Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

FAQ for Producers/Importers

What are the main responsibilities as a producer or importer of solid fuels?

The key obligation on producers/importers is that they shall only sell or distribute a solid fuel product that:

- Is an approved solid fuel
- Is certified as per the regulations
- Is labelled as per the regulations
- Relates to a fuel activity in respect of which the producer is registered on the Fuels Register
- That appropriate documentation is provided to merchants and retailers
- That the required information travels with the fuel while being transported

In addition to registration and certification, the producers are responsible for the conformity assessments of their products

I am an importer of solid fuels. What is required of me under the new regulations?

If you are only importing and not manufacturing solid fuels, you are required to register with the EPA. To do so, you will need to provide appropriate certificates of compliance, to demonstrate that the fuels you are importing meet the requirements of the new regulations. All approved products will also be available on the EPA Product Register. (link)

I am a Bagger of solid fuels. What is required of me under the new regulations?

If you are rebagging and not manufacturing solid fuels, you are still required to register with the EPA as you are considered to be a producer as outlined in the regulations. To do so, you will need to provide appropriate certificates of compliance, to demonstrate that the fuels you are rebagging meet the requirements of the new regulations. A certificate of testing from the original manufacturer is not sufficient under IS311. All approved products will also be available on the EPA Product Register. (link)

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Are firelighters and kindling covered by the regulations?

Firelighters and kindling are not subject to the regulations at this time as they are used for ignition only and not prolonged burning. However, fire logs and fire bags will be subject to the regulations.

Registration

When do I need to re-register?

The EPA are responsible for the administration of the Fuels Register. All producers of solid fuels must register with the EPA annually to be placed on the Fuels Register. Details can be found on the EPA website. All producers must register their organisation and their products with the EPA before the 1st of September each year.

I was not previously on the EPA register but wish to register for the next heating season. What do I need to do?

You are required to fill out a registration form and have the required certification. The revised application form has been made available on the EPA website.

Once you have your EPA registration number you will be required to include it on all documentation and must provide updated documentation to a retailer if requested.

Certification

I was previously certified under SWIFT7. Do I need to get an additional certification?

SWIFT7, was only permitted for use to the end of heating season 2022/23. The Swift7 standard is no longer active and is not a mark of compliance with the new regulations.

All producers are now required to complete the new application form which requires details of each product and confirmation that it is covered by the appropriate certification. This also includes biomass/wood based products and manufactured part biomass products.

What certification schemes will be accepted by the EPA?

The Swift7 standard is no longer active and is not a mark of compliance with the new regulations.

A valid Certificate of Compliance issued by a third-party Certification Body must be submitted for all of your products to the EPA. The Certificate of Compliance should cover the full heating season e.g. from 1st September 2023 to 31st August 2024.

Examples of certification schemes that will be accepted include:

- WFQA and Ready to Burn certification will be accepted for 100% biomass, wood products and wood logs
- HETAS Approved solid fuel certification
- There is also a new Irish Standard (IS-311) which replaced the SWIFT7.

Or

(a) a relevant standard or code of practice of a national standards body or equivalent body in another Member State, an EFTA country, the United Kingdom or Turkey;
(b) any relevant international standard recognised for use in another Member State, an EFTA country, the United Kingdom or Turkey;
(c) any relevant technical regulation with mandatory or de facto mandatory application for marketing or use in, another Member State, an EFTA country, the United Kingdom or Turkey;
(d) any relevant quality assurance scheme approved by the Minister,

insofar as the standard, code of practice, technical regulation, scheme or process in question enables the requirements of Regulation 5 of S.I. No. 529/2022 - Air Pollution Act 1987 (Solid Fuels) Regulations 2022 and S.I. No. 76/2025 - Air Pollution Act 1987 (Solid Fuels) (Amendment) Regulations 2025to be certified in an equivalent manner.

Other important points to note include:

- The onus will be on the producer to prove the certification scheme demonstrates compliance with the regulations.
- Producers will now have to engage and pay for certification themselves as this will not be carried out under contract by the EPA.
- Eco-design certificates will not be accepted as they are based on the fuel being used in a specific eco-designed appliance type. The eco-design obligations only came into force in January 2022 and the evidence to date indicates that the majority of appliances were installed in Ireland before this date.

I am a wood producer. What is required of me under the new regulations?

You are considered a solid fuel producer under the regulations and all relevant requirements as outlined above apply to you, in the same manner as they apply to producers of other solid fuels.

Labelling

Do I need to label my products in any particular way?

Yes. Approved solid fuels must be labelled with the words “contents comply with the Air Pollution Act Regulations” and packaging must also include the EPA producer registration number. This is to give the retailer and the householder confidence that the product is an approved fuel.

There are additional requirements for the packaging of manufactured biomass products, as set out in Regulation 11 of Air Pollution Act 1987 (Solid Fuel) Regulations 2022 Air Pollution Act 1987 (Solid Fuels) Regulations 2022 - S.I. No. 529 of 2022

In the case of wood, wood sold in volumes of two cubic metres or more must be accompanied by a notice containing the statement specified in Schedule 1 of the Regulations.

What if I my packaging does not comply with the new regulations?

All packaging must now comply with the new regulations. If requirements are not met, you are in contravention of the regulations and may be subject to further enforcement action.

What is the product code?

The product code is the unique code assigned to each product upon production, such as a barcode or any other unique identifier on the packaging. If you do not have a unique identifier on the packaging, you must supply the EPA with a code that is unique to each product. The exact code is for each producer to determine, but applications will not be processed by the EPA without it.

Transportation

Are there additional record-keep requirements when transporting solid fuel?

Yes. The owner or operator of any vehicle which is used for the transport of solid fuel shall retain on the vehicle and provide to an authorised officer, if requested:

(a) A record of the quantity of each type of solid fuel on the vehicle and the name and address of the person or body who supplied the fuel,
(b) A record of the destination or destinations of the solid fuel and the name and address of the person or persons purchasing the fuel, and
(c) A record demonstrating that the solid fuel is an approved fuel, such as an invoice, credit note, or dispatch or delivery documents detailing the products purchased from a registered producer which must include the registration number issued to the producer by the EPA.

You should ensure that these documents are provided to the driver of any vehicle being used for the delivery or other transport of solid fuel.

Please note that under SI 529 of 2022 it is an offence to transport unapproved solid fuels. Please see our FAQ on transportation for more details.

Other requirements

It should also be noted that SI 257 of 1991 is still in force although it is not under the remit of this Department. It has a number of additional requirements, such as:

4. (1) It shall be unlawful to manufacture, assemble or sell for domestic use any petroleum coke or other solid fuel which has a gross calorific value greater than 24 megajoules per kilogram on a moist ash-free basis and which contains less than 2.5 per cent ash by weight on a dry basis, unless the petroleum coke or other solid fuel is mixed with another solid fuel such that—

(a) the percentage of petroleum coke or of the other first-mentioned solid fuel (as the case may be) contained in the admixture is not more than 50 per cent by weight on a dry basis, and

(b) the ash content of the admixture is equal to or greater than 2.5 per cent by weight on a dry basis.

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Full details of SI 257 of 1991 can be found here

Disclaimer

This document provides information to assist producers and importers to comply with regulations which came into force on the 31st of October 2022.

It represents the most up to date information possible and is not a legal interpretation of the regulations. It is a working document and subject to update and change at any time as new information becomes available. Any additional queries can be directed to solidfuels@dcee.gov.ie

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