



REA Member Briefing Note:

Compost Resource Framework

20th October 2025

This document highlights the key changes between the Compost Quality Protocol and the Compost Resource Framework. Both documents set out the end of waste criteria for compost made from source segregated biodegradable waste, which includes compliance with PAS100. The CRF is quite a different format and more streamlined than the CQP. You can find the Compost Resource Framework [\[here\]](#) to read the full details.

The key changes are:

- Waste code changes (see appendix) and updated references to acceptable standards for compostable packaging and non-packaging products (appendix - note 1)
- The point at which compost reaches end of waste
- Tighter plastics limits
- Requirement for dispatch paperwork to include information on nutrient management plans
- Removal of market restrictions

Main changes

1. Waste codes

The Appendix B list from the CQP which listed acceptable waste types for the production of quality compost has been replaced by section 2 'Waste you can use'. There is a similar list of waste codes, descriptions and some restrictions. This briefing note's appendix lists the waste codes that have been added, those removed and those with changes to their description or restrictions.

2. End of Waste

Section 3 of the RF sets out the point at which compost will no longer be considered waste.

'Compost produced from source-segregated biodegradable waste will have met the [end of waste test](#), and so not be considered waste anymore, if you can show all of the following:

- *it has been produced using only the source-segregated biodegradable waste materials approved in section 2 of this resource framework*
- *you have stored and processed the waste correctly, in line with section 3.2 of this resource framework*
- *it needs no further treatment other than the methods described in BSI PAS 100 before its intended use*
- *it meets any extra specification requested by and agreed with your customer*
- *there is certainty of use for the material*

If so, you will no longer have to follow [waste management controls](#) when you either:

- *dispatch the products to the customer from your production site*
- *store the products at your production site or storage locations under your control*

You must not store any batch of your product for more than 10 months. And you must have at least one of the following:

- *contracts of supply or sales orders (or both) that cover the quantity of the same product in storage at any time*
- *sales history for the most recent 12 months that shows at least as much of the same product type was supplied for use'*

This is a change from the CQP which considered compost as conforming at the end of the production process (and therefore no longer subject to waste management controls) regardless of whether it was stored on a permitted or unpermitted area. Under the RF if you store compost outside of your permitted area, you will need to comply with the additional requirements it sets; the time limit for storage of any batch of your product and those relevant to your product quantity in those stores.

3. Limit for plastics

The CQP references PAS100 which contains limits on the level of total physical contamination allowed in compost and a sub-limit for plastics. The CRF introduces a tighter limit for plastic: *The maximum allowed concentration of plastic is 0.06% m/m in air-dry compost. This is equivalent to 50% of the plastics limit that is part of Item 12 in Table 3 of BSI PAS100.'*

If you cannot meet the tighter plastics limit, there is the associated Regulatory Position Statement 'Using PAS 100 100 or PAS 110 compliant material outside resource frameworks: **RPS 317**' which, if registered for, gives operators an additional 2 years (from the date the RF is published) to meet the tighter plastics limit. You can see the RPS [\[here\]](#). You must notify the EA by 20th April 2026 that you are using RPS 317 and comply with all RF requirements other than the plastics limit. You must also:

- send to the EA, within 6 months of registering to use RPS 317, evidence of orders for new infrastructure and your plan to upgrade site processes, and
- keep records for 2 years to show you have complied with the RPS.

You cannot register to use the RPS after 20th April 2026.

4. Nutrient management plans

Section 5.3 of the CRF sets requirements if you are supplying compost to agriculture.

'When you are supplying compost to agriculture, your compost supply documents must tell the customer that:



- *they must have a nutrient management plan (NMP) before use*
- *they must apply compost in line with the NMP, along with any other organic manures and manufactured fertilisers, at rates that do not exceed soil and crop need*
- *they are responsible for following their NMP – if they do not do this, the Environment Agency may take enforcement action*
- *where there is no soil and crop need for compost, it is considered waste and they must follow waste management controls'*

Compliance with this requirement is likely to need a modification to your contracts of supply and / or dispatch paperwork to ensure the above information is included. Appendix H of the CQP set out good practice guidance that was often included in supply documentation. The CRF does not refer to such guidance, so if revising supply documents it would be worth considering what up to date and relevant information to include (e.g. from the farming rules for water, codes of good agricultural practices, etc.)

