



ABUSE OF A WASTE EXEMPTION LEADING TO SITE BECOMING AN ILLEGAL ACTIVITY.

WHAT HAPPENED?	<p>An operator collecting and treating wood primarily for export registered two exemptions for the storage and treatment of wood at two locations.</p> <p>Both locations stored too much material, causing a fire hazard and detriment to the environment and local amenity. This failure to comply with the conditions of the exemption meant that the site was being operated illegally.</p>
OUTCOME	<p>In court the operator was fined £800 (£400 for each site) and ordered to pay £8000 in costs.</p>
CONTEXT	<p>Some waste activities do not need a permit because they're covered by waste exemptions. You can register online at the Environment Agency for permits and you must comply with the criteria within the registered exemption.</p> <p>Exemptions should not be seen by operators as a means to avoid scrutiny by regulators.</p>
WHAT SHOULD HAVE BEEN DONE DIFFERENTLY?	<p>The waste producer and the waste carrier, in undertaking their Duty of Care, should have checked where the waste was going. The operator should have sought advice and guidance from the regulator, which may have lead the operator towards applying for a permit where there was any doubt about the scale of the activity required.</p>