

The Regulator is imposing a number of changes across various waste exemptions – tightening up the waste exemption regime, to help reduce waste crime.

Changes to the U1 waste exemption mean that the number of scenarios allowing for waste materials to be used on construction sites is becoming more prescriptive/limited.

For example, development sites can currently import up to 1,000 tonnes of non-hazardous soil and or up to 5,000 tonnes of aggregates for construction purposes. However, from April 2024 this is changing.

Stricter limits are being introduced, whereby wastes will only be able to be used to 'construct and maintain surfaces and barriers' and only for **one construction activity** i.e. you can't import aggregates for road sub-base <u>and</u> soils to create a noise bund. Also, under the change soils will not be allowed to be used to raise levels on a development.

Furthermore, the Regulator is reducing the amount of waste(s) which can be brought on to site and subsequently used. See below for examples:

Up to 500m3 of wastes will be allowed for constructing the following:

- Tracks, footpaths and bridleways
- Sub-base for roads
- Hardstanding around gateways / parking
- Construction site access

Limits apply on the type of materials and depth at which materials can be used.

The Regulator will also be asking for chemical testing data to ensure any wastes, such as soil, recycled aggregates etc. being brought onto construction sites are non-hazardous, from a waste classification perspective.

What does this mean?

It is important to be aware of these changes even if you do not regularly use waste exemptions. *Aggregates* Many sites import 6F2 for using in site compounds, materials storage areas, piling mats etc. This material is considered a 'waste' as it will not have been produced in accordance with the Aggregate Quality Protocol or any relevant British Standard.

Furthermore, groundworks contractors often import and use recycled materials on our sites when constructing roads etc.

Soils

Under the changes soils will only be allowed to be used in very limited applications i.e. create small noise bunds etc.

Soils used under a **Materials Management Plan** will not be affected by these changes. However, it may mean that we see an increase in the use of MMP's to compensate for the reduced activities whereby soils can presently be used e.g. soils will no longer be able to be used to raise levels using a U1 exemption.

See <u>here</u> for further details.

Action Required

Commercial

1 – share this Alert with all relevant subcontractors ahead of the upcoming changes e.g. groundworks.
2 – where subcontractors are bringing recycled aggregates onto our sites e.g. road sub-base, ensure they are aware of the relevant requirements e.g. if importing waste materials that suitable chemical testing is available or that materials are produced in accordance with the Agg QP are not considered waste
3 – ensure you are aware of the requirements when ordering recycled aggregates i.e. make sure to refer to the guidance below.

Technical

1 – Check the EA public register for U1 exemptions registered on our sites (some may be registered on our behalf of us by subcontractors). If activities involving the use of waste materials have ceased, de-register the exemption. This can be done by emailing the Waste Exemption team of the relevant regulator – for advice on this contact your Group HS&E Advisor.

Ensure you understand, and follow, the requirements of the Waste Management Standard and Guidance Note in respect of soil reuse and recycled aggregates.

EMS-STD-Waste Management EMS-GU-Recycled Aggregate Purchasing & Use EMS-FOR-Recycled Aggregate Checklist Revision/Update Details