

Woodsure - Wood fuel quality

Industry Standards Update

Wood Heat – 24th October 2023



Helen Bentley-Fox - Woodsure

Woodsure is the UK's only woodfuel quality assurance scheme. Based in Gloucestershire, Woodsure also has its own independent UKAS Accredited laboratory.

Purpose: Working together for a cleaner, safer and more sustainable environment

About Helen:

- **Woodsure Director**
- **Biomass Suppliers List Administrator**
- **ENplus® auditor from the first auditor workshop**



Industry regulation and standards

- **Air quality and wood fuel: Particulates**
- **Government policy, including**
 - **Environment Improvement Plan 2023**
 - **Biomass Strategy 2023**
- **Regulations**
 - **RHI 2018 Regulation 47 including amendments**

Domestic burning and legislation

The Air Quality (Domestic Solid Fuels Standards) (England) Regulations 2020

- **Ready to Burn certification for woodfuel – over a thousand certified suppliers**

Scotland and Wales own plans for domestic burning being developed through:

- **Cleaner Air for Scotland 2**
- **Environment (Air Quality and Soundscapes) (Wales) Bill**

Domestic burning and legislation cont.

Renewable Heat Incentive (NDRHI and DRHI) is a payment for renewable heat - fuel needs to meet standards.

- **Sustainability**
 - **Greenhouse gas emissions – introduced 2014**
 - **Land criteria – introduced 2018**
 - **Since April 2022 Fuel quality RHI fuel quality Regulation 47**

BSL checks with Woodsure Reg team that the fuel is compliant with Schedule 4A.

Role of a certification scheme: demonstrating standards

Woodsure aims to give stakeholder confidence through delivering certified products, processes and services to specified standards.

- **An independent third party that handles the certification process**
- **Provide an assessment of compliance to the required standard – assessment appropriate to supplier type**
- **Award certification to the business to operate within the scheme**
- **Monitor and review compliance in relation to the scheme standard & rules for registration**
- **Act in a fair, impartial and transparent way**

Domestic burning and legislation cont.

Certified suppliers fuel quality

Woodsure only: 2,857

Woodsure and Ready to Burn: 184

Ready to Burn only: 771

Note: includes Ofgem self reporters

End Aug 2023

Biomass Suppliers List



A list of fuels to demonstrate compliance with Regulation 47.

- **6,132 fuels**
- **3,780 suppliers**

Includes:

- ☐ **Self suppliers, producers & traders.**
- ☐ **Woody biomass: Virgin & waste.**
- ☐ **Forms: Chip, pellet, firewood and briquette.**

