

Regulatory Position Statement 173

The use of reprocessed gypsum from waste plasterboard already supplied to a farm for landspreading

Reprocessed gypsum from waste plasterboard that has already been supplied to a farm, in accordance with the previous version of the gypsum quality protocol (March 2011), for use as a soil treatment agent for agricultural use (landspreading), can be used without the need for waste controls under an environmental permit up until 30 June 2014.

Background

The quality protocol for recycled gypsum from waste plasterboard has been revised and published. The revised document (November 2013) no longer includes end of waste criteria for use of reprocessed gypsum as a soil treatment agent for agricultural benefit (landspreading). This means that reprocessed gypsum remains a waste and its use requires an environmental permit.

We understand that some reprocessed gypsum produced in accordance with the previous version of the quality protocol had been supplied to farms but had not spread when the revised quality protocol was published. We consider that adopting a time limited position that allows for that material to be spread as allowed for under the previous quality protocol presents a low risk.

This position applies to any reprocessed gypsum which has been produced in accordance with PAS109 (Specification for the production of reprocessed gypsum from waste plasterboard) and has already been supplied to a farm in accordance with the previous version of the quality protocol but has not been spread. Dispatch to the farm must have occurred prior to 20 March 2014, the publication date of the revised quality protocol.

Our approach

We will not pursue an application for an environmental permit for the activity where:

- Reprocessed gypsum from waste plasterboard that has already been supplied in accordance with the previous version of the gypsum quality protocol (March 2011) for use as a soil treatment agent for agricultural use is spread.
- The gypsum has been produced in accordance with PAS109 (Specification for the production of reprocessed gypsum from waste plasterboard).
- The gypsum is used before 1 July 2014.
- You follow all relevant current agricultural good practice.
- You meet the relevant objectives of the Waste Framework Directive:

'... ensuring that waste management is carried out without endangering human health, without harming the environment and in particular:

- (i) without risk to water, air, soil, plants or animals;
- (ii) without causing a nuisance through noise or odours; and
- (iii) without adversely affecting the countryside or places of special interest.'

Waste gypsum that has been reprocessed but not delivered to a farm is not covered by this position.

Waste gypsum that has been produced and supplied not in accordance with PAS109 and/or the previous version of the quality protocol is not covered by this position.

It is recommended that you advise your local Environment Agency office for the area where you intend to spread reprocessed gypsum in accordance with this position. For any waste gypsum on farms not covered by this position or the relevant regulatory permissions it is also recommended you contact your local Environment Agency office.

Enforcement

In not pursuing an application for a permit, we will not normally take enforcement action unless the activity has caused, or is likely to cause, pollution or harm to health. For a more detailed explanation of this enforcement position, please see our [Enforcement and Sanctions](#) statement.

This regulatory position expires on 30 June 2014.

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customer service line
03708 506 506

incident hotline
0800 80 70 60

floodline
0345 988 1188
0845 988 1188

www.gov.uk/environment-agency