

Regulatory Position Statement: Used Tyres - The Risks and Your Responsibilities

May 2016

If you collect, deposit, store, reuse or treat waste/used tyres, you have a duty to minimise risk to the environment, human health and animal welfare. You must dispose of waste tyres safely to an appropriately authorised waste management facility.

Potential Risks:

Tyres pose considerable risk to the environment and must be handled and disposed of properly. The potential risks and outcomes include:-

- Major accidental or deliberate fire incidents can result from the large scale storage of waste/used tyres.
- The use of waste/used tyres on bonfires generates toxic fumes which are dangerous to human health, produce unsightly burnt residues, damage properties, roads and open spaces and impact on the Northern Ireland economy.
- The leaching of chemicals from stockpiled tyres onto good quality farmland and into watercourses.
- The use of unsafe part worn tyres can cause road traffic accidents which result in serious injury or loss of human life.

Tyre Holders and their Responsibilities:

1. Tyre retailers/Distributors

You must transfer your waste tyres to a registered waste carrier, obtain complete waste transfer notes and retain these for two years.

2. Registered Waste Carriers

You must carry complete waste transfer notes when transporting waste tyres. Alternatively NIEA will require evidence to substantiate the transport of part-worn tyres including their destination(s).

3. Authorised Treatment Facilities and Exempt Dismantlers of Depolluted ELVs

You must complete waste transfer notes for all waste tyres removed from End-of-Life vehicles (ELVs), give tyres only to a registered waste carrier and retain notes for two years. Alternatively you will require evidence to substantiate part-worn tyres sold from your site.

4. Tyre Recyclers

You must transfer waste tyres (whole, shredded, crumbed or baled) to a registered waste carrier, obtain complete waste transfer notes and retain these for two years.

5. Tyres on Farms

You may keep waste tyres on your farm for reuse e.g. a silage clamp. If you are disposing of tyres you must pass them to a registered waste carrier, obtain complete waste transfer notes and retain these for two years.

Enforcement Policy

- You will be committing an offence if you give waste tyres to an unregistered waste carrier and you do not have valid waste transfer notes.
- You will be committing an offence if you transport waste tyres and you are not registered with NIEA to do so.
- You will be committing an offence if you transport waste tyres and do not have a complete waste transfer note with you.
- You will be committing an offence if you treat, keep or dispose of waste tyres without the relevant waste authorisation.