

# Waste Wood Assessment Guidance for the UK Waste Wood Industry

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woodrecyclers.org



The Voice of the Waste Wood Industry

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# 1.0 Introduction

This guidance has been produced by the Wood Recyclers' Association (WRA) on behalf of the wider UK waste wood industry to help those involved in the collection and processing of waste wood. It will ensure that waste wood is properly classified at its origin and is processed into appropriate end markets. It also helps identify which waste wood items are hazardous in accordance with Technical Guidance WM3 and has been produced with the support of the Environment Agency (EA). The other three UK Environmental regulators, Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA), Natural Resources Wales (NRW) and Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) have been fully involved in the Waste Wood Classification Project from the outset, but their regulatory positions on the outcome of this work differ to those of the EA. Further information on this can be found in Section 1.4.

It includes a simple to use visual guide on various waste wood items that are likely to arise in the UK and confirms whether they are clean and untreated, treated and non-hazardous or treated and hazardous.

The WRA would like to extend their thanks to all those who have been involved in the Waste Wood Classification Project, which has culminated in this guidance and closely aligned guidance produced by the CIWM C&D Waste Forum for the construction and demolition sectors.

The key partners involved in this work are listed below:



































# 1.1 Executive Summary of the Waste Wood Classification Project

Early in 2017, concerns were raised about the potential for mis-describing waste wood and confusion about which waste wood items were hazardous. The WRA was approached by the Environment Agency to lead a project on behalf of the wider waste wood industry to ensure that:

- 1. Waste wood is properly classified at its origin
- 2. Waste wood is not mis-described and is processed into appropriate end uses
- 3. There is a clear understanding of which items of waste wood are hazardous

#### Waste wood can be:

- Visibly clean and chemically untreated (WRA Grade A)
- Chemically treated, non-hazardous (WRA Grades B or C, depending on source and content)
- Or chemically treated and hazardous (WRA Grade D)

Further information on these grades can be seen in Table 4, WRA Grades of Waste Wood

It is difficult to identify chemical treatments which have been applied to wood as some are invisible to the naked eye. This guide therefore highlights which category each waste wood item fits into.

Although the majority of waste wood from mixed sources such as household waste recycling centres (HWRCs), demolition sites and skip operators/transfer stations is non hazardous, a small proportion is potentially hazardous and will need to be segregated and assessed in-line with this guidance and treated in accordance with table 4, WRA Grades of Waste Wood.



# 1.2 Summary of the Desk Based Research

The Waste Wood Classification (WWC) project began in the autumn of 2017 with the collection of desk-based research on treatments applied to waste wood items and whether they were likely to be hazardous or not.

The UK market for treated wood products can be split by application and 'Use Class'.

Table 1: Use Class and typical service situations

Use Class	Service Situation	Typical Service Situation	Examples
1	Above ground, covered. Permanently dry.	Internal, with no risk of wetting.	Floor boards, timber in internal partition walls, architraves, skirting, internal joinery including doors, frames, stairs and stair parts, furniture.
2	Above ground, covered. Occasional risk of wetting or insect attack.	Internal, with risk of wetting.	Roof timbers, tiling battens, frame timbers in timber frame houses, ground floor joists, sole plates (above dpc), timber joists in upper floors built into external walls.
3	Coated above ground, protected. Exposed to frequent wetting. Uncoated above ground not protected. Exposed to frequent wetting.	External, above damp- proof course (dpc) coated. External, above damp- proof course (dpc) uncoated.	External joinery including windows, doors, roof soffits and fascias, bargeboards, cladding etc. Fence rails and boards, agricultural timbers not in soil / manure contact and decking not in contact with the ground.
4	In contact with ground or fresh water. Permanently exposed to wetting.	Timbers in permanent contact with the ground or below dpc. Timbers in permanent contact with fresh water.	Fence posts, gravel boards, agricultural timbers in soil / manure, Earth-retaining walls, poles, sleepers, playground equipment, motorway & highway fencing and garden decking timbers that are in contact with the ground. Lock gates and revetments. Cooling tower packing (fresh water).

Softwood timber used for applications in use class 1 is unlikely to have been treated with a preservative, however softwood timber used for applications in use classes 2 to 4 is likely to have been preservative-treated. Hardwood timber used for any use class would not normally have been preservative-treated.

To meet European and British Standards on industrial wood protection, the preservatives in question will have been applied using an impregnation process designed to achieve a certain penetration and retention level in the wood, suited to the end use and decay profile to be encountered in service.

For each end use application, the wood will have been treated to a retention or loading of preservative in the treated zone designed to protect the wood against decay or insect attack for the notional design service life, typically 60 years within the building envelope (joists and framing), 30 years on the outside (e.g. cladding) and 15 years in ground contact (e.g. fence posts). These preservative loadings are formulation specific but are in the public domain.

The Wood Protection Association prepared an overview of preservative treatments which were most likely to have been used on softwood timbers since the 1950s:

Table 2: Formulation Types

Code	Appearance	Application	Biocides			
A	green/brown	high pressure (HP)	Copper Compounds	Arsenic		Chromium fixative
В	colourless	low pressure (LP)	ТВТО	PCP	Dieldrin	
С	colourless	low pressure (LP)	ТВТО		Dieldrin	
D	colourless	low pressure (LP)	ТВТО	PCP	Lindane	
Ε	colourless	low pressure (LP)	ТВТО		Lindane	
F	colourless	low pressure (LP)	TBTN		Permethrin	
G	colourless	low pressure (LP)	Propiconazole	Tebuconazole	Permethrin	
н	green/brown	high pressure (HP)	Copper Compounds	Azoles	Quats	
ı	green/brown	high pressure (HP)	Copper Compounds	Azoles		Boron
J	green/brown	high pressure (HP)	Copper Compounds	Cu-HDO		Boron
К	green/brown	high pressure (HP)	Copper Compounds		Quats	Boron
L	green/brown	high pressure (HP)	Copper Compounds	Azoles		
М	brown	high pressure (HP)	Creosote			

<sup>\*</sup>Copper compounds may include copper sulphate, copper oxide or copper carbonate.

### Key

Known hazardous waste stream WM3 model assessment shows as non-hazardous No WM3 assessment available

 $\textit{Table 3: Wood preservative treatment formulations at year of construction by use \textit{class}}$ 

Year of Construction	INTERNAL		EXTERNAL coated	EXTERNAL uncoated/in ground	
	UC2		UC3	UC3 & 4	
1950 - 1977	A, B, C		B, C	A, M	
1978 - 1992	A, D, E		D, E	A, M	
1993 - 1995	А	F		A, M	
1996	A	F G	G	A, M	
1997 - 2001	А	G	G	A,	М
2002	А	G, I, K	G	I, K	A, M
2003 - 2007	А	G, I, J, K	G	I, J, K	A, M
2008 - 2015	G, I, J, K		G	I, J, K	М
2016 onwards	G, H, J, L		G	H, J, L	М

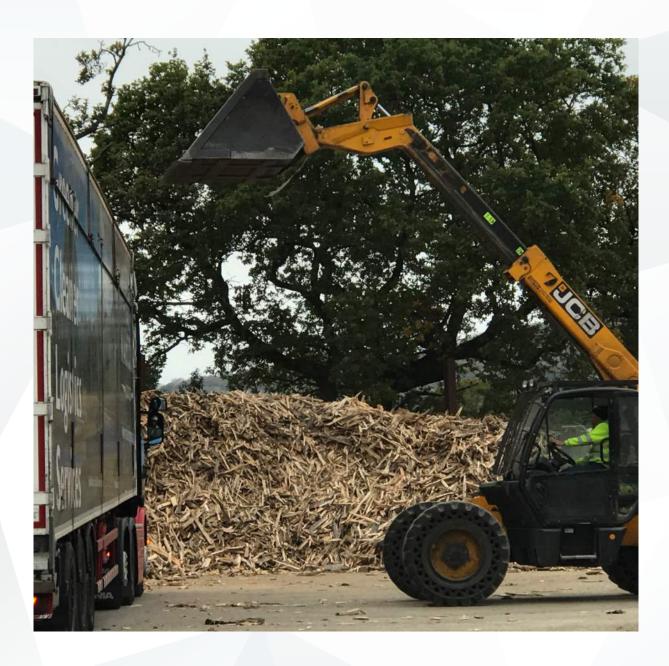
The desk-based research of each waste wood item against this data, showed that only two items of household waste wood were of any concern – decking and fence posts. The same desk-based research also showed that for the demolition sector, it was structural timbers, roof tiling battens and external joinery from pre-2007 buildings that were of most concern and was where more evidence was required.

