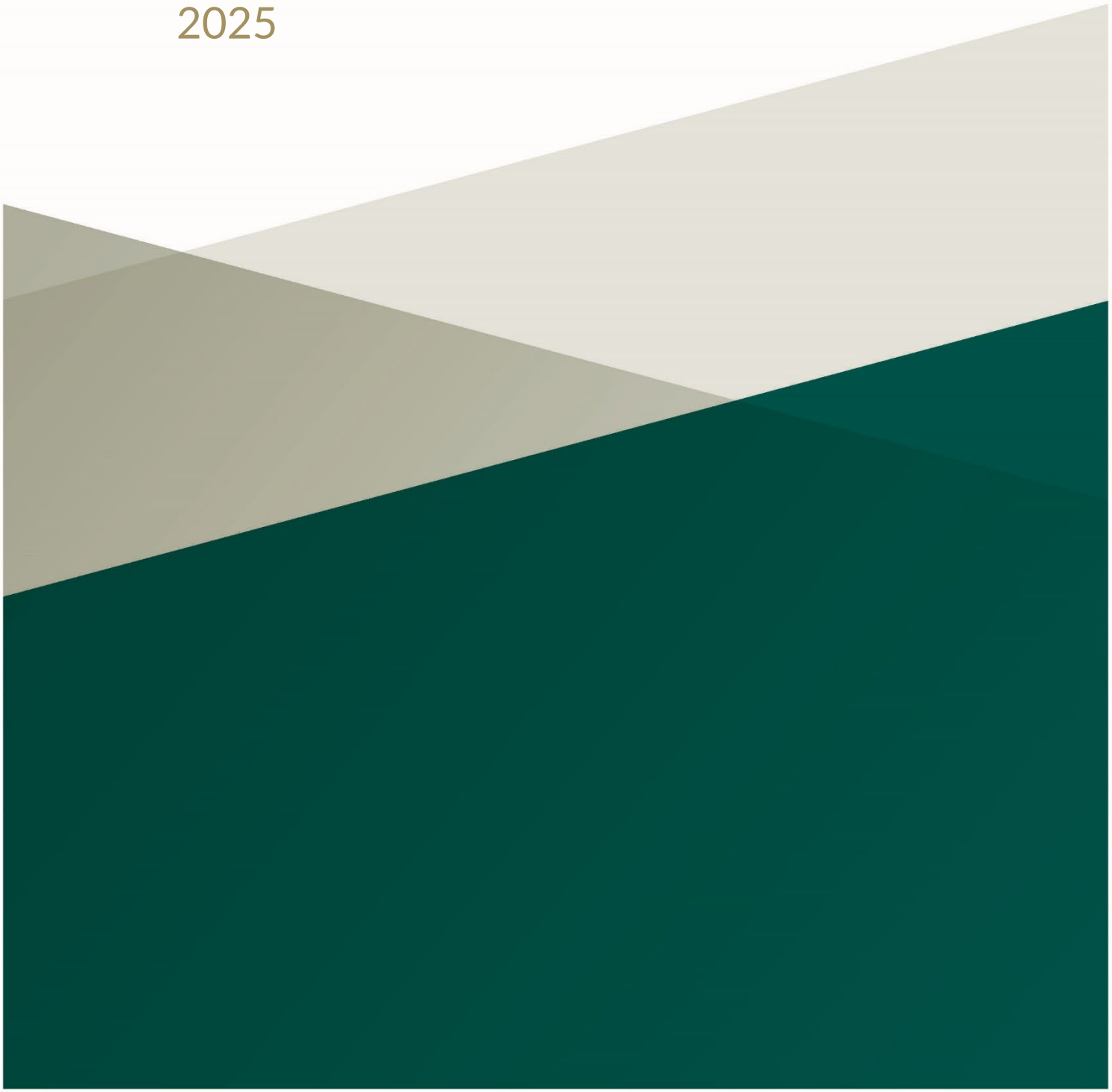
Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

Market Assessment

Solid Fuel Regulations
Moisture Content of 100% Biomass Products
2025



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Summary of Market Assessment (MA)			
Department:	Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment		
Title of Legislation:	AIR POLLUTION ACT 1987 (SOLID FUELS) REGULATIONS 2022		
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1 Executive Summary

The Government and the Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment are committed to ensuring ongoing improvements in air quality across Ireland. This is reflected in the Programme for Government, the National Air Pollution Control Programme (NAPCP) and the Clean Air Strategy (CAS).