5. Market restrictions

Unlike the CQP, the CRF does not designate market sectors to which product status compost is allowed to be supplied.

REA checklist for operators

- ☐ Check your list of incoming materials against the list of waste codes to ensure they all comply.
- ☐ Check if you comply with the requirements on storage (especially any of your product is stored on an unpermitted area under your control), and if not consider alternative arrangements or permitting stores.
- ☐ Check if you comply with the tighter plastics limit, and if not register for RPS 317.
- ☐ If you supply compost to agriculture, update your product supply / dispatch documentation to include the information on nutrient management plans.
- ☐ Update your supply / dispatch documentation to ensure the correct references to other information are included (e.g. codes of good agricultural practices) and consider if you should retain reference to the market sector to which compost is supplied. (The CRF does not require market sector to be recorded but given the NMP-related information you must communicate to agricultural customers in your supply documentation, how will you show this has been done when audited?).
- ☐ Update your Quality Management System to reference to the new Resource Framework, for example in your quality policy and external documents register.
- ☐ Consider training for staff on new requirements and that this training is documented.

Appendix - Waste codes changes

Waste codes **added**:

Waste code	Description	Restriction
02 01 99	Wastes not otherwise specified	Only spent mushroom compost or discarded mushrooms from commercial mushroom cultivation
02 02 04	Sludges from on-site effluent treatment	Only wastes from preparation and processing of meat, fish and other foods of animal origin
02 03 05	Sludges from on-site effluent treatment or processing sludge from production of edible fats and oils, including seasoning residues	None
02 05 02	Sludges from on-site effluent treatment	None
02 06 03	Sludges from on-site effluent treatment	None
02 07 05	Sludges from on-site effluent treatment	Only sludges from the production of alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages (except coffee, tea and cocoa)
15 02 03	Absorbents, filter materials or cloths from the production of alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages other than those mentioned in 15 02 02	Only hops and whisky filter sheets and cloths made from compostable material
16 03 06	Organic wastes other than those mentioned in 16 03 05	Only untreated wool fleece (excludes hides and skins)
19 05 01	Non-composted fraction of municipal and similar wastes	This must: - only come from the input types allowed by this resource framework - be made up of previously sanitised batches
19 05 02	Non-composted fraction of animal and vegetable wastes	This must: - only come from the input types allowed by this resource framework - be made up of previously sanitised batches
19 12 01	Paper and cardboard (excluding veneers or plastic coatings)	Must meet the restriction for the corresponding waste type in Note 1 at the end of this section

Waste codes **removed**:

Waste code	Description	Restriction
02 02 99	Wastes not otherwise specified	Allowed only if animal manure, slurry or bedding of the types referred to in section 1 above.
02 07 99	Wastes not otherwise specified	Only: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Malt husks, malt sprouts, malt dust – Spent grains – Hops – Yeast and yeast like residues – Sludges from the production process
04 01 01	Fleshings and lime split waste	Fleshings may also be described as leather shavings. Restriction: Allowed only if hides and skins, or parts of them, originating from animals that did not show clinical signs of any disease communicable through that product to humans or animals.
17 02 01	Wood	Not allowed if treated, for example contains veneers, other coatings or preserving substances. Waste types in this section allowed if biodegradable material only, with no chemical additives or preservative, and no persistent organics present. Untreated wood only.
19 05 99	Wastes not otherwise specified	Allowed only if: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – liquor/leachate from a composting process that accepts only the waste input types allowed by this Quality Protocol; or – digestate from an aerobic digestion process that accepts only the waste input types allowed by this Quality Protocol.
20 01 38	Wood other than that mentioned in 20 01 37	20 01 37 is described as 'wood containing dangerous substances'. Non treated wood waste. Not allowed if any non-biodegradable coating or preserving substance present. Waste types in this section allowed if biodegradable material only, with no chemical additives or preservative, and no persistent organics present.

