

Guidance

# Compost: Resource Framework

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This Resource Framework applies to England.

# 1. The Purpose of the Resource Framework

The Resource Framework has four main purposes:

To clarify the point at which waste management controls are no longer required

To provide users with the confidence that the quality of compost from source-segregated biodegradable waste conforms to an approved standard

To provide users with the confidence that the quality of compost from source-segregated biodegradable waste is suitable for use in designated market sectors

To protect human health and prevent pollution of the environment, including soil

# 2. Review and Update of the Resource Framework

This document will be reviewed regularly. This document may be subject to change before these review dates. Triggers for such a change could include:

pollution incidents;

development in scientific understanding;

a change in the market;

a change in legislation or case law; or

a change to the agreed industry standard or input materials.

This Resource Framework will be reviewed in Summer 2025

The Environment Agency will seek support from industry in reviewing this document.

This Resource Framework may be withdrawn if it becomes apparent that it is generally being misapplied and/or misused.

# 3. When the final product is no longer

# considered waste

Compost produced from source-segregated biodegradable waste (biowaste) is no longer subject to waste controls when you can show that:

- has been produced using only approved source-segregated waste materials listed in **'4. Waste you can use'**
- you have stored and processed the waste correctly, meeting all the conditions of the British Standard Institution's Publicly Available Specification (BSI PAS)100 (2018) for the composted materials
- it needs no further treatment before its intended use as a compost.

## 4. Waste you can use

Use only source-segregated biodegradable materials as defined in the BSI PAS 100 (2018) and only materials compliant with the below:

### 4.1. Wastes from agriculture, horticulture, aquaculture, forestry, hunting and fishing, food preparation and processing

Waste code	Waste description
02 01 01	Sludges from washing and cleaning – vegetables, fruit and other crops
02 01 02	Animal tissue waste
02 01 03	Plant-tissue waste - Includes straw, other crop residues, riverine vegetation and spent growing media based on plant issues such as compost derived from source-segregated biodegradable waste, peat and bark.
02 01 06	Animal faeces, urine and manure - Animal faeces, urine and manure (including spoiled fully biodegradable bedding)
02 01 07	Wastes from forestry – Green waste and plant tissue only

### 4.2. Wastes from the preparation and processing of meat, fish and other foods of animal origin

Waste code	Waste description
02 02 01	Sludges from washing and cleaning

<b>Waste code</b>	<b>Waste description</b>
	– Process water and food washing waste only.
02 02 02	Animal tissue waste – May include blood and animal gut contents.
02 02 03	Material unsuitable for consumption or processing – May include gut contents, shells and shellfish wastes. Includes sludges from gelatine production.

#### **4.3. Wastes from fruit, vegetables, cereals, edible oils, cocoa, coffee, tea and tobacco preparation and processing, conserve production, yeast and yeast extract production, molasses preparation and fermentation**

<b>Waste code</b>	<b>Waste description</b>
02 03 01	Sludges from washing, cleaning, peeling, centrifuging and separation – Sludges from food processing only.
02 03 04	Materials unsuitable for consumption or processing - Allowed only if no chemical additives or toxin residues present.

#### **4.4. Wastes from the dairy products industry**

<b>Waste code</b>	<b>Waste description</b>
02 05 01	Materials unsuitable for consumption or processing – includes raw milk.