The burning of solid fuels in the home is a large contributor to our national emissions of particulate matter, sulphur and other pollutants, and it creates additional localised air pollution issues during the heating season.

Detailed historic maps of air pollution levels across the country are now available at https://www.airquality.ie/annual-maps

Much progress has already been made over the years in this area since the introduction of minimum standards for solid fuels culminating in the current Air Pollution Act 1987 (Solid Fuels) Regulations 2022.

While it is still too early to definitively assess the impact of the regulations, early indications are that they are having a positive impact on air quality.

However, it should also be noted that there is no safe level of air pollution, so it is important that we continue to work towards reducing our emissions in line with targets set out in the Clean Air Strategy and the revised Ambient Air Quality Directive.

The current Solid Fuel Regulations Regulation (S.I. No. 529/2022) state that the allowable moisture content in 100% biomass products will reduce from 25% to 20% from the 1st of September 2025.

On foot of concerns raised by the sector, DCEE has undertaken this market assessment. While not ideal, the Department is recommending that the above decrease in moisture content from 25% to 20% be postponed by one year. This is to allow the increasing number of operators who are seeking to be compliant with the legislation the time to do so, which will ensure that as many operators as possible remain within the regulated market, which will in turn raise standards and ultimately improve air quality.

2 Introduction

The current Air Pollution Act 1987 (Solid Fuels) Regulations 2022 (S.I. No. 529/2022) set specific technical standards for a number of solid fuels under Regulation 5(5) as set out below.

Requirements for approved solid fuel

5. *(*5) Fuel products which are 100% biomass products, including wood products and wood logs, supplied in units of two cubic metres or less, must have a moisture content of —

(a) less than 25%, and

(b) with effect from 1 September 2025, less than 20%.

(6) Wood logs supplied in units of more than two cubic metres shall be accompanied by a notice containing the statement specified in Schedule 1.

Regulation 5(5)(b) above states that the allowable moisture content in 100% biomass products will reduce from 25% to 20% from the 1st of September. However, following correspondence from the Irish Bioenergy Association (IrBEA), which indicated that this may not be feasible for all producers who are seeking to register from September 2025, , it was decided to conduct a market assessment to seek views on the impact of the above and to determine if a change to the regulation is required.

To inform this market assessment, the Department contacted all producers of 100% biomass solid fuels in May 2025 to get feedback from that sector regarding the technical feasibility and potential consequences of moving to the 20% moisture content limit.

3 Solid Fuels and Air Pollution

The burning of solid fuels in the residential sector creates a number of pollutant emissions such as particulate matter, sulphur, PAHs, nitrogen oxides and black carbon. The amount of each pollutant released into the air is dependent upon the type and quality of the fuel, the type and maintenance of appliance, and householder practices.

Box 1: Overview of Commercial and Residential sources to national emissions in Ireland

3.7.1 Residential (1A4b) [1] (UNECE IIR, EPA 2025)

Combustion in the residential sector is one of the principal sources of emissions, contributing 64.90 per cent of SO2 emissions, 58.88 per cent of CO emissions, and 45.95 per cent of PM2.5 emissions in Ireland in 2023. This sector also contributed 14.4 per cent and 20.6 per cent of Irelands' Pb and Hg 2023 emissions, respectively. This sector is also one of the principal sources of emissions of Dioxins and PAHs contributing 68.7 per cent and 90.24 per cent, respectively, in 2023.

Coal burning in the residential sector is also an important but declining source of NMVOC emissions as coal consumption decreases, with the sector accounting 5.8 per cent of national emissions in 2023. Significant fuel switching has been seen in the residential sector, with a continuous reduction in the use of coal (down 84.5 per cent) and peat (down 80.7 per cent) since 1990. Increased use of liquid fuels gasoil and kerosene (229.6 per cent), natural gas (296.4 per cent), and renewables (148.3 per cent) in this sector has resulted in significant decreases in emissions since 1990.

Between 1990 and 2023, decreases have been seen in SO2 emissions (87.1 per cent), NMVOC emissions (81.0 per cent), CO (81.7 per cent), PM2.5 (78.8 per cent), Pb (82.1 per cent), Hg (74.0 per cent), Dioxins (74.3 per cent) and PAHs (66.8 per cent) in the Commercial/Institutional and Residential sectors.