# 1.3 Summary of Testing/Sampling Work

From this evidence, detailed sampling/testing plans were developed in conjunction with the EA for the items of concern and large-scale laboratory testing of fence posts and decking from household sources and structural timbers, roof tiling battens and external joinery from pre-2007 buildings from demolition sources took place throughout 2019 and 2020.

This laboratory testing provided evidence that there were small amounts of hazardous content in fence posts and decking from the household stream (0.06%) and this was diminishing and is likely not to be there at all from 2023. It also proved that all construction and most demolition waste wood was non-hazardous. There is not yet enough evidence either way on the hazardous content of structural timbers, external joinery and tiling battens from pre-2007 buildings.

Full details of all testing/sampling can be found in a technical report that will be published separately.



## 1.4 Revised Regulatory Positions in Place

As a result of the evidence from the sampling/testing work, new regulatory positions have been adopted in England, Scotland and Wales. Northern Ireland are still currently deciding what position they will adopt for their nation.

In England two new regulatory position statements are in place. See: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/classifying-waste-wood-from-mixed-waste-wood-sources-rps-207/classifying-waste-wood-from-mixed-waste-wood-sources-rps-207

RPS 249; Receiving hazardous waste wood at household waste recycling centres allows mixed waste wood collected at household waste recycling centres (HWRCs) to move as unassessed, non-hazardous material as long as it is destined for Industrial Emissions Directive (IED) Chapter IV compliant biomass or the manufacture of panel board. This RPS will remain in place until the end of March 2024 to give the waste wood industry the time to demonstrate that there is no longer any hazardous content in household waste wood. If it is still present, then those that wish to handle it will need to apply for a permit variation after that time.

RPS 250; Hazardous waste wood from demolition and refurbishment activities allows the collection and storing of potentially hazardous waste wood from domestic premises, demolition sites and other business premises and undertakings under existing environmental permits and also allows processing/blending under existing environmental permits.

Hazardous waste wood from demolition sites and other business premises and undertakings, must be identified, segregated and consigned under List of Waste code 17 02 04\*.

Transfer stations/skip operators receiving hazardous waste wood should sort, segregate and consign that wood under List of Waste code 17 02 04\* or 19 12 06\*, 20 01 37\*. If segregation is not practical, mixed hazardous and non-hazardous waste wood can be dual coded and consigned under List of Waste codes 17 02 04\* and 17 02 01, 19 12 06\* and 19 12 07\* or 20 01 37\* and 20 01 38. An estimate of the percentage of hazardous waste wood should be included on that consignment note to ensure an accurate and realistic volume is recorded.

Waste wood processors that chip or shred waste wood can mix and blend hazardous and non-hazardous waste wood and continue to move that mixed processed material which is below hazardous waste thresholds set out in the Hazardous Waste Technical Guidance (Waste Management 3). The mixed material may be moved from waste wood processing sites as non-hazardous under a waste transfer note List of waste code 19 12 07 as long as it is destined for Industrial Emissions Directive (IED) Chapter IV compliant biomass or the manufacture of panel board.

The wood types recoded in Table 4; WRA Grades of Waste Wood. Grade D referenced in the typical sources and typical materials section is excluded from this RPS. Those operators who need to use this RPS should have written systems and procedures in place to demonstrate you have followed this guidance and assessed waste wood correctly.

This RPS will remain in place until the end of August 2023 to allow further time to understand the quantities and types of hazardous waste wood arising from demolition activities and to allow those that want to apply for permit variations to accept hazardous waste wood. In Scotland and Wales, SEPA and NRW have introduced their own regulatory positions, which follow the same principles as the English RPSs but do not necessitate segregation or testing by demolition contractors. See:

https://www.sepa.org.uk/media/591406/classification-of-waste-wood.pdf For the Welsh position see the WRA website: www.woodrecyclers.org. Northern Ireland have yet to confirm their position.

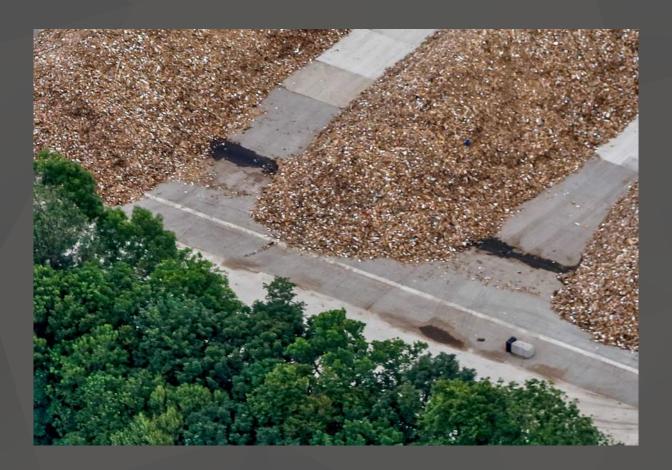
# 2.0 Overview of the UK Waste Wood Market

The UK's waste wood industry remained buoyant in 2020 in spite of wood collected being down by circa 10% at 4.05 million tonnes compared to the usual 4.5 million tonnes. This is attributed to the impact of the closure of HWRCs during the first Covid-related lockdown, combined with reduced commercial activity for part of the year.

Over 3.81 million tonnes of waste wood was processed in 2020 with 2.42 million tonnes going to Chapter IV biomass, 982 k tonnes going to panel board manufacture, 350 k tonnes into animal bedding, equine surfacing, reuse and other recycling and 55 k tonnes going into small-scale biomass. Exports were 92 k tonnes and imports were 82 k tonnes.

2021 is likely to see waste wood collected figures back up at normal levels after a summer and autumn of DIY projects and there are well developed markets for all types of waste wood, including lower grade and mixed waste wood.

The WRA is forecasting that in 2021, 2.7 million tonnes of waste wood will be consumed by Chapter IV compliant biomass facilities, a steady growth on previous years towards the three million tonnes of capacity these facilities will provide once the newer plants are fully operational. In addition one million tonnes will go to panel board manufacture, 500,000 tonnes of clean untreated material will go for animal bedding and other high-value recycling, and small-scale biomass and re-use will continue to grow. There will still be a small amount of export, but the UK is likely to become a net importer of waste wood as domestic demand for material increases during the next few years.



# 2.1 The Waste Hierarchy and Waste Wood Grades / Types

The WRA supports the waste hierarchy and there are many examples of waste wood supporting this concept and the greater aims of the Circular Economy. However, the source and type of waste wood dictates the appropriate end destination. The following chart shows the WRA grading system and which grades are clean/untreated, treated but non-hazardous and treated and hazardous.

