Important Update on Wood Waste Handling Regulations

Dear valued partners in sustainable waste management,

We're bringing you a crucial update regarding wood waste handling regulations that directly impact the construction and demolition (C&D) industry. As your trusted partner in waste management, GPT Waste is committed to keeping you informed about these essential changes.

The Environment Agency (EA) has officially announced the withdrawal of **'Regulatory Position Statement (RPS) 250,'** effective as of September 1st, 2023. This decision signifies an important shift in the way we handle waste wood in compliance with environmental regulations.

So, what exactly is changing?

Currently, 'RPS 250' allows potentially hazardous waste wood items from the C&D industry to be treated as non-hazardous. However, following extensive testing conducted by the Wood Recyclers Association (WRA) to assess hazardous waste content in wood items, the EA has taken the decision to withdraw 'RPS 250.'

Starting from September 1st, 2023, certain waste wood categories that were previously destined for wood recyclers will now be automatically classified as hazardous waste. These materials will need to be disposed of at suitably permitted facilities dedicated to hazardous waste management.

The WRA's testing efforts have identified ten additional waste wood categories as hazardous, representing less than 1% of the UK's total wood waste. It's important to note that ongoing testing may lead to the addition of further categories to this hazardous list.

So, which wood items are now considered hazardous?

Effective from September 1st, 2023, unless proven non-hazardous through analysis, the following wood categories (typically from pre-2007 buildings) are now classified as hazardous:

Hazardous Wood List (Grade D) including:

- Telegraph poles
- CCA-treated wood or Creosote-treated wood
- Railway sleepers
- Waste wood from hydraulics
- Engineering wood (e.g., Docks)
- Wood from boats or ship
- Trailer/ lorry beds

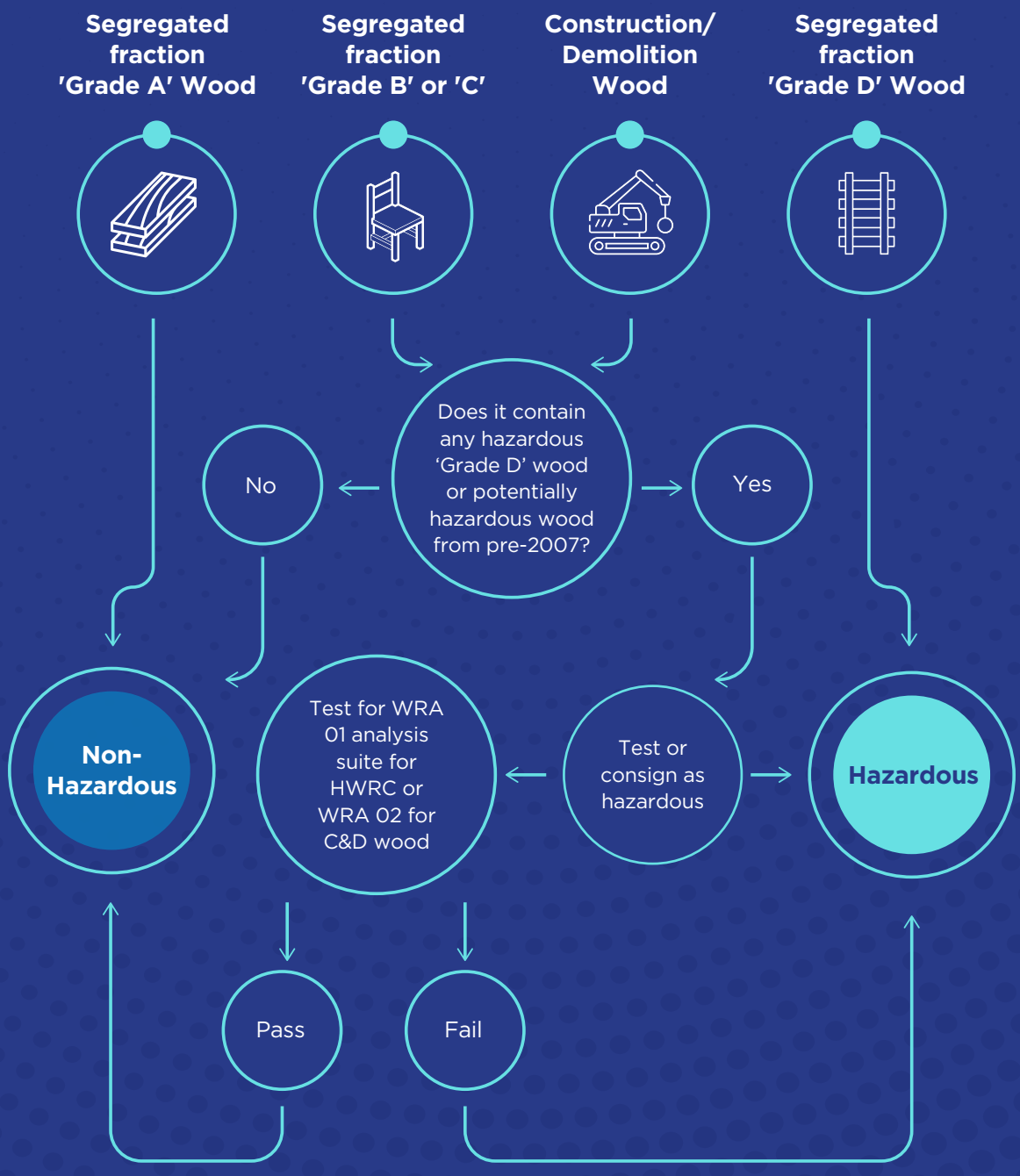
Potentially Hazardous Wood List (from pre-2007 structures)

- External joinery
- Timber frames and joists
- Barge boards, fascias & Soffits
- Tiling, cladding, and battens
- External doors
- Roof timbers

Please be aware that these items cannot be sent to wood recyclers unless they undergo testing to demonstrate their non-hazardous nature. Hazardous and potentially hazardous waste wood items from pre-2007 structures or waste classified as Grade D wood waste must be segregated and clearly marked as hazardous waste.

To help you navigate these changes effectively, we've provided a flowchart for the categorization of Wood Waste below:

Flow chart for categorisation of Wood Waste



For more comprehensive information and access to the toolkit to assist you in complying with these updated regulations, please visit the **WRA website at https://woodrecyclers.org/ or contact GPT Waste at info@gptwaste.com.**

At GPT Waste, we remain dedicated to supporting your business in maintaining environmentally responsible waste management practices. If you have any questions or require further assistance, please do not hesitate to reach out to us.

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