[1]https://www.epa.ie/publications/monitoring--assessment/climate-change/air-emissions/irelands-unece-submissions-2025.php

The information in Box 1, refers to aggregate emissions across the entire State. However, the level of air pollution in any given location, and the related health impacts, will depend on the amount and type of residential solid fuel burning taking place locally or regionally and the level of population exposed. This is observed via the network of ambient air quality monitoring stations.

The EPA report "Air Quality in Ireland 2023"[2] (published in September 2024) confirms that, there were no exceedances of the EU limit values for any air pollutants being monitored, including those which are most commonly associated with solid fuel burning. However, the revised Ambient Air Quality Directive will come into force in December 2026, which will introduce lower limit values for many of these pollutants from 2030.

It is also important to note that the monitoring stations do not distinguish the sources of the pollutants, i.e. if they are from coal burning or wood burning. This can only be done through 'source apportionment'. This is a more costly and intensive monitoring approach and is usually carried out through research projects. A previous EPA research project SAPPHIRE[3] (2013-2017) determined that about 20-25% of particulate matter measured in four Irish towns could be attributed to wood burning at that time.

A new EPA project TownAir is currently conducting updated source apportionment of particulate matter.

3.1 Regulations

The first regulations on the Marketing, Sale, Distribution and Burning of Specified Fuels (informally and colloquially known as the 'smoky coal' ban) were introduced in the 1990s. The regulations first applied in Dublin and were gradually extended across the country with modifications made to the regulations over time.

Up to 2022, the regulations prohibited the marketing, sale, distribution and burning of specified fuels in localised areas known as 'Low Smoke Zones', which covered approximately 50% of the population. Additionally, bituminous coal which was sold outside of

[2] https://indd.adobe.com/view/5d24bd05-d1ac-43d1-abf6-facf243e6ad7

[3] https://www.epa.ie/publications/research/environment--health/research-318-source-apportionment-of-particulate-matter-in-urban-and-rural-residential-areas-of-ireland-sapphire.php

a low smoke zone was required to have a sulphur content not greater than 0.7% by weight on a dry ash-free basis.

The current regulations, introduced in 2022 sought to move from the low smoke zone approach and instead set technical standards for solid fuels across the entire state and introduced limits for moisture content for 100% biomass products for the first time.

Testing of fuels for compliance with the Regulations is undertaken by individual local authorities and no centralised database of test/inspection results is held in relation to moisture content of 100% biomass products.

4 Market Assessment Process

The Department undertook this market assessment using the following methodology.