Waste codes with **changed descriptions or restrictions**:

Waste code	Description	New Restriction	Old Restriction
02 01 01	Sludges from washing and cleaning	Only vegetables, fruit and other crops	Food preparation and processing waste, food washing waste only
02 01 06	Animal faeces, urine and manure	Includes animal faeces, urine, manure and spoiled fully biodegradable bedding	Slurry and used animal bedding of the following types are allowed: straw; shredded paper; paper pulp; sawdust; wood shavings; and chipped wood. Not allowed if treated, for example, contains veneers, other coatings or preserving substances. Farmed animals (livestock) are the main source.
02 02 01	Sludges from washing and cleaning, peeling, centrifuging and separation including wash waters and sludges from secondary food processing or the cook chill sector	None	Process water and food washing waste only
02 02 03	Materials unsuitable for consumption or processing	May include gut contents, shells and shellfish wastes. Includes sludges from gelatine production	May include gut contents, shells and shellfish wastes.
02 02 04	Sludges from on-site effluent treatment	Only wastes from preparation and processing of meat, fish and other foods of animal origin	None
02 03 04	Materials unsuitable for consumption or processing	Only biodegradable waste. There must be no chemical additives or toxin residues present	Allowed only if no chemical additives or toxin residues present.
02 05 01	Materials unsuitable for consumption or processing	Includes raw milk. Must only be biodegradable waste.	Includes raw milk
02 06 01	Materials unsuitable for consumption or processing	Only biodegradable waste	None
02 07 01	Wastes from washing, cleaning and	Only biodegradable wastes from the processing of the raw materials used in the	None

	mechanical reduction of raw materials	production of alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages (except coffee, tea and cocoa)	
02 07 02	Wastes from spirit distillation	Only spent grains, hops and whisky filter sheets and cloths, yeast and yeast like residues, sludge from the distillation process, or malt husks, malt sprouts, yeasts and yeast-like residues	None
02 07 04	Materials unsuitable for consumption or processing	Only biodegradable wastes from processing raw materials used in producing alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages (except coffee, tea and cocoa)	None
03 01 01	Waste bark and cork	Only virgin timber	None
03 01 05	Sawdust, shavings, cuttings, wood, particle board and veneer other than those mentioned in 03 01 04	Only virgin timber	Not allowed if contains veneers, other coatings or preserving substances. EWC code 03 01 04 is 'sawdust, shavings, cuttings, wood, particle board and veneer containing dangerous substances'. Untreated wood only.
03 03 01	Waste bark and wood	Only virgin timber	None
15 01 01	Paper and cardboard packaging	Only if: - the material complies with the restriction for the waste type in Note 1 at the end of this section - there is no non-biodegradable coating or preserving substance present	Not allowed if any non-biodegradable coating or preserving substance present.
15 01 03	Wooden packaging	Only virgin timber	Not allowed if any non-biodegradable coating or preserving substance is present. Untreated wood only.
15 01 05	Composite packaging	Only if each component: - comes from the input types allowed by this resource framework - meets the restriction for the corresponding waste type in Note 1 at the end of this section	Allowed only if all components comply with requirements of the chosen standard. See B3.