Table 4: WRA Grades of Waste Wood

GRADE	Typical Markets	Typical Sources of raw material for recycling and/or recovery	Typical Materials	Typical non-wood content prior to processing	Notes
GRADE A Pre-Consumer Waste Wood (*1) and untreated wooden packaging = Clean un-treated	A feedstock for the manufacture of professional and consumer products such as animal bedding, equine and landscaping surfacing. May also be used as a fuel in domestic and non-IED Chapter IV biomass installations and for the manufacture of pellets and briquettes.	Wood Product Manufacturing, Distribution, Retailing, Packaging and Secondary manufacture, e.g. joinery and pallet reclamation.	Solid softwood and hardwood. Packaging waste, scrap pallets, packing cases and cable drums. Process off-cuts from the manufacture of virgin/sawn timber and untreated board products.	Nails and metal fixings. Small amounts of non- hazardous surface coatings such as water- soluble paint.	This is a waste as defined by the waste regulations. Does not require an IED Chapter IV installation and should not contain any treated or low-grade material.
GRADE B Business waste wood = Treated Non-hazardous	This is the preferred feedstock for industrial wood processing operations such as the manufacture of panel board products. Can also be used for IED Chapter IV biomass.	As Grade A, plus construction and demolition operations, skip operators, transfer stations.	May contain Grade A material as above plus building and demolition materials and domestic furniture made from solid wood.	Nails and metal fixings. Some paints, plastics, glass, grit, non-hazardous coatings, binders and glues. Limits on treated or coated materials as defined by end users and IED.	This is mostly solid wood. Some feedstock specifications contain a 5% to 10% limit on former panel products such as chipboard, MDF and plywood. Is a waste for the requirements of Waste Management Regulations. Will require an IED Chapter IV compliant installation for biomass.
GRADE C Municipal waste wood = Treated Non-hazardous	For use in the IED Chapter IV biomass installations and for panel board in controlled volumes.	All above plus municipal collections, transfer stations and HWRCs.	All of the above plus flat pack furniture made from board products and DIY materials.	Nails and metal fixings. Paints, non-hazardous coatings and glues, paper, plastics and rubber, glass, grit. Coated and treated timber (non CCA or creosote).	This is mostly board products. Mainly suitable for IED Chapter IV compliant biomass installations, but also suitable for panel board manufacture with correct processing and blending. Is a waste for Waste Management Regulations.
GRADE D Hazardous waste wood = Treated hazardous	Requires disposal at facilities licensed to accept hazardous waste.	Waste wood from hydraulic engineering, such as wood from docks.  Waste wood from industrial applications such as cooling tower timbers, woodblock flooring or moulds Waste wood from boats, carriages and trailer beds Waste wood treated with CCA or creosote	Agricultural fencing, telegraph poles, railway sleepers	Copper chrome arsenic (CCA) preservation treatments and creosote.	These materials must be segregated and consigned as hazardous to sites permitted to accept hazardous wood.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Pre-consumer waste wood is waste wood material created during the manufacturing process of virgin wood products, not involving the application of treatments, e.g. offcuts or trimmings from virgin/sawn timber. It is also waste wood material created during the manufacturing process of raw, untreated board products such as panel board, MDF and plywood (for clarity, this waste wood can only be used/burnt at source). Waste from joinery activity using these untreated wood materials is also included in this definition.

Source: The Wood Recyclers' Association July 2021



# 3.0 Categories of Waste Wood

This Section identifies typical waste wood items that are likely to arise from household, commercial, industrial, construction/demolition and agricultural sources and based on the evidence from both desk research and the in-depth testing/sampling work is classified as:

- Grade A (clean, untreated)
- Grade B (Treated and non-hazardous)
- Grade C (Treated and non-hazardous) and
- Grade D (Hazardous).