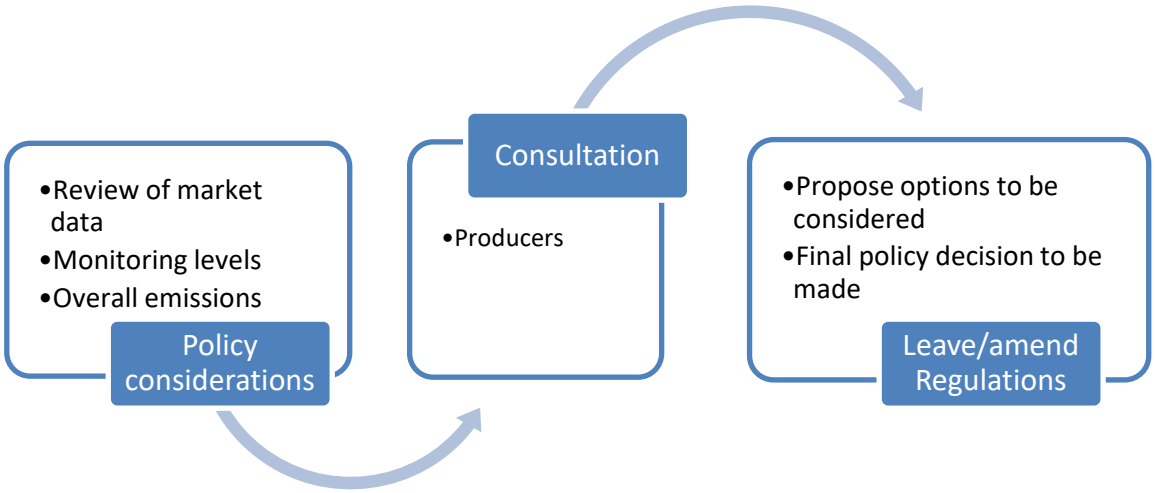


Figure 1: Market assessment methodology

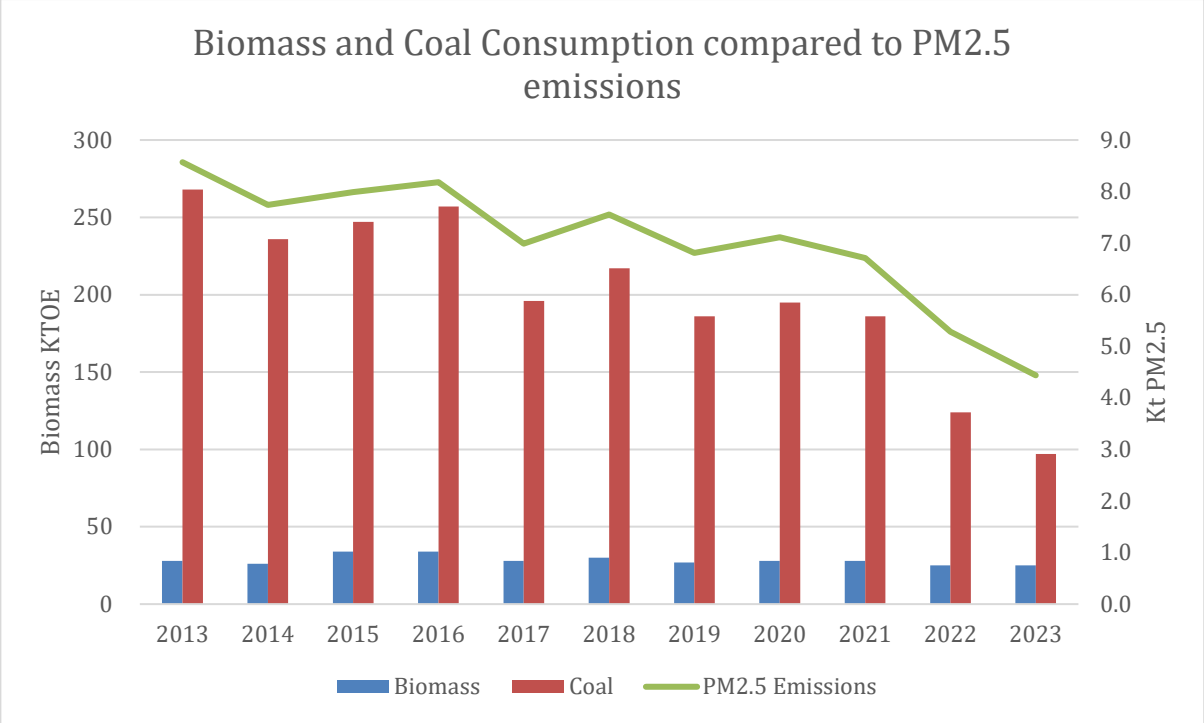
4.1 Policy Considerations

4.1.1 Review of Market Data

Data on energy consumption by fuel type for the residential sector is prepared each year by the SEAI and published in the national energy balance[4]. Over the past ten years, since 2013 total use of biomass products for residential heating has remained relatively stable, an average of 28 ktoe per year. As the graph below illustrates, commercially traded biomass is a much smaller source of fuel supply compared to coal/ coal-based products for domestic, notwithstanding that the use of coal is decreasing over time.

Of course, the data does not capture any 'grey market' (non tax compliant) trade in 100% biomass products, nor does it capture use of 'self sourced' wood. It is not possible to get accurate or reliable data on the potential levels of this contribution to overall coal use, given the nature of the type of trade or the ability for people to source from their own land.

[4] https://www.seai.ie/data-and-insights/seai-statistics/key-publications/national-energy-balance



The EPA prepare an inventory report[5] of Ireland's national pollutant emissions for a range of pollutants each year. These are national totals based on activity levels and are not the same as data captured at monitoring stations.100% biomass products release a range of pollutants depending on the type of biomass, but $PM_{2.5}$ are the most significant.

When compared to overall $PM_{2.5}$ emissions for the same period, the level of the use of coal has a greater impact on overall pollutants emitted, however as the share of coal in the sector decreases, the impact of 100% biomass products will start to impact more on overall emissions levels.