16 10 02	Aqueous liquid wastes other than those mentioned in 16 10 01	<p>Includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - milk and dairy waste milk from agricultural premises - untreated wash waters from cleaning fruit and vegetables on farm <p>Digestate or liquor must come from an aerobic process that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - only accepts the waste input types allowed by this resource framework - meets the EU Regulation 1069/2009, its implementing EU Regulation 142/2011 (as amended) and The Animal By-Products (Enforcement) (England) Regulations 2013 <p>Liquor or leachate must come from a composting process that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - only accepts the waste input types allowed by this resource framework - meets the EU Regulation 1069/2009, its implementing EU Regulation 142/2011 (as amended) and The Animal By-Products (Enforcement) (England) Regulations 2013 	Allowed only if digestate from an aerobic digestion process that accepts only the waste input types allowed by this Quality Protocol.
17 05 06	Dredging spoil other than that in 17 05 05	<p>Only:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - riverine vegetation (and not associated dredged mineral material) - dredged vegetation - dredging spoil if a hazard analysis and critical control point (HACCP) assessment considers the pollutants that may be present and the risk control to be acceptable <p>Must not contain Japanese knotweed</p>	<p>Only riverine vegetation allowed (and not associated dredged mineral material). Only dredged vegetation is permitted.</p> <p>EWC 17 05 06 dredging spoil allowed only if Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) assessment considers pollutants that may be present and adequate risk control is decided feasible.</p> <p>EWC 17 05 05 is defined as 'dredging spoil containing dangerous substances'. For more</p>

			information about 'dangerous' substances, refer to the latest version of WM2 Technical Guidance, Hazardous waste: Interpretation of the definition and classification of hazardous waste. See B5.
19 05 03	Off specification compost	The compost must only come from the input types allowed this resource framework or the anaerobic digestate resource framework. This includes oversize material that comes from screening the compost. Must be made up of previously sanitised batches.	Allowed only if the compost is derived from input types allowed by this Quality Protocol. This includes oversize material resulting from screening such compost
19 06 03	Liquor from anaerobic treatment of municipal waste	This must: - only come from the input types allowed by this resource framework - come from a facility that is independently certified as complying with BSI PAS 110 Must not contain wastes that come from mechanical biological treatment facilities	Waste types in this section are allowed only if derived from input types allowed by the Anaerobic Digestate Quality Protocol and are derived from a facility independently certified as complying with BSI PAS 110. For example, the waste must not contain wastes derived from mechanical biological treatment (MBT) facilities or any compost-like outputs (CLO).
19 06 04	Digestate from anaerobic treatment of municipal waste	This must: - only come from the input types allowed by this resource framework - come from a facility that is independently certified as complying with BSI PAS 110 - be in pasteurised and stabilised batches that are authorised by the Animal and Plant Health Agency - only contain waste inputs from the 'Waste you can use'	Waste types in this section are allowed only if derived from input types allowed by the Anaerobic Digestate Quality Protocol and are derived from a facility independently certified as complying with BSI PAS 110. For example, the waste must not contain wastes derived

		<p>section of the anaerobic digestate resource framework</p> <p>Must not contain wastes that come from mechanical biological treatment facilities</p>	<p>from mechanical biological treatment (MBT) facilities or any compost-like outputs (CLO).</p> <p>Any digestate accepted under this waste code must only contain waste inputs identified in Appendix B (Biodegradable waste types acceptable for the production of quality digestate) of the Anaerobic Digestate Quality Protocol. This includes any anaerobic digestate produced in Scotland.</p>
19 06 05	Liquor from anaerobic treatment of animal and vegetable waste	<p>This must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - only come from the input types allowed by this resource framework - come from a facility that is independently certified as complying with BSI PAS 110 - be in pasteurised and stabilised batches that are authorised by the Animal and Plant Health Agency. <p>Must not contain wastes that come from mechanical biological treatment facilities</p>	<p>Waste types in this section are allowed only if derived from input types allowed by the Anaerobic Digestate Quality Protocol and are derived from a facility independently certified as complying with BSI PAS 110. For example, the waste must not contain wastes derived from mechanical biological treatment (MBT) facilities or any compost-like outputs (CLO).</p>
19 06 06	Digestate from anaerobic treatment of animal and vegetable waste	<p>This must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - only come from the input types allowed by this resource framework - come from a facility that is independently certified as complying with BSI PAS 110 - be in pasteurised and stabilised batches that are authorised by the Animal and Plant Health Agency. 	<p>Waste types in this section are allowed only if derived from input types allowed by the Anaerobic Digestate Quality Protocol and are derived from a facility independently certified as complying with BSI PAS 110. For example,</p>