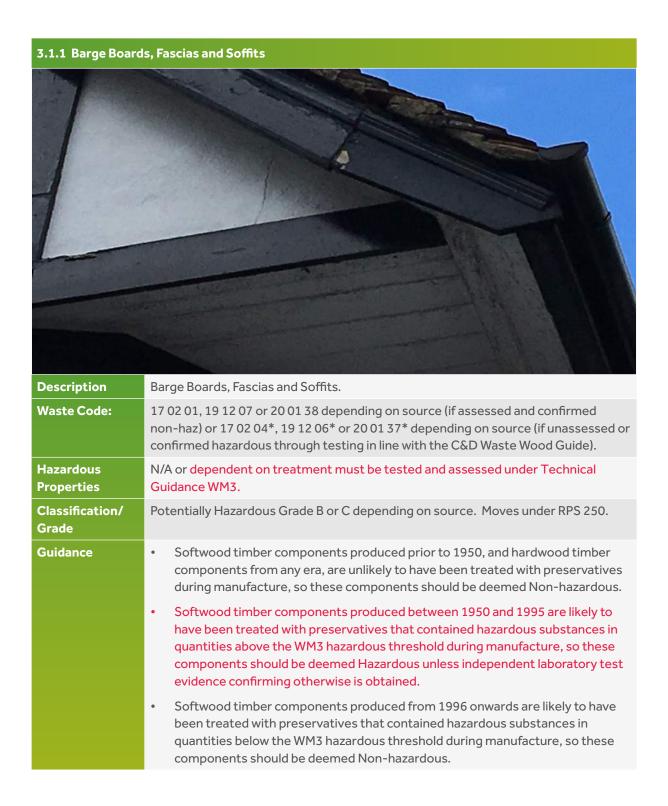


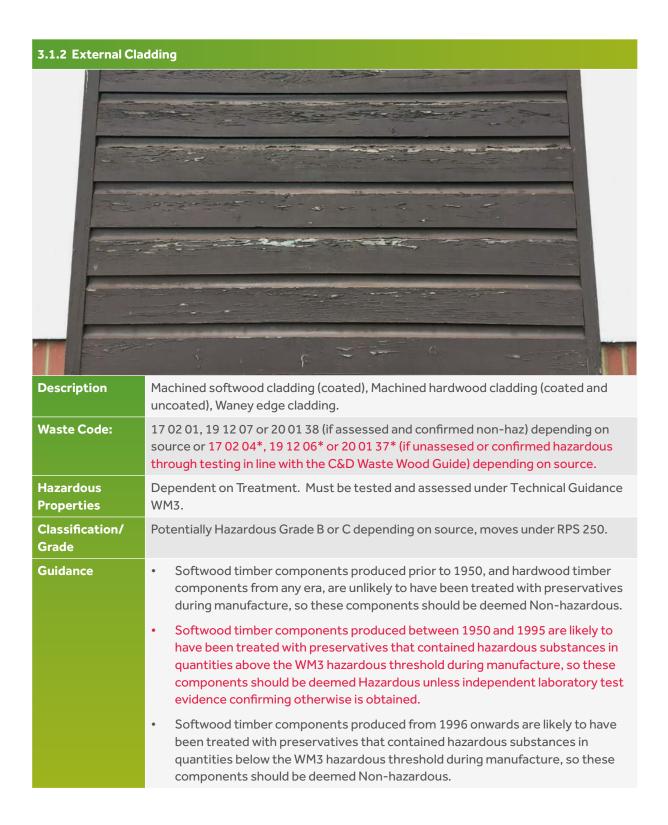


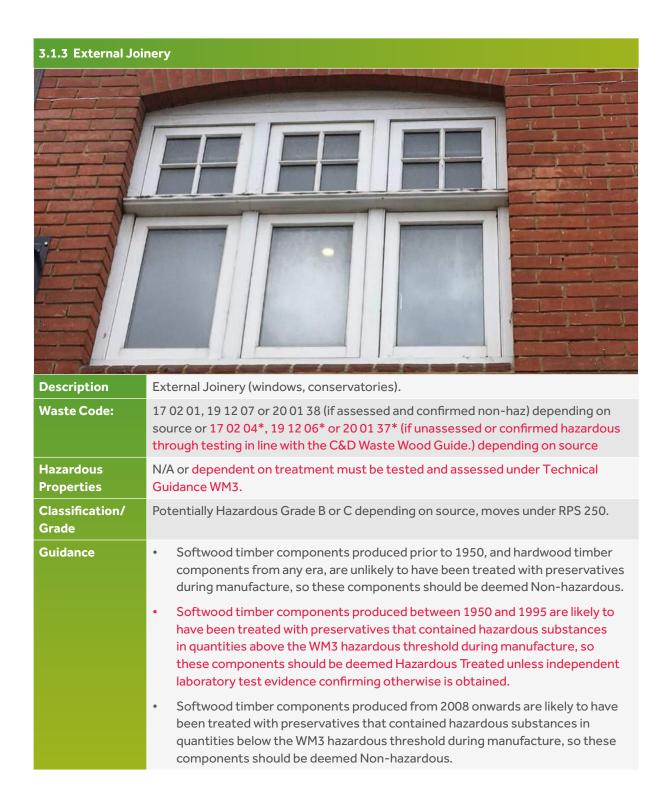


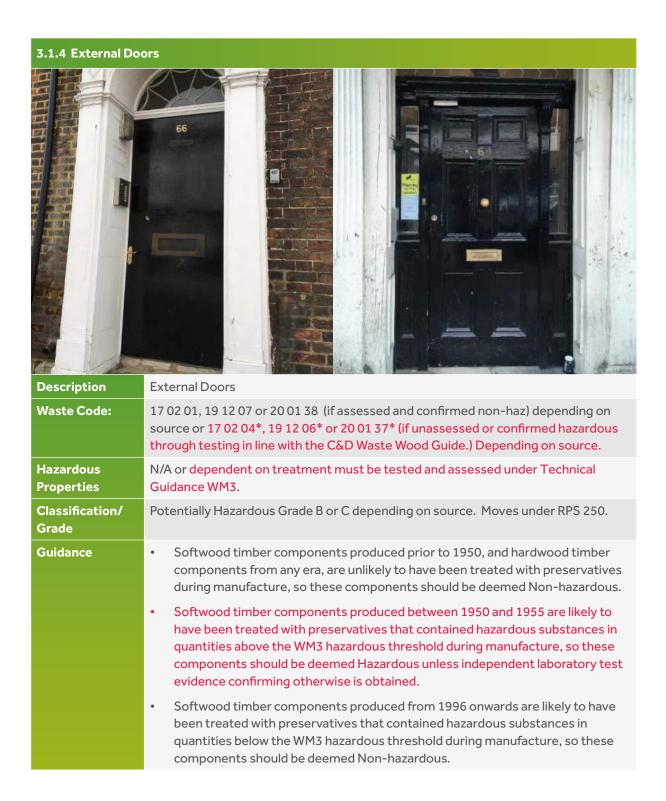


### 3.1 External Household Waste Wood Items

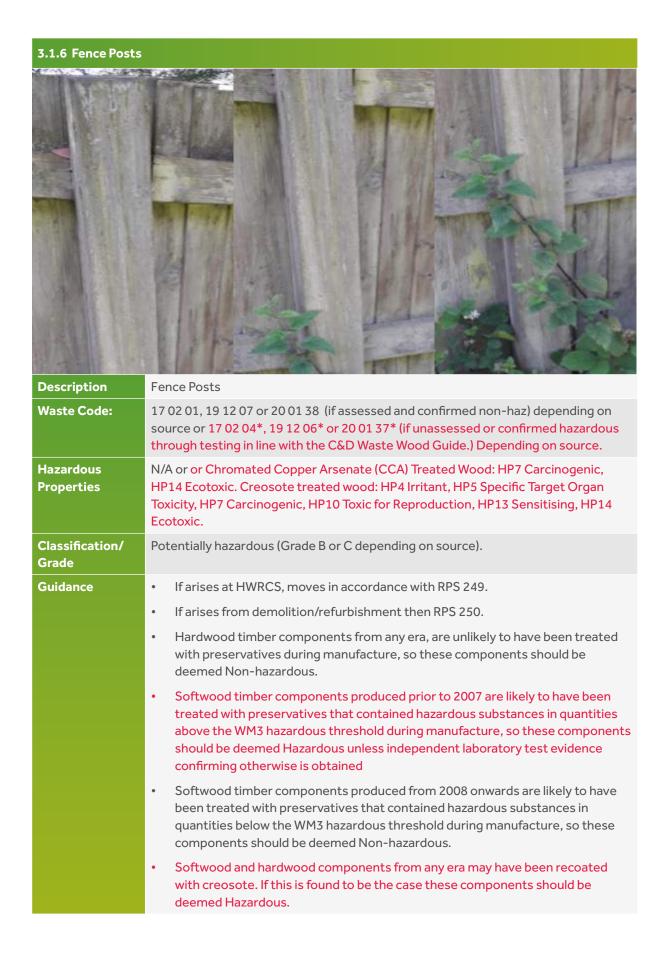


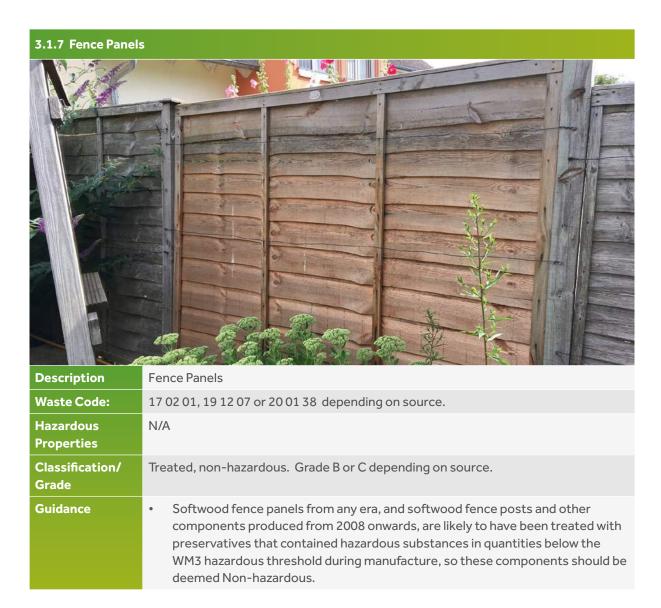


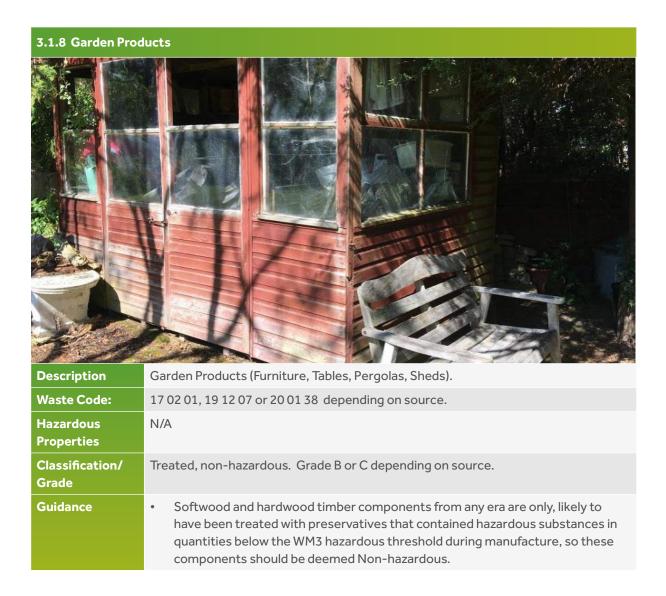




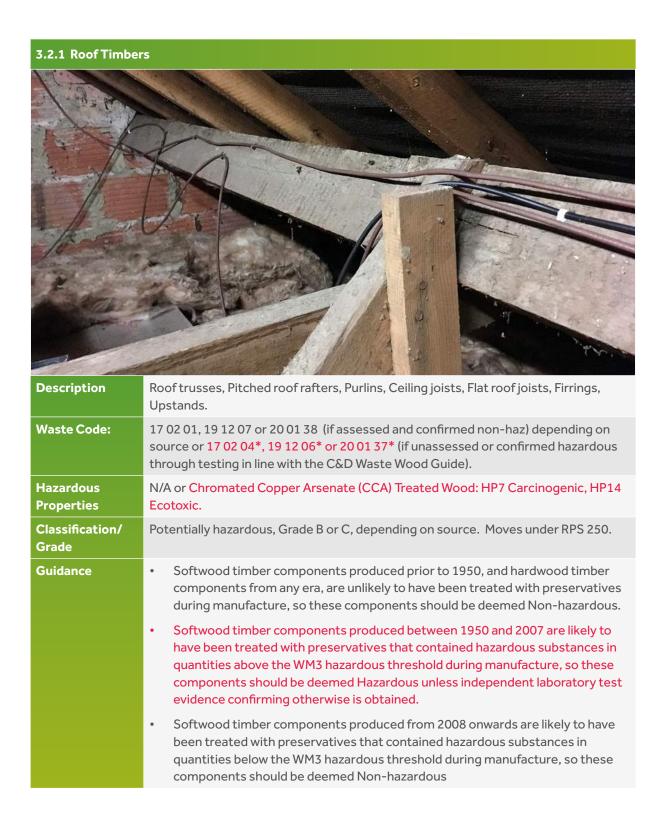


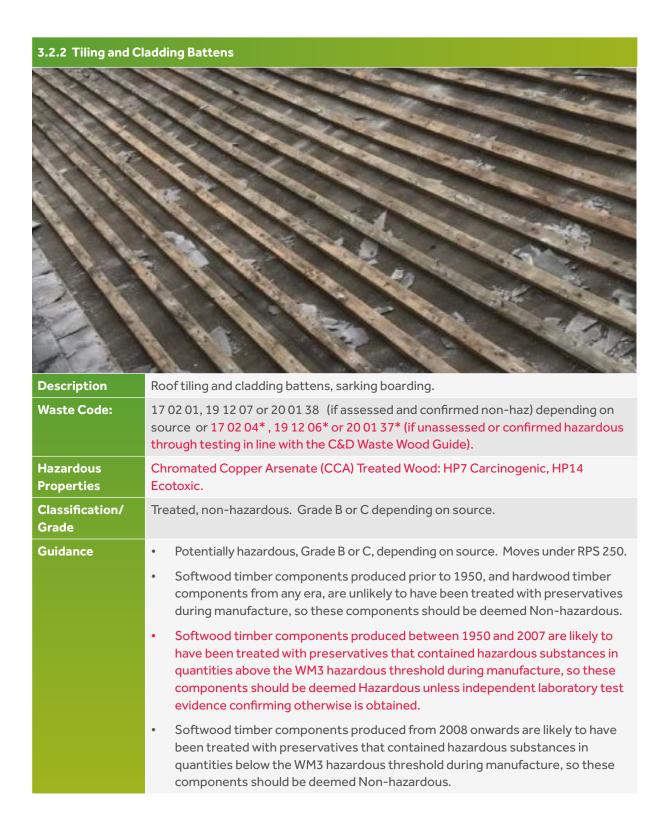




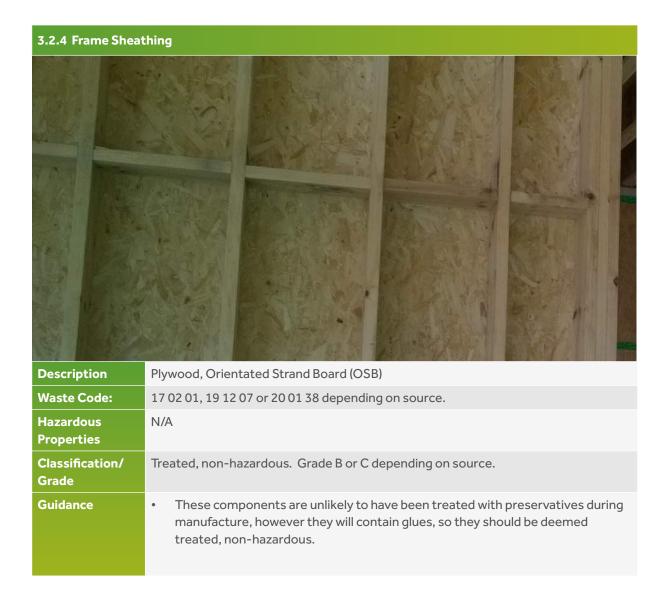


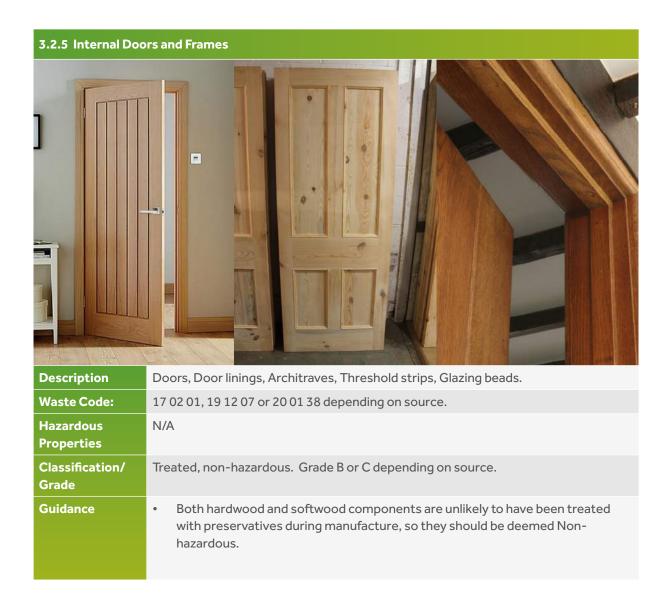
### 3.2 Internal Household Waste Wood Items

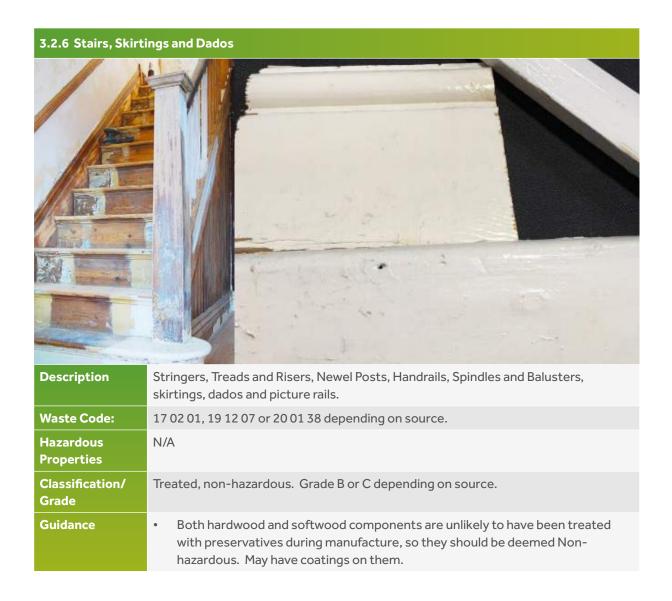


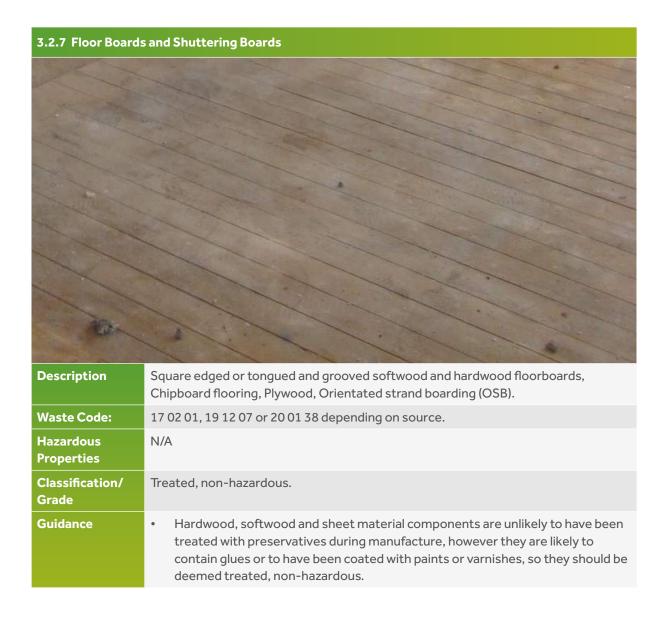


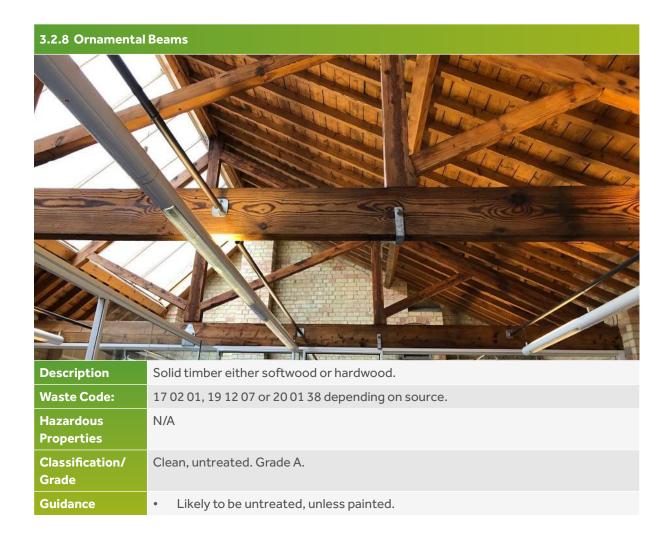
# **3.2.3 Timber Frame Components** Sole plates, Structural timber frame components, Ground and upper floor joists Description (including strutting). Waste Code: 17 02 01, 19 12 07 or 20 01 38 (if assessed and confirmed non-haz) depending on source or 17 02 04\*, 19 12 06\* or 20 01 37\* (if unassessed or confirmed hazardous through testing in line with the C&D Waste Wood Guide). Hazardous N/A or Chromated Copper Arsenate (CCA) Treated Wood: HP7 Carcinogenic, HP14 **Properties** Ecotoxic. Classification/ Potentially hazardous, Grade B or C, depending on source. Moves under RPS 250. Grade Guidance Softwood timber components produced prior to 1950, and hardwood timber components from any era, are unlikely to have been treated with preservatives during manufacture, so these should be deemed Non-hazardous. Softwood timber components produced between 1950 and 2007 are likely to have been treated with preservatives that contained hazardous substances in quantities above the WM3 hazardous threshold during manufacture, so these components should be deemed Hazardous unless independent laboratory test evidence confirming otherwise is obtained. Softwood timber components produced from 2008 onwards are likely to have been treated with preservatives that contained hazardous substances in quantities below the WM3 hazardous threshold during manufacture, so these should be deemed Non-hazardous.