4.1.2 Product Costs

The SEAI prepare an overview of fuel costs comparisons for the domestic market on a quarterly basis. The table below sets out the details for 100% biomass products. The SEAI note the difficulty in compiling accurate details stating that 'wood fuel prices may vary from the average, given the fragmented supplier network at present', and 'firewood prices include those from a selection of suppliers that publish their prices online'.

[5] https://www.epa.ie/publications/monitoring--assessment/climate-change/air-emissions/irelands-unece-submissions-2024.php

Each website sells timber in different size pallets, some are sold by weight others are sold in bags, crates of different sizes etc. There are also many different types of wood for sale (Oak, Birch, Hornbeam, hardwood, softwood, mixed) which can be purchased as kiln dried or air dried. As per the SEAI data overall pellet prices have largely reduced between October 2024 and April 2025 as have wood log prices with the exception of pallets of hardwood at 20% moisture content.

Fuel Type	Average Price per Kg	Gross Calorific Value	Delivered Energy Cost (cent/kWh)	Percentage Change since 1 October 2024	Percentage Change since 1 January 2024
Pellets Bulk Delivery	0.48	4.8	9.93	+.03	-2.7
Pellets Bagged	0.49	4.8	10.12	-2.7	-10.6
Briquettes	0.80	4.8	16.62	-0.3	-11.1
Hardwood, Small Bag, 20% moisture, Collected	0.65	4.16	15.58	-7.0	-0.9
Softwood, Small Bag, 25% moisture, Collected	0.59	3.86	15.16	-	-9.0
Hardwood, Full Pallet, 20% moisture, Delivered	0.60	4.16	14.46	+0.4	+3.2
Softwood, Full Pallet, 25% moisture, Delivered	0.42	3.86	10.85	-	-2.0
Softwood, Bulk (loose), 25% moisture, Delivered	0.33	3.86	8.53	+1.0	-3.2

4.1.3 Local air pollution monitoring

The EPA manages the network of ambient air quality stations across the country. As per the table below, no exceedances have been observed for the current EU limit values, however meeting the WHO recommended guidelines levels will be challenging, as will meeting the EU 2030 targets under the revised Ambient Air Quality Directive.

Selected pollutants measured in 2023 failing the WHO AQG levels

Pollutant	Number of stations where parameter monitored 2023	WHO Air Quality Guideline (AQG) level or EEA reference level[1]
PM_{10}	106	Above annual WHO AQG value at 5 stations. Above daily WHO AQG value at 10 stations
$PM_{2.5}$	101	Above annual WHO AQG value at 79 stations. Above daily WHO AQG value at 80 stations
NO_2	36	Above annual WHO AQG value at 24 stations. Above daily WHO AQG value at 29 stations.
Ozone (O_3)	23	Above Peak Season WHO AQG level at 6 stations. Above 8hr daily WHO AQG value at 18 stations
Sulphur dioxide (SO_2)	15	Above WHO 24 hour AQG level at 1 station

[1] Stations with at least 50% data capture

Selected pollutants measured in 2023 and their adherence to EU legal limit values (CAFE Directive)

Pollutant	Number of stations where parameter monitored 2023	EU legal limit values
PM_{10}	106	No exceedances
$PM_{2.5}$	101	No exceedances
NO_2	36	No exceedances
Ozone (O_3)	23	No exceedances
Sulphur dioxide (SO_2)	15	No exceedances
PAHs	5	No exceedances
Heavy metals	5	No exceedances
Dioxins	22	No exceedances
All other pollutants	-	No exceedances

As outlined in section three it is not possible to isolate the contribution of 100% biomass products to the measurement of specific pollutants at each station across the country, although based on previous studies it is likely that wood burning contributes to about 25%. The relative contribution of this fuel may also increase as coal and peat burning levels are reduced.

As such reducing emissions through reduced moisture content of 100% biomass products, particularly wood logs is a key policy measure to ensure continued reductions in air pollutant emissions. However, the timing of introducing such measures must be weighed up against the overall Government policy objective of having as many operators as possible within the regulatory regime so that standards and air quality will be improved over time and the desire of the sector to be compliant with the solid fuel regulations and the time it requires to do so.

5 Stakeholder Consultation

The Department sought feedback from the sector to determine what market conditions the sector thought should be considered in relation any potential change to the moisture content limit. 47 responses were received by the deadline. Overall, 15 respondents felt that the limits should remain as they are and the remaining 32 felt that the timeline to achieve 20% should be extended.

