

Monitor and control the quality of wood fuel products

Overview

This standard covers the skills and knowledge required to check the quality of wood fuel products at appropriate times during production, storage and delivery; detecting variations that could adversely affect the product and taking appropriate action to resolve them. It applies equally to carrying out in-house checks and sending samples to external testing facilities. It does not apply to the quality control of sub-contractors which is covered elsewhere.

This could apply to the production of wood chips, wood pellets, wood briquettes, fire wood or charcoal.

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Performance criteria

You must be able to:

1. comply with health and safety requirements and procedures at all times
2. use up-to-date quality specifications for wood fuel being produced
3. check quality at appropriate times during production, storage and delivery processes to identify variations in quality
4. integrate quality checks in wood fuel production, storage and delivery processes following standard operating procedures
5. sample quantities to give representative results following standard operating procedures
6. use appropriate methods to check quality, ensuring that any inspection equipment is fully functioning and adjusted correctly
7. identify any variations between the actual and desired quality of wood fuel products and the reasons for them
8. rectify issues in production resulting in wood fuel products of sub-standard quality following standard operating procedures
9. check results of quality monitoring and controls are recorded in information systems
10. adapt and update quality checks following standard operating procedures
11. apply quality assurance labels to wood fuel products following standard operating procedures

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Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

1. legal duties for health and safety in the workplace and legislation covering your job role
2. relevant legislation and requirements relating to clean wood fuels
3. characteristics of wood species and the effect of species on wood fuel production
4. how to assure quality in the supply chain
5. how origin of raw material, carbon savings and product specification relate to quality assurance labelling
6. impact of moisture content and particle size on wood fuel products
7. how to calculate calorific value of wood fuels with different moisture contents
8. properties of wood fuel that cause inefficiency, malfunction, corrosion or pollution
9. how to interpret specifications for wood fuel being produced
10. how to determine number of increments required for meaningful testing
11. how to confirm expected quality of wood fuel products being produced
12. indications that suggest that variations between the actual and desired quality of wood fuel products exist
13. critical points with production, storage and delivery of wood fuel products