

# Exempt Waste Operations (T3 and T7)

## What are exempt waste operations?

Establishments or undertakings that carry on certain waste disposal or recovery operations have been exempt from the need to hold an environmental permit (formerly a waste management licence) for many years. These operations are not unregulated but are subject to a lighter touch regulation requiring those who carry them out to comply with certain rules and not cause harm to the environment.

The Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2010 require that most activities who manage waste should have a permit. However, there are some exceptions. These are called exemptions. Exemptions are waste operations that do not need a permit but do need to be registered.

Guidance on waste exemptions and related core guidance on the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations is available on the Defra website at: [www.defra.gov.uk](http://www.defra.gov.uk) – search term = exempt waste operations or environmental permitting.

## Who registers exempt waste operations?

Most exempt waste operations are registered by the Environment Agency; however local authorities including South Gloucestershire Council register two types of waste treatment activity:

- **Treating waste metals and metal alloys by heating to remove grease, oil or any other non-metallic contaminant (also called a category T3 activity)**
- **Treating waste bricks, tiles or concrete by crushing, grinding or size reduction (also called a category T7 activity)**

## More about T3 and T7 activities

**T3** activities are the treatment of waste metals for the purposes of removing grease, oil and any non-metallic contaminant by heating in an appliance. To qualify as a **T3** exempt waste operation the activity must also meet the following criteria:

- The total quantity of waste stored or treated at any one time must not exceed 10 tonnes.
- The waste must be stored in a secure location with sealed drainage.

- The appliance (or aggregate of all appliances used together) must be less than 0.2 megawatts (net rated thermal input).
- Must not be used for the removal by heat of plastic and rubber from scrap cable or any asbestos contaminant.

**T7** activities are the crushing, grinding or other size reduction of waste bricks, tiles or concrete typically using small-scale/micro crushers and can include some mobile plant. If you operate mobile plant then your principal place of business must be within the South Gloucestershire Council area, otherwise you should contact your home local authority. If your principal place of business is outside of the United Kingdom then we can still register your exemption if the activity is to be carried out within our district.

To qualify as a **T7** exempt waste operation the activity must also meet the following criteria:

- The total quantity of waste treated over any period of 1 hour should not exceed 20 tonnes.
- The total quantity of waste stored at any one time must not exceed 200 tonnes.
- The waste must be stored in a secure location prior to treatment.
- Must not release into air certain substance (defined in paragraph 6(3) of Part I of Schedule 1 of the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2010) except in quantities which are so trivial that it is incapable of causing pollution or its capacity to cause pollution is insignificant.

If you carry out the above activities but cannot meet the specific criteria then an environmental permit will be required.

### **How do I register my T3 or T7 exempt waste operation?**

You will need to complete an application form.

### **How much does it cost to register?**

There is no charge to register.

### **How quickly will my exemption be registered?**

We will acknowledge your application as soon as we receive it by post or email. We will then aim to process this and write to you within five working days confirming whether your activity has been registered.

If we require additional information we will contact you and in some cases this may mean it takes longer to complete the registration process.

### **How long will my registration be valid for?**

Registration lasts for three years. After this time you will need to renew your exemptions. We will remind you when your renewal is due and invite you to register again, one month before it's due to end.

If you already have one or more exempt waste operations at any one place and you wish to add an additional exempt operation of the same type at a later date, then the additional registration will be valid until the date of renewal for the first registration.

You can renew a registration at any time in the month prior to the renewal date, up to the date the existing registration becomes invalid.

### **Public register of exempt operations**

As the exemption registration authority we are required to maintain an up to date public register of establishments or undertakings with a valid T3 or T7 exempt waste operation (see above for a description of these activities).

The public register is available during our normal office opening hours and is free to inspect. We also provide facilities to the public to obtain a copy of an entry on the register on payment of a fee.

**Free Internet access is available at all South Gloucestershire libraries**

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