Does not include Ofgem self reporters

End Aug 2023



Bringing Woodfuel Standards up to date

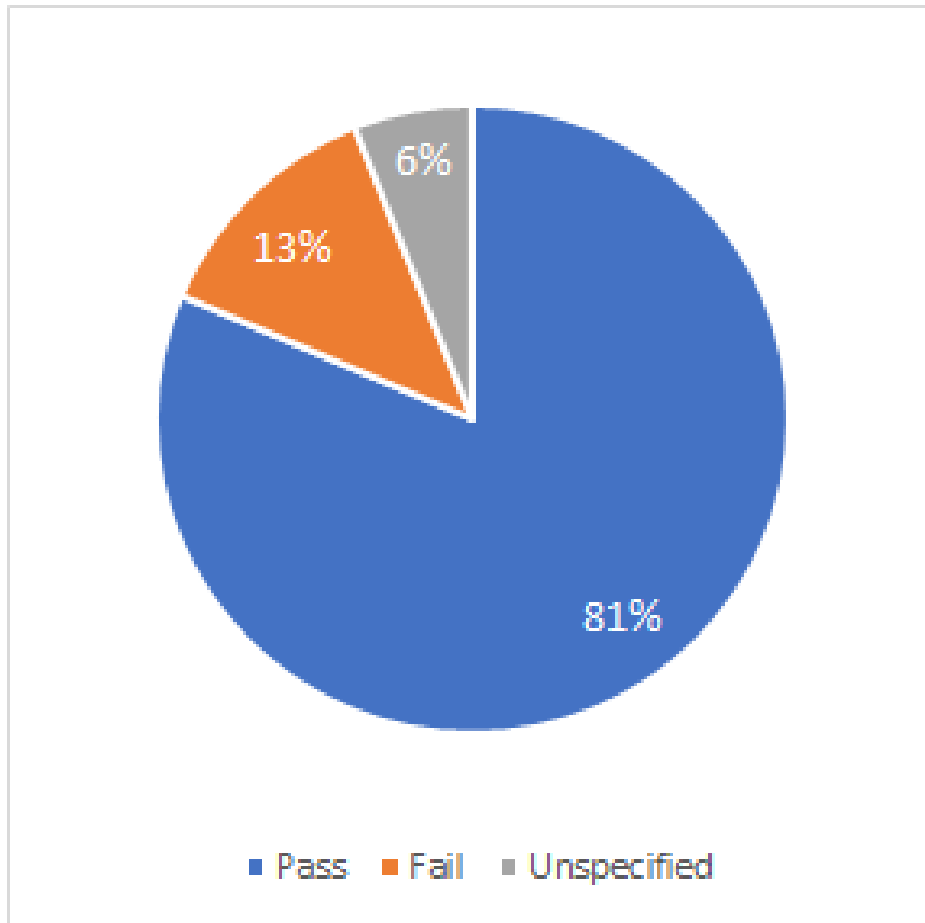
Onorm M7133 – withdrawn 2013

EN 14961 series – withdrawn 2014

ISO 17225 series - current version 2021

Note: Lab can test Onorm or EN14961 or withdrawn versions of ISO 17225 but outside of Woodsure scheme

Meeting the standards: Lab tests last 12 months



19% of fuels either failed a test or the supplier didn't know how to describe their fuel

Baseline data: more than 1 in 10 suppliers failed their fuel tests.

The Domestic Renewable Heat Incentive Scheme and Renewable Heat Incentive Scheme (Amendment) Regulations 2021 – Schedule 4A Criteria for woodfuel quality

- 1. This Schedule applies to solid biomass (excluding solid biomass contained in waste) which—**
 - a) is woodfuel; and**
 - b) is used to generate heat in an accredited RHI installation.**
- 2. All wood pellets must meet the ENplus A1 standard(1) or an equivalent standard.**
- 3. All other woodfuel must meet fuel quality standard EN 15234-1: 2011(2), ISO 9001: 2015(3) or EN ISO 17225-4: 2014(4) or an equivalent standard.**
- 4. All woodfuel must be certified by the Woodsure Certification Scheme(5) or an equivalent certification scheme as meeting the standard in paragraph 2 or 3.**
- 5. The certification scheme must provide assurance of the supply chain of the woodfuel.**
- 6. In this Schedule, “woodfuel” means—**
 - a) woodchip;**
 - b) logs;**
 - c) wood pellets; and**
 - d) wood briquettes,**

BSL: Meeting the contract standard



Regulation changes – what did the BSL Administrators communicate?

1. Communications across multiple platforms including; letter, email, bulletins, newsletters, phone text message and websites.
2. Worked to ensure that every BSL Supplier was given fair and reasonable opportunity to comply
3. Achieved 95% Supplier FQ and 97% Fuel FQ

Note: Some self reporters to Ofgem read BSL comms and thought they applied to them.

Standards expected by Ofgem

Fuels that originate from virgin wood used in an RHI boiler

- a) Is the fuel BSL registered?**
- b) If not, is it certified by Woodsure?**

Note; Pragmatism needed for suppliers to demonstrate compliance

Summary

- **Cleaner air for all**
- **Woodsure takes a collaborative approach**
- **Provides independent assurance that all wood fuels meet the standards.**
- **Work with the industry to enable them to demonstrate that they can comply with the regulations and meet the standards.**
- **Future: Biomass strategy**

Contact

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Thank you for your time!

Working together for a cleaner, safer and more sustainable environment