#### **4.5. Wastes from the baking and confectionary industry**

<b>Waste code</b>	<b>Waste description</b>
02 06 01	Materials unsuitable for consumption or processing

#### **4.6. Wastes from the production of alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages (except coffee, tea and cocoa)**

<b>Waste code</b>	<b>Waste description</b>
02 07 01	Wastes from washing, cleaning and mechanical reduction of raw materials
02 07 02	Wastes from spirits distillation
02 07 04	Materials unsuitable for consumption or processing

#### **4.7. Wastes from wood processing and the production of panels and furniture, pulp, paper and cardboard**

<b>Waste code</b>	<b>Waste description</b>
03 01 01	Waste bark and cork

<b>Waste code</b>	<b>Waste description</b>
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03 01 05	Sawdust, shavings, cuttings, wood and particle board other than those in 03 01 04 only – Not allowed if contains veneers, other coatings or preserving substances. EWC code 03 01 04 is 'sawdust, shavings, cuttings, wood, particle board and veneer containing dangerous substances'. Untreated wood only.
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#### **4.8. Wastes from pulp, paper, and cardboard production and processing**

<b>Waste code</b>	<b>Waste description</b>
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03 03 01	Waste bark and wood
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03 03 10	Fibre rejects, fibre-, filler- and coating-sludges from mechanical separation – Only allowed if not mixed with, or does not contain, de-inking sludge.
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03 03 11	Sludges from on-site effluent treatment other than those mentioned in 03 03 10 – Only allowed if not mixed with or does not contain, de-inking sludge.
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#### **4.9. Wastes from the textile industry**

<b>Waste code</b>	<b>Waste description</b>
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04 02 10	Organic matter from natural products (for example grease, wax) – Waste types in this section allowed if biodegradable material only
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04 02 21	Wastes from unprocessed textile fibres – Waste types in this section allowed if biodegradable material only
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#### **4.10. Waste from the manufacture, formulation, supply and use of plastics, synthetic rubber and man-made, fibres**

<b>Waste code</b>	<b>Waste description</b>
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07 02 13	Waste plastic – Unused and uncontaminated excess production only. See note 1 below.
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#### **4.11. Waste packaging; absorbents, filter materials wiping cloths and protective clothing**

<b>Waste code</b>	<b>Waste description</b>
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15 01 01	Paper and cardboard packaging – Not allowed if any non-biodegradable coating or preserving substance present. See note 1 below.
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15 01 02	Plastic packaging – see note 1 below.
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<b>Waste code</b>	<b>Waste description</b>
15 01 03	Wooden packaging - Not allowed if any non-biodegradable coating or preserving substance is present. Untreated wood only. See note1 below.
15 01 05	Composite packaging – Allowed only if all components comply with requirements of the chosen standard. See note 1 below.
15 01 09	Textile packaging – Allowed only if entirely natural fibres.

#### **4.12. Wastes not otherwise specified in the list**

<b>Waste code</b>	<b>Description</b>
16 10 02	Aqueous liquid wastes other than those mentioned in 16 10 01 – Allowed only if digestate or liquor from an aerobic digestion process that accepts only waste input types allowed by this Resource Framework.

#### **4.13. Wood from construction and demolition wastes**

<b>Waste code</b>	<b>Description</b>
17 02 01	Wood – Not allowed if treated, for example contains veneers, other coatings or preserving substances. Waste types in this section allowed if biodegradable material only, with no chemical additives or preservative, and no persistent organics present. Untreated wood only.

#### **4.14. Soil (including excavated soil from contaminated sites), stones and dredging spoil**

<b>Waste code</b>	<b>Description</b>
17 05 06	Dredging spoil other than that in 17 05 05 – Only riverine vegetation allowed (and not associated dredged mineral material). Only dredged vegetation is permitted. EWC 17 05 06 dredging spoil allowed only if Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) assessment considers pollutants that may be present and adequate risk control is decided feasible.

#### **4.15. Wastes from aerobic treatment of solid wastes**

<b>Waste code</b>	<b>Description</b>
19 02 03	Premixed wastes composed only of non-hazardous wastes – Acceptable only if derived solely from input types allowed by this Resource Framework and remains segregated from, and uncontaminated by any other waste type.

<b>Waste code</b>	<b>Description</b>
19 02 06	Sludges from physico/chemical treatment other than those mentioned in 19 02 05 – Acceptable only if derived solely from physical treatment and/or pH adjustment of input types allowed by this Resource Framework and remains segregated from, and uncontaminated by, any other waste type.
19 05 03	Off-specification compost – Allowed only if the compost is derived from input types allowed by this Resource Framework. This includes oversize material resulting from screening such compost.