		Must not contain wastes that come from mechanical biological treatment facilities	the waste must not contain wastes derived from mechanical biological treatment (MBT) facilities or any compost-like outputs (CLO).
19 12 12	Other wastes (including mixtures of materials) from mechanical treatment of wastes other than those mentioned in 19 12 11	This must: - only come from the input types allowed by this resource framework - be segregated from, and uncontaminated by, any other waste type	Acceptable only if derived solely from input types allowed by this Quality Protocol and remains segregated from, and uncontaminated by, any other waste type
20 01 01	Paper and cardboard	This must meet the restriction for the corresponding waste type in Note 1 at the end of this section. Must not contain any non-biodegradable coating or preservative	Not allowed if any non-biodegradable coating or preserving substance present.
20 01 08	Biodegradable kitchen and canteen waste	This must meet the restriction for the corresponding waste type in Note 1 at the end of this section	See B3
20 02 01	Biodegradable waste	This must be biodegradable material such as: - manure - garden waste - green waste - horticultural waste - plant tissue - parks and garden waste - hedge and tree trimmings - grass cuttings and leafy materials It must not contain: - material with chemical additives and toxic residues - road sweeping gully waste - dog faeces - Japanese knotweed	Animal faeces, manure, garden waste, green waste, horticultural waste, plant tissue, parks and garden waste, hedge and tree trimmings, grass cuttings and leafy materials. Waste types in this section allowed if biodegradable material only, with no chemical additives and no toxin residues present. Excludes road sweepings and gully waste. See B5.
20 03 01	Mixed municipal waste	This must be separately collected biodegradable wastes that are the types allowed by this resource framework. Any food	Allowed only if separately collected biodegradable wastes otherwise allowed by

		packaging must meet the restriction for the waste type in Note 1 at the end of this section.	this Quality Protocol. If former foodstuffs are packaged, the restrictions given above on packaging wastes apply. An example is unsold food wrapped in compostable packaging that arises as waste from a retail food store.
20 03 02	Waste from markets	This must be separately collected biodegradable wastes that are the types allowed by this resource framework. Such as plant material, fruit and vegetables. Any food packaging must meet the restriction for the waste type in Note 1 at the end of this section.	Allowed only if biodegradable fractions. Examples are plant material, fruit and vegetables. Packaging waste from a market source is allowed only if it complies with the restriction for the corresponding waste type in section 11 above. See B.3.

Requirements on compostables:

The Resource Framework includes this note.

Note 1

You can only use industrially compostable packaging and non-packaging items that are independently certified as compliant with at least one of the following:

- EN 13432
- EN 14995
- ASTM D6400

You can only use home compostable packaging and non-packaging items that are independently certified as compliant with at least one of the following:

- EN 17427
- AS 5810-2010
- NF T51-800
- TÜV Austria's certification requirements for home compostable packaging under their 'OK compost HOME scheme'

Previously the QP referred to: '*Compostable' packaging and plastic wastes – discarded 'compostable' packaging and plastic products made of biodegradable material are permitted only if*



the product is independently certified as conforming to all composting-relevant parts of a standard accepted by the Environment Agency or Northern Ireland Environment Agency. Standards accepted at the time of publishing this Compost Quality Protocol are BS EN 13432, BS EN 14995, ASTM D6400 and AIB-Vinçotte International S.A.'s 'Program OK 2' criteria for 'home compostable' packaging and plastics.'

If you do accept any compostable packaging or non-packing items, you should check they are independently certified to one of the above standards. You can check [here](#) for the certification marks which should be accompanied by a certification code embedded in or showing near to the mark.