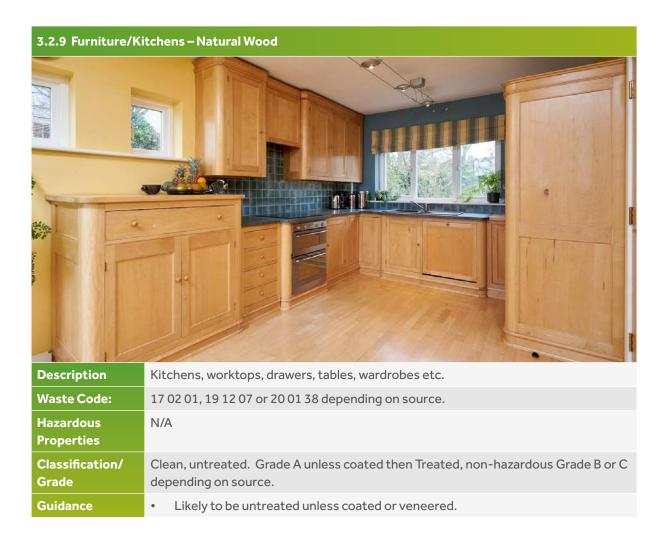


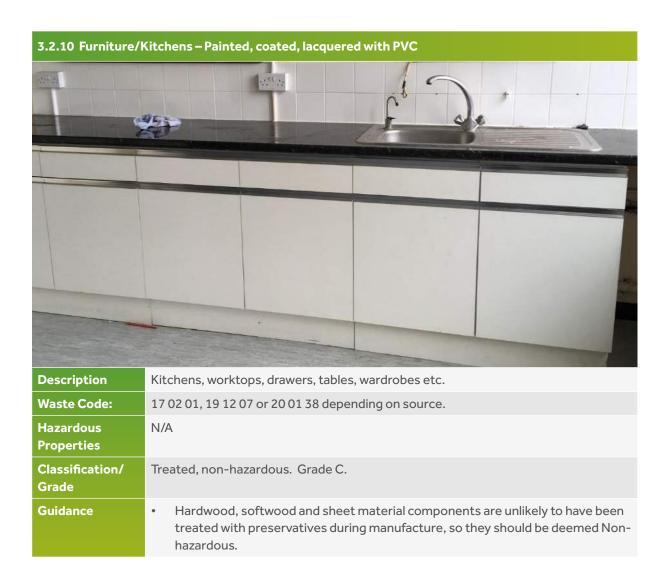




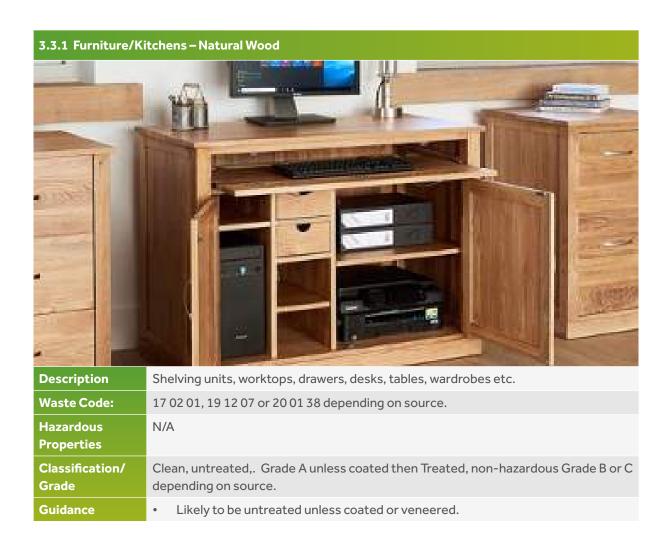


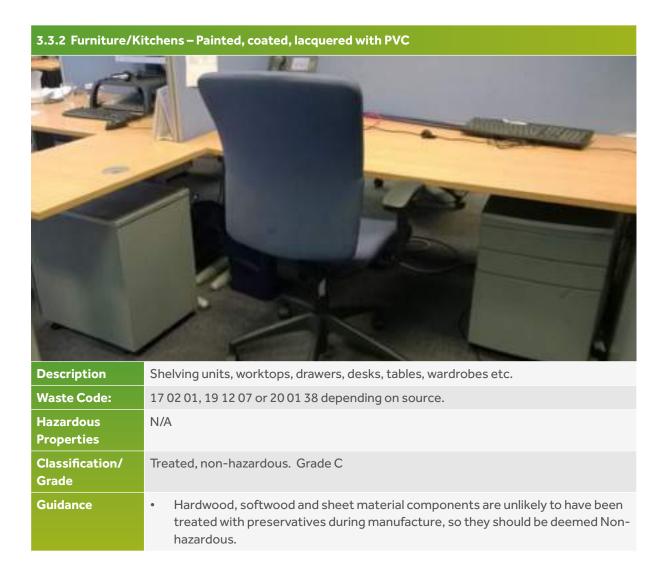




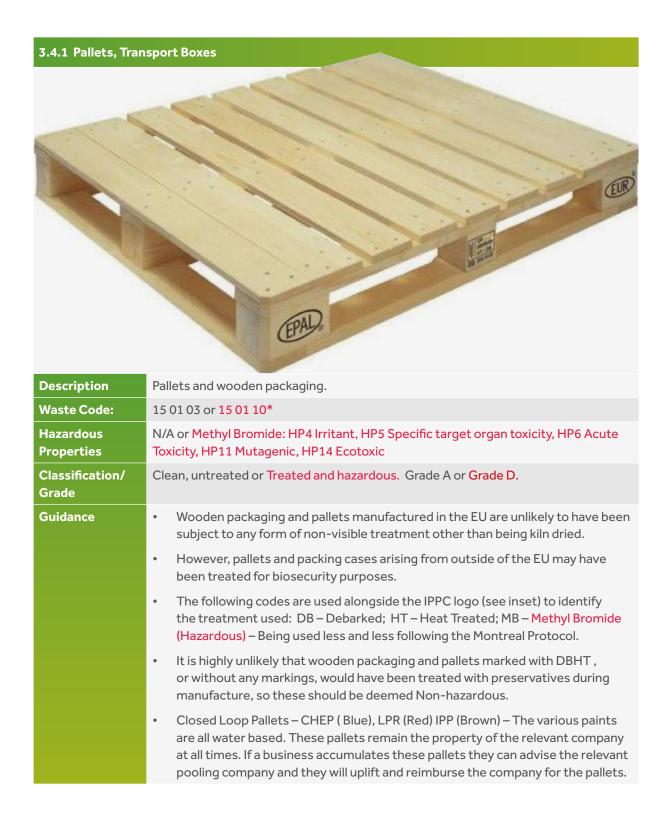


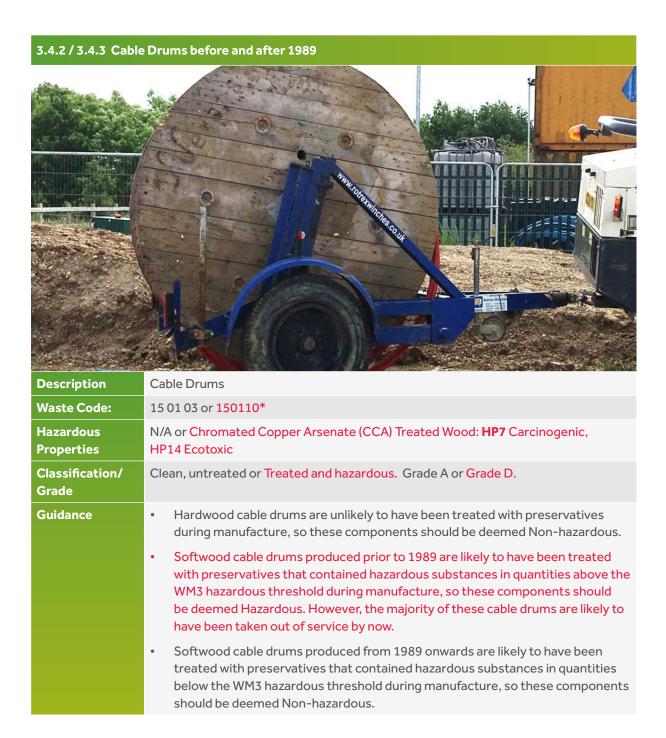
# 3.3 Office Refurbishment Waste Wood Items



