

Guidance on Management of Waste Domestic Heating Oil Tanks

Background

The Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) has identified the regular misclassification of uncleaned waste domestic heating oil tanks (i.e. those which are contaminated with kerosene and/or other hazardous residues), as an issue of concern. NIEA have undertaken research which shows that, this waste material is regularly being misclassified as non-hazardous and being managed accordingly. In practice this means unauthorised storage, transport, treatment, disposal and export of this waste.

Requirements

Following consultation with a wide range of stakeholders in NI, the NIEA is taking steps to eliminate unsound practices relating to the management of this waste. The following conditions will apply:

- All uncleaned (i.e. contaminated with kerosene or residues of kerosene) waste domestic heating oil tanks, generated in NI, should be coded 170204* *glass, plastic and wood containing or contaminated with hazardous substances*;
- These tanks must only be taken to an appropriately authorised facility and must be accompanied by a hazardous waste consignment note;¹
- Any site/facility carrying out a cleaning process on these tanks must be authorised for such an activity and the process will need NIEA approval;
- All wastes resulting from the cleaning process must be coded as hazardous waste and managed accordingly. These codes will be one of the following: 130701, 150202, 160708, along with the associated descriptor;
- Waste tanks (or cut sections thereof²) will only be considered 'clean' once all visible residues have been removed. The resulting material should be coded 191204 *plastic and rubber*;
- While the vast majority of waste oil tanks being generated are made of plastic, they may also be made from other materials such as steel. In this case the uncleaned tank should be coded 170409* *metal waste contaminated with hazardous substances*. The cleaned tanks (or cut sections thereof²) should be coded 191202 *ferrous metal* or 191203 *non-ferrous metal*.

¹ Unless exempt from the Controlled Waste (Registration of Carriers and Seizure of Vehicles) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1999, a person transporting controlled waste in NI must hold a valid waste carrier's registration.

² NIEA is not aware of any process that can effectively and demonstrably remove all oily residues without the cutting open of these waste tanks.

The above requirements will come into effect on 1st January 2020

The NIEA will continue to monitor this waste stream and ensure that the legislative requirements are being adhered to. Our position will be reviewed periodically and may be modified to reflect progress in technology and/or design.

NB. In addition to the necessary authorisation, anyone intending to process waste domestic heating oil tanks should seek competent health and safety advice.

If you have any questions or require further assistance please contact the Hazardous waste Team at:

Tel: 90 569 710 and ask to speak to the Technical Team

E-mail: Hazwaste@daera-ni.gov.uk