The following three questions were set out in the consultation document and a summary of the responses is provided below depending on the response type.

It should also be noted that some of the responses were duplicates, i.e. a standardised text response was provided by some of the respondents who were both for and against the proposed changes in addition to individual feedback.

5.1 Should the limit of 25% be reduced to 20% in September 2025?

In general, it is important to note the difference between the biomass type i.e. wood pellets are almost all at a much lower moisture content than 20% as they would not burn, whereas wood logs can have over 40% moisture content when freshly cut and must be dried. This drying is achieved naturally through leaving the wood for a prolonged period of time in dry storage (air drying) or through kiln drying. The importance of these differences are noted throughout the responses.

5.1.1 Response: Yes

These responses were largely from suppliers who were already delivering product to 20% or were confident that they could do so by September. Some of these suppliers were already compliant with the Ready to Burn certification scheme which also demands a moisture content of less than 20%.

- It was also pointed out that the regulations have been in place since 2022 and producers have had ample time to meet the requirements.
- Many suppliers have already made the required changes incurring related costs and they would be at a disadvantage to others who have not made the same investment.
- Frustration that IRBEA have requested this and that they don’t speak for all suppliers.
- Concerns regarding low quality products with higher moisture content is leading to higher imports of low moisture fuels from outside the state.

5.1.2 Response: No

There were a number of responses which all cited the same concerns, potential closure, the struggles of air drying in an Irish climate, infrastructural and equipment costs.

Some qualified their no response with comments outlining that it should happen in the very near future.

5.2 What evidence or information can you provide to support this answer?

5.2.1 Those who responded Yes to 20% limit in September

- Stove suppliers do not recommend the use of firewood with a moisture content greater than 20%.
- Less mould development.
- Better for air quality, cleaner combustion.
- Better for energy efficiency, greater heat output.
- Better customer experience.
- Concern that those struggling to meet the new limits have no intention of investing.
- It could be considered a retrograde policy step.
- Cleaner chimneys.
- Its actually possible to go much lower so 20% is not an excessive ask.
- Need for consistency of policy messaging to ensure market stability.

5.2.2 Those who responded No to 20% limit in September

- Additional investment required in infrastructure (drying sheds and storage), equipment (a kiln), raw material (stock).
- Invested significant amounts to get moisture content below 25%, it will require a significant amount more to get moisture content below 20%.
- Additional time is required to achieve 20%.
- Further training and up-skilling will be required of staff to achieve 20%.
- To meet the 20% requirement, we must purchase raw material a year earlier to allow time for the firewood to dry, which will mean a lot of extra costs and then keeping the level below 20% will mean extra sock, storage capacity, meaning a large hit on cashflow.

5.3 What are the potential impacts of a change to 20%?

5.3.1 Yes Respondents

- Stove owners should have the opportunity to be buy high quality fuel locally rather than having to order specially to meet the manufacturers requirements.
- Producers which have already invested in the facilities to provide firewood at less than 20% should not be penalised for their investment.
- The most immediate and significant impact will be the real improvement in Ireland's air quality, directly contributing to Ireland's air quality goals.
- Consumers stand to benefit from the increased efficiency of combustion associated with lower moisture content wood products, which directly translates to a reduction in the amount of fuel required to achieve equivalent heat output.
- The potential for market distortion and competition issues. If the government were to provide concessions to businesses that do not meet established environmental standards through for example, extending deadlines or easing regulations, this would create an artificial market. Such interventions could potentially be interpreted as State aid and supports, thereby undermining fair competition for businesses that have already invested in meeting and exceeding these standards.
- Propping up businesses that do not meet environmental standards could also be considered as stifling innovation and sustainable practices within the industry.
- Impact on Ireland's broader climate goals.
- Black market firewood sales should continue to decrease as retail inspections and standards increase. Firewood producers that have not already made the transition to dry firewood will need to make the necessary changes.

Negative impacts may include:

- Potential increase in fuel costs due to the additional drying or seasoning required to achieve the lower moisture threshold.
- Less competition in the marketplace as wood fuel suppliers will likely need to invest more in equipment and fuel storage to meet these requirements, which will likely lead to consolidation in the market.

