



NSAI
Standards

National Workshop Agreement
NWA 4:2009

Wood fuel quality assurance - Requirements

NWA 4:2009

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Foreword

This National Workshop Agreement (NWA) was developed and approved by an NSAI workshop. It reflects the consensus of the individuals listed below to whom NSAI is indebted for their contribution.

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- Mark Tarleton, Forest Fuels
- Mike Wilson, Sustainable Energy Ireland

This publication does not purport to include all the necessary provisions of a contract. Users are responsible for its correct application.

Compliance with this National Workshop Agreement does not of itself confer immunity from legal obligations.

Introduction

This document describes the quality assurance requirements for wood fuel to be placed on the market.

The need for this NWA was identified at a wood fuel quality workshop on 21st January 2009 by wood fuel suppliers. There was unanimous agreement that Ireland required a wood fuel quality assurance scheme to inspire customer confidence and promote market growth.

Although there are existing standards for testing wood fuels, there is a limited cohesive structure for the use of these testing standards. This NWA aims to establish the:

- country of origin of wood fuel;
- sustainability of the wood fuel; and
- branding of wood fuels to show conformity with the requirements of this NWA.

The types of wood fuels have been divided into three main categories:

- Firewood and logs;
- Wood pellets and wood briquettes; and
- Wood chips.

The NWA contains general requirements for wood fuel and, in dedicated annexes, minimum testing and specific requirements related to the three main categories.

This NWA can be used for certification as a stand-alone document. However, integration with other international management system standards (such as ISO 9001 or ISO 14001) is encouraged.

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1 Scope

This National Workshop Agreement (NWA) specifies quality assurance requirements for the following wood fuel types:

- firewood and logs;
- wood pellets and wood briquettes; and
- wood chips.

This NWA covers wood fuels produced from woody biomass derived from the sources shown in Table 1.

Wood fuels produced from used wood are outside the scope of this National Workshop Agreement.

Table 1 — Sources of solid biofuels

1. Woody biomass	1.1 Forest, plantation and other virgin wood	1.1.1 Whole trees without roots	1.1.1.1 Deciduous
			1.1.1.2 Coniferous
			1.1.1.3 Short rotation coppice
			1.1.1.4 Bushes
			1.1.1.5 Blends and mixtures
		1.1.2 Whole trees with roots	1.1.2.1 Deciduous
			1.1.2.2 Coniferous
			1.1.2.3 Short rotation coppice
			1.1.2.4 Bushes
			1.1.2.5 Blends and mixtures
		1.1.3 Stemwood	1.1.3.1 Deciduous
			1.1.3.2 Coniferous
			1.1.3.3 Blends and mixtures
		1.1.4 Logging residues	1.1.4.1 Fresh/Green, Deciduous (including leaves)
			1.1.4.2 Fresh/Green, Coniferous (including needles)
			1.1.4.3 Stored, Deciduous
			1.1.4.4 Stored, Coniferous
	1.1.4.5 Blends and mixtures		
	1.1.5 Stumps/roots	1.1.5.1 Deciduous	
		1.1.5.2 Coniferous	
		1.1.5.3 Short rotation coppice	
		1.1.5.4 Bushes	
		1.1.5.5 Blends and mixtures	
1.1.6 Bark (from forestry operations)			
1.1.7 Segregated wood from gardens, parks, roadside maintenance, vineyards and fruit orchards			
1.2 By-products and residues from wood processing industry	1.2.1 Chemically untreated wood residues	1.2.1.1 Without bark, Deciduous	
		1.2.1.2 Without bark, Coniferous	
		1.2.1.3 With bark, Deciduous	
		1.2.1.4 With bark, Coniferous	
		1.2.1.5 Bark (from industry operations)	

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