#### **4.16. Wastes from anaerobic treatment of solid wastes**



<b>Waste code</b>	<b>Description</b>
19 06 03	Liquor from anaerobic treatment of municipal waste – Waste types in this section are only allowed by the Anaerobic Digestate Resource Framework and are derived from a facility independently certified as complying with BSI PAS 100. For example, the waste must not contain wastes derived from mechanical biological treatment (MBT) facilities or any compost-like outputs (CLO).
19 06 04	Digestate from anaerobic treatment of municipal waste - Waste types in this section are only allowed by the Anaerobic Digestate Resource Framework and are derived from a facility independently certified as complying with BSI PAS 100. For example, the waste must not contain wastes derived from mechanical biological treatment (MBT) facilities or any compost-like outputs (CLO). Any digestate accepted under this waste code must only contain waste inputs identified in “4. Waste you can use” section of the Anaerobic Digestate Resource Framework.
19 06 05	Liquor from anaerobic treatment of animal and vegetable waste - Waste types in this section are only allowed by the Anaerobic Digestate Resource Framework and are derived from a facility independently certified as complying with BSI PAS 100. For example, the waste must not contain wastes derived from mechanical biological treatment (MBT) facilities or any compost-like outputs (CLO).
19 06 06	Digestate from anaerobic treatment of animal and vegetable waste - Waste types in this section are only allowed by the Anaerobic Digestate Resource Framework and are derived from a facility independently certified as complying with BSI PAS 100. For example, the waste must not contain wastes derived from mechanical biological treatment (MBT) facilities or any compost-like outputs (CLO).
19 12 12	Other wastes (including mixtures of materials) from mechanical treatment of wastes other than those mentioned in 19 12 11 – Accepted only if derived solely from input types allowed by this Resource Framework and remains segregated from, and uncontaminated by, any other waste type.

#### **4.17. Municipal waste (household waste and similar commercial, industrial and institutional wastes) including separately collected fractions**

Waste code	Description
20 01 01	Paper and cardboard - Not allowed if any non-biodegradable coating or preservative present.
20 01 08	Biodegradable kitchen and canteen waste - See note 1 at the bottom of this section.
20 01 25	Edible oil and fat
20 01 38	Wood other than that mentioned in 20 01 38 – 20 01 37 is described as ‘wood containing dangerous substances’ Non treated wood waste Not allowed if any biodegradable coating or preserving substance present. Waste types in this section allowed if biodegradable material only, with no chemical additives or preservative, and no persistent organics present.
20 01 39	Plastics - see note 1 at the end of this section

#### 4.18. Garden and park wastes (including cemetery waste)

Waste code	Description
20 02 01	Biodegradable waste - Manure, garden waste, green waste, horticultural waste, plant tissue, parks and garden waste, hedge and tree trimmings, grass cuttings and leafy materials. Waste types in this section allowed if biodegradable material only, with no chemical additives and no toxic residues present. Excludes road sweeping gully waste. The waste must not contain Japanese knotweed.

#### 4.19. Other municipal wastes

Waste code	Description
20 03 01	Mixed municipal waste - Allowed only if separately collected biodegradable wastes otherwise allowed by this Resource Framework. If former foodstuffs are packaged, the restrictions given in section 12 above on packaging wastes apply. An example is unsold food wrapped in compostable packaging that arises as waste from a retail food store.
20 03 02	Waste from markets - Allowed only if biodegradable fractions. Examples are plant material, fruit and vegetables. Packaging waste from a supermarket source is allowed only if it complies with the restriction for the corresponding waste type in section 11 above. See note 1 below.

**Note 1** - Industrially compostable packaging and non-packaging items that are independently certified as compliant with at least one of the following shall be permitted:  
EN 13432

EN 14995  
ASTM D6400

- Home compostable packaging and non-packaging items that are independently certified as compliant with at least one of the following shall be permitted:

EN 17427

AS 5810-2010

NF T51-800

TUV Austria's certification requirements for home compostable packaging under their 'OK

## **5. How to meet the Resource Framework standard**

### **5.1 Obtain certification from an approved third party certification body**

**5.1.1** Producers must demonstrate compliance with the requirements of this Resource Framework and of the approved standard (PAS 100). Compliance must be demonstrated to an approved certification body operating according to scheme rules agreed with the Environment Agency. The approved certification body must also obtain accreditation to ISO 17065:2012 from the United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS) and maintain this on an annual basis.

**5.1.2** As part of the certification process, the producer will be required to:

- keep and retain specified records for a minimum of four years; and
- make them available to the certification body for certification purposes.

Details of the records to be kept are given in section 5.2 and 5.5.

**5.1.3** Scheme rules will not be agreed by the Environment Agency unless they make provision to ensure that:

- the method of certification demonstrates that users have met both the requirements of the approved standard and those of the Resource Framework;
- compliance with both the standard and the Resource Framework are certified annually by an independent certification body accredited by UKAS to ISO 17065:2012 (or any subsequent updates) to the relevant scopes;
- the accredited certification body should have certification of compost in its accredited scope:
- certification verifies source documentation, evidence of site management procedures (including compliance with the quality management system) and laboratory test results;

- the certification body or its authorised contractor carries out at least one site inspection per year to verify on site documentation; and
- the certification process is overseen by an impartial committee.

## **5.2 Record your incoming waste**

This includes:

- the waste type, in compliance with your permit
- its volume or weight
- the source of the waste
- date of delivery, if the waste is not already on site
- name and address of supplier
- name and address of carrier
- your method for confirming the waste is acceptable input material – if not, your rejection reasons and what you did with the rejected waste

## **5.3 Store waste correctly**

You must comply with your environmental permit or exemption and follow [waste management controls](#)

## **5.4 Process the waste following:**

the specifications defined in the BSI PAS 100 (2018),

-and the minimum quality criteria for >2mm plastic of 0.06 % m/m in air-dry compost.

## **5.5 Record your outgoing product**

This includes producing and keeping copies of customer supply documentation and contains a declaration that the quality compost meets the approved

standard, the Resource Framework and any additional customer specifications (as agreed between the supplier and the customer)

## **6. Unused Resource Framework compliant Compost: loss of non-waste status**

Resource Framework compliant compost from source-segregated biodegradable materials will become waste again and subject to waste management controls if at any stage:

- you discard it;
- you plan to discard it;
- it is required to be discarded;
- it is stored indefinitely with little prospect of being used.

This applies to anyone holding stores of compost, not just producers.

Further guidance on when a material is waste can be found here: [check-if-your-material-is-waste](#)

## **7. Resource Framework compliant Compost mixed with waste and non-waste**

If you mix the Resource Framework compliant material with;

Other waste material, the whole mixed volume becomes waste, and you must apply waste management controls

Non-waste material, the whole volume is non-waste if it meets the standard for your intended and recognised end product

Guidance on waste management controls can be obtained from the Environment Agency's National Customer Contact Centre on **08708 506 506**, from its website (<http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/subjects/waste/>)

## **8. Standards and Specifications which apply**

# to this Resource Framework

At present, this Resource Framework applies only to the latest version of British Standards Institution's Publicly Available Specification for compost materials (BSI PAS 100)

Electronic copies of BSI PAS 100 documentation can be obtained at a cost from:

- BSI – at the following link the <https://knowledge.bsigroup.com/products/specification-for-composted-materials?version=standard>
- Renewable Energy Assurance Limited – at the following link <https://www.qualitycompost.org.uk/documents/pas100>