5.3.2 No Respondents

- Energy security: my customers are reliant on me supplying them heating fuels for the winter, if I can't meet the 20% limit that will mean I cannot legally supply them with firewood.
- Many of my customers have no other alternative form of renewable heating.
- Potential business closure as I will be unable to meet the 20% limit by September of this year or if we do, we will not have enough stock for our customers for the winter period, due to the extra time needed to get to 20%.

- Many suppliers in the market will not comply with the 20%, and may choose to sell non-compliant firewood, and undermine legitimate suppliers, which is already happening at 25%.
- It would be a lot more impactful if first, the pressure was put on traders and sellers of non-compliant firewood to either comply or get out, giving an immediate improvement in emissions.
- Some suppliers not making progress to the 20% level will leave the market.
- Regulation of local suppliers will be impacted as (WFQA) need a certain volume to exist as a business. Not sure what that number is.
- By not having regulated suppliers you allow the black market in firewood to flourish, more wet firewood.
- Loss of employment.
- Higher level of imports. More raw timber being exported from the country. No jobs being created from this.
- Could affect disease in our native forests particularly if imported timber is not dried properly (Ash Dieback). There have been instances of this i.e. not dried as advertised.
- Loss of revenue to the exchequer.
- While my small, family-run business abides by regulations and the law, many other suppliers will not.
- Anyone in the firewood industry realises that in order to get to below 20% moisture levels in Ireland, a kiln will be required. The price of kiln-dried firewood is out of reach for at least 90% of our customers.
- Our domestic wood fuel industry is important on a few levels. It supports rural jobs, but it also provides an outlet for pulpwood for the forestry sector.
- Our domestic wood fuel industry should be nurtured and encouraged.
- It will create extra strain on an already fragile supply chain as hauliers that are already overwhelmed with moving storm damaged timber will have to bring extra volume into firewood suppliers which in a lot of cases are a good distance away from where suitable timber is located.
- Greater emphasis should be placed on educating the general public on how to store firewood and season it properly as most European countries, policing and fining sellers on the black market and not just turning a blind eye to it as seems to the case. Facebook marketplace would be a good starting point.
- Local firewood production, with direct delivery by local suppliers, is inherently more environmentally sound due to reduced overall transportation footprints compared to models reliant on extensive third-party logistics for imported goods.
- The erosion of local businesses will harm rural economies, reduce local employment, and diminish community resilience.
- While imported wood has its place in meeting overall demand, fostering a fair competitive environment that supports local producers in achieving these higher standards is paramount for a resilient and environmentally conscious local supply chain.

6 Registration System

It is important to note that prior to the introduction of the new solid fuel regulations in 2022, there were no standards in place for 100% biomass products which specifically focused on air quality through reduced moisture content. In addition, there was no requirement for producers of 100% biomass products to register with the EPA. In fact, it was not possible for the Department to ascertain how many producers may be impacted by the new regulations.

As such the introduction of the 2022 regulations were the first time where producers of these product would have had to engage with compliance schemes and registration systems. A communications campaign targeting producers to inform them of the new requirements was put in place from August to October 2022. In addition, FAQ documents for producers were developed and provided online. They were also provided to local authorities to use as part of their enforcement inspections.

However, it is clear from some of the consultation responses that some producers seem to be unaware of the requirement to transition from 25% to 20% this year.

In the 2023/2024 registration period there were 74, 100% biomass producers registered, this increased to 92 in the 2024/2025 registration period covering 321 products. It is still unclear how many producers may be operating without proper certification and registration however anecdotal evidence suggests that inspections by local authorities may have led to increases in registration over the past 2 years.

7 Summary of Assessment

The Department notes that there are no safe levels of air pollution and that there is no solid fuel that is completely emission free. All solid fuel burning produces pollutants, however the amount released depends on the fuel type and the appliance it is being burned in.

Timeline for Compliance / Market Stability

This assessment indicates that many producers seem to have been unaware of the requirements of the regulations which have been in place since 2022. An extensive public awareness campaign was carried out at that time and FAQ documents for producers are available on the Departments website. As such many are now ready to comply with the requirements, however some still seem to be lagging behind. This is also highlighted by the numbers now engaging with the WFQA but who have not progressed enough to be compliant in time by September.

The Department had set the standard and timelines based on consultation with industry, including IRBEA and it was deemed appropriate. Some submissions noted that it could be considered a retrograde policy step to delay this timeline for the additional reduction in moisture content.

There are also producers who have taken steps to ensure that they will be compliant by the September deadline making the change to the regulations could be considered to impact on competition and create market distortion.