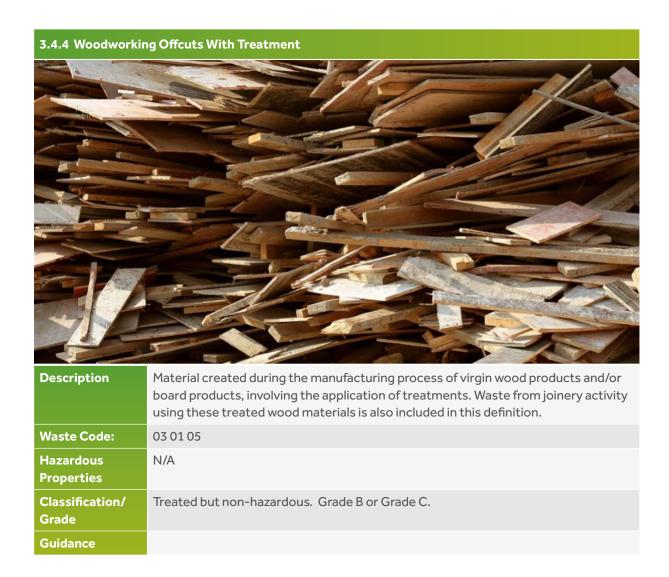


### 3.4 Commercial Waste Wood Items





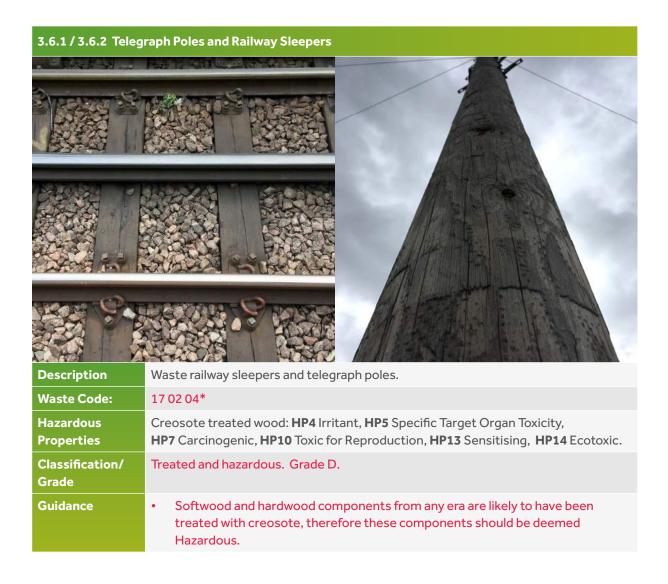




# 3.5 Agricultural Waste Wood Items



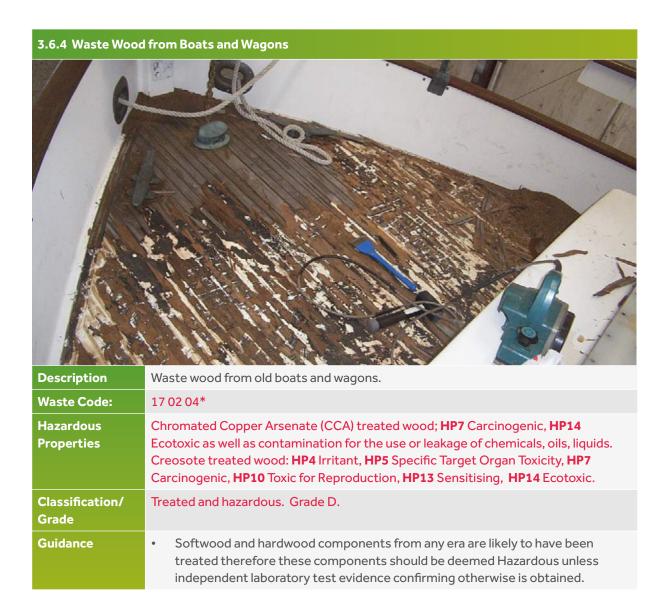
### 3.6 Industrial Waste Wood Items



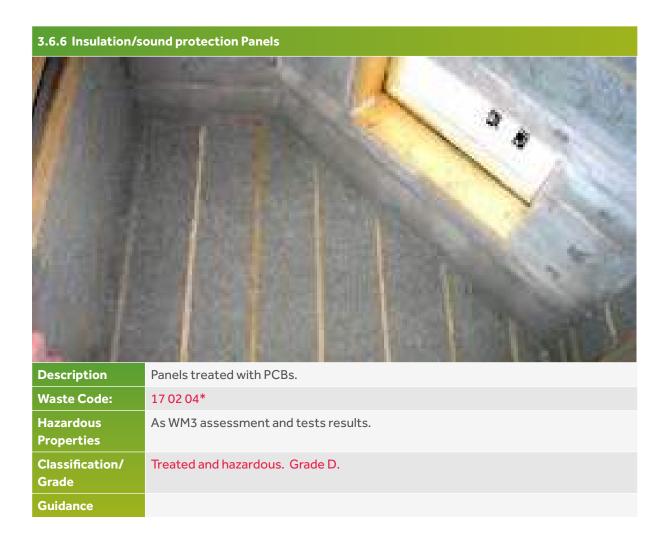
# 3.6.3 Waste Wood from Industrial Applications



THE PERSON NAMED IN	
Description	Cooling towers, workshop floors and wood from hydraulic engineering – load-bearing posts and walls.
Waste Code:	17 02 04*
Hazardous Properties	Chromated Copper Arsenate (CCA) Treated Wood: <b>HP7</b> Carcinogenic, <b>HP14</b> Ecotoxic.
Classification/ Grade	Treated and hazardous. Grade D.
Guidance	<ul> <li>Softwood timber components produced prior to 1950, and hardwood timber components from any era, are unlikely to have been treated with preservatives during manufacture, however they are likely to have been contaminated with other hazardous substances in quantities above the WM3 hazardous threshold during use, so these components should be deemed Hazardous unless evidence confirming otherwise is obtained.</li> <li>Softwood timber components produced between 1950 and 2007 are likely to have been treated with preservatives that contained hazardous substances in quantities above the WM3 hazardous threshold during manufacture and are likely to have been contaminated with other hazardous substances in quantities above the WM3 hazardous threshold during use, so these components should be deemed Hazardous unless evidence confirming otherwise is obtained.</li> <li>Softwood timber components produced from 2008 onwards are likely to have been treated with preservatives that contained hazardous substances in quantities below the WM3 hazardous threshold during manufacture, however they are likely to have been contaminated with other hazardous substances in quantities above the WM3 hazardous threshold during use, so these components should be deemed Hazardous unless evidence confirming otherwise is obtained.</li> </ul>









# 4.0 Index of Abbreviations

ADEPT - Association of Directors of Environmental, Economy, Planning & Transport

**C&D** - Construction & Demolition

**CCA** - Copper Chrome Arsenate

**CIWM** - Chartered Institution of Wastes Management

**CWTN** - Controlled Waste Transfer Note

**DB** - Debarked

**DIY** - Do It Yourself

**DPC** - Damp Proof Course

**EA** - Environment Agency

**ESA** - Environmental Services Association

HP4, 5, 6, 7, 13 & 14 - Hazardous Property Codes

**HCN** - Hazardous Consignment Note

HT - Heat Treated

**HWRC** - Household Waste Recycling Centre

**IED** - Industrial Emissions Directive

IPPC - Pallet logo representing International Plant Protection Convention

LARAC - Local Authority Recycling Advisory Committee

LP & HP - Low Pressure & High Pressure

MB - Methyl Bromide

MDF - Medium Density Fibreboard

NAWDO - National Association of Waste Disposal Officers

**NFDC** - National Federation of Demolition Contractors

NIEA - Northern Ireland Environment Agency

**NRW** - Natural Resources Wales

**OSB** - Orientated Strand Board

**PCP** - Pentachlorophenol

**PVC** - Polyvinyl Chloride

**REW** - Resource Efficiency Wales

**RPS** - Regulatory Position Statement

SEPA - Scottish Environment Protection Agency

**TBTN** - Tributyltin Napthenate

**TBTO** - Tributyltin Oxide

Treated with PCB's - Polychlorinated Biphenyl

UC2, 3 & 4 - Use Class Codes

**UK** - United Kingdom

**UROC** - United Resource Operators Consortium

WM3 - Hazardous Waste Technical Guidance - Waste Management 3

WPA - Wood Protection Association

WPIF - Wood Panel Industries Federation

WRA - Wood Recyclers' Association

WTN - Waste Transfer Note

WWC - Waste Wood Classification

# 5.0 Appendices

## 5.1 Frequently Asked Questions

#### Q: What types of hazardous waste wood can be moved under the two new RPSs?

**A:** Under RPS249 fence posts and decking from Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) **does not** have to be consigned as potentially hazardous.

Under RPS250, any fence posts or decking from construction and demolition sources must be consigned as potentially hazardous. In addition, structural timbers, tiling battens and external joinery from pre-2007 buildings must also be consigned as potentially hazardous.

However, all of the above materials from C&D sources can be moved under the RPS250 to a reprocessor, where it can be blended into material which can then be used for IED Chapter IV compliant biomass or the manufacture of panel board.

The situation for traditional hazardous waste wood such as telegraph poles and railway sleepers remains the same and must be consigned as hazardous and disposed of in the usual way. These materials are **NOT** covered by RPS 249 or RPS 250.

### Q: Can I mix a load of potentially hazardous and non hazardous waste wood to go into a recycler/reprocesor?

**A:** Where possible the wood should be segregated. However, where this is not physically possible or financially viable, transfer stations and skip operators are permitted to mix the load but have to identify the percentage of potentially hazardous waste wood in the load on a Hazardous Consignment Note.

### Q: Who is responsible for working out the percentage of waste wood in a mixed load?

**A:** The responsibility lies with the first person/operator to receive the load of waste wood before it reaches the recycler/reprocessor, for example the waste transfer station or skip operator.

### Q: Do we consign a full load as hazardous because of one piece wood?

**A:** Yes but then record the percentage of hazardous contained in the load correctly. It is vital that the percentage of potentially hazardous waste wood is recorded as accurately as possible. Consigning a whole load as hazardous when it may in fact only be 1% or 2% will skew the final outcome of how much waste wood is hazardous in the UK. That will have a longer-term negative impact on our industry and will result in operators being forced to dispose of waste wood that is not hazardous through a hazardous route, reducing our material stream and costing operators more money.

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# 5.1 Frequently Asked Questions

# Q: Will the reprocessors/recyclers check the accuracy of the percentage of potentially hazardous waste wood in a load?

**A:** In theory reprocessors and recyclers do not have to check that the percentage listed is correct. However they may wish to in order to ensure they are charging the correct fee for the grade of waste wood they are receiving.

The WRA is also recommending to its members that it will be good practice to check the loads and make their own separate recording of the actual percentage of potentially hazardous waste wood in each mixed load they receive to assist with future discussions.

### Q: Does my site have to have a hazardous permit to receive waste wood under RPS249 or RPS250?

**A:** No, as long as you are following the Waste Wood Assessment Guidance and your outlets are Chapter IV or panelboard mills, you do not need to have a hazardous permit to receive this wood under RPS250. The only exception to this is any Grade D wood.

### Q: How long do I have to change my permit if I want to get a hazardous wood permit?

**A:** You would need to speak to your local EA officer to check that but RPS249 expires on March 31st 2024 and RPS250 expires on August 31st 2023.

#### Q: How do we know if the wood we have on site is hazardous under the new RPS or not?

**A:** The WRA has produced a Waste Wood Assessment Guide. This guide provides a detailed assessment process for all wood types and where they can be used. If you are still in doubt you can also obtain a WM3 assessment via an independent testing facility. The Waste Wood Assessment Guidance is downloadable from the homepage of the WRA website www.woodrecyclers.org.

### Q: Should I be charging more for waste wood received under RPS 249 or RPS250?

**A:** You should be aware that there will be costs involved for completing the EA paperwork and additional reporting so you may want to take that into account and each reprocesser will need to review their own costs to ensure these are covered.

### Q: We are a furniture manufacturer. Does the RPS apply to us?

**A:** No, it's business as usual.

## **5.1** Frequently Asked Questions

#### Q: What paperwork do we need to use?

**A:** For RPS249 you will use a standard Controlled Waste Transfer Note (WTN) as the material is coming from a Household Waste Recycling Centre and is therefore not classed as potentially hazardous.

For RPS250 the load will be going into a recycler/reprocessor as a potentially hazardous load and will therefore be subject to a Hazardous Consignment Note. You will also have to record any hazardous consignment notes on your regulatory returns.

Once the raw material is processed at a recycling yard it can then move to panelboard or IED compliant biomass facilities with the usual Waste Transfer Note.

Q: If other contaminants such as asbestos is found within construction and demolition waste wood, greater than 0.1%, this would normally be classed as hazardous under WM3, so can this now be sent to a wood recyclers to be blended?

**A:** No these RPSs only apply to waste wood. Any other contaminants should be treated the same way as before.

Q: I collect wheeled bins from refurbishment companies containing waste wood. Can a day's worth of bins be seen as a single load or do I have to assess each bin individually?

**A:** This would depend on how you currently use your Waste Transfer Note system. You can issue annual Waste Transfer Notes but if any material is hazardous you would have to issue a separate Hazardous Consignment Note. If you collect this material regularly, you should firstly use the Waste Wood Assessment Guide, and if you are still unsure then get the material tested to establish whether it is hazardous or not.

### Q: What about waste wood produced as part of a manufacturing process?

**A:** It's business as usual. Check the grade according to the Waste Wood Assessment Guidance. If it is non hazardous it can be moved under a standard EWC code.

Q: How will a construction and demolition hazardous waste consignment work when it is delivered by a broker?

**A:** Waste Transfer Notes and Hazardous Consignment Notes follow the waste, and clearly state if a broker is involved. This process hasn't changed.

## **5.1** Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Are we making sure that construction and demotion companies understand their responsibilities? Could they end up having to test almost every skip?

**A:** Yes both CIWM's C&D Waste Forum and the National Federation of Demotion Contractors will be briefing their members and the wider industry so that they understand their responsibilities. They will be encouraged to use the Construction Assessment Guide, and if they are still unsure as to the grade of material they are handling, they should obtain a test certificate to verify what wood they have.

Q: On a Hazardous Consignment Note (HCN) there are specific sections that need to be completed, including details of what the hazardous material is treated with. If the item has been identified as amber but no further testing has been done, what should go on the HCN?

**A:** The item should be listed in the guidance and the worst possible scenario description should be used and the approximate weight of each wood type should be listed.

Q: If a load arrives under a HCN which says that the load is 100% hazardous waste wood, but upon inspection, it is obviously a lot less, say 10%, what weight should be recorded by the processor?

A: This load should be formally rejected by the processor until the correct paperwork is received.

Q: How should weights and/or percentages be reported on waste data flow forms as there is no space for this information?

A: The EA Local Authority unit are currently reviewing this.

Q: Under the old RPS 207, wording of 'unassessed compliant with RPS207' had to be used on a Controlled Waste Transfer Note (CWTN). Should similar wording be used for RPS249 and RPS250?

**A:** No, there is no need to write anything specific on the CWTN. You just need to make sure that you are compliant with the two RPSs.

Q: If a demolition contractor brings in waste wood and states that it is all non-hazardous, but it clearly has amber items in it, what should the wood recycler do?

**A:** They should advise the demolition contractor that they need to produce a HCN and, if necessary, produce one for them and charge accordingly.

# **Special Mentions**

This guide has been produced by the WRA, with support from:























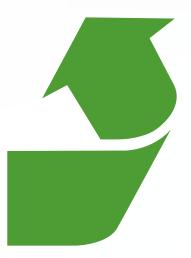












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