Enforcement

The Department provided training and guidance for all local authorities on how to carry out inspections regarding 100% biomass products. Moisture meters for checking moisture content were also provided to each local authority.

While the Department cannot direct the local authorities to take specific actions it has encouraged them to carry out retailer and online inspections over the past three years.

All suppliers are currently expected to be certified to the 25% standard and actions are being taken to address those that are not, particularly at the retail level where enforcement staff check that product for sale is provided by a producer on the EPA solid fuel producer register.

Costs

Many submissions cited issues relating to costs both from the production side (infrastructure, equipment, raw materials, time, training) and increased costs to the consumer. However, it is not possible for us to determine the exact impact of these, and it should be noted that many producers have already made the investments. On foot of a coarse online examination of product prices, there is significant variation across the market at present even though all products should already be meeting the 25% limit.

It should also be noted that the Department has no role in providing funding to producers to support compliance with the regulations. This was highlighted to all solid fuel producers and suppliers when the regulations were introduced.

Many submissions noted that the potential costs incurred to reach the 20% limit may push small local operators out of the market impacting on jobs and rural resilience.

Energy Security

This issue was raised a number of times in the submissions however there is no evidence that continuing with the regulations as planned will lead to a situation where there will be no suitable fuels available on the market for customers to use their solid fuel appliances where required.

8 Conclusion

The requirement for all biomass producers to reduce moisture content to a maximum of 20% was clearly signalled well ahead of the 2025 deadline, having first been set out in the 2022 regulations. This phased approach, supported by IRBEA at the time, provided producers with ample time to plan, invest in drying capacity, or adjust stock levels to ensure compliance. Many producers have already taken these necessary steps and are on track to fully comply by September.

Since these regulations came into force — along with the expansion of the registration system to include wood fuels — there has been a marked increase in the supply of certified, compliant fuels. This progress is essential for meeting national air quality targets and ensuring that only higher-quality, lower-emission fuels are available to households and businesses.

However, despite this clear lead-in period, some submissions indicate that a portion of producers are still not prepared to meet the 20% moisture requirement. Non-compliance will prevent these operators from registering with the EPA — a legal obligation for all suppliers — and, as a result, they may be forced to exit the formal market altogether. This poses significant risks: increasing the number of non-compliant operators who will now operate outside the regulated system, jeopardise public trust, and risk introducing poorer-quality fuels that compromise air quality targets.

It is therefore critical that all biomass producers are within the official registration system, particularly given that the number of suppliers seeking to register and be complaint is rising. Keeping producers in the regulated framework will improve air quality, ensures a level playing field for compliant businesses, protects local jobs, maintains oversight and enforcement, and, above all, guarantees that consumers have access only to fuels that meet national standards for efficiency and lower emissions.

The policy goal is clear and unchanged: to achieve meaningful air quality improvements, all producers must comply with the 20% moisture content limit by the deadline and continue to operate within the registered, regulated supply chain. Supporting producers to meet this requirement — and ensuring robust enforcement for those who do not — is vital to deliver the clean air outcomes this policy was designed to achieve. Postponing the move to 20% by

one year is seen as an acceptable short-term price to pay in order to achieve the longer term objective.

Other considerations

Ireland is currently preparing for the transposition of the EU Ambient Air Quality Directive (EU 2024/2881), which sets more stringent legal limits for all pollutants compared to the current CAFÉ Directive and will involve the implementation of new actions and measures to reduce air pollution from the residential sector.

The Department is also preparing amendments to the Air Pollution Act, to support enhanced enforcement powers for local authorities and greater scope for the introduction of local measures to reduce air pollution in areas of concern.

Final Recommendation

On balance, the Department has recommended that the timeline for compliance with the 20% limit be extended by 12 months until September 2026. No further extension will be granted, and no financial supports will be made available by the Department to producers to achieve compliance.

9 Next Steps

A submission will now be made to the Minister to ask for his approval to amend the existing regulation (SI 529 of 2022) to change the date for the commencement of the 20% requirement to September 2026.

Subject to his approval and the completion of the changes to the regulations all producers will be informed of the outcome of the market assessment to ensure that they can take the required steps to reach compliance with the updated deadline.

This will be communicated through the solid fuel register, IRBEA and as a response to all those who made a submission to the assessment.

The EPA and Local Authorities will also be informed of the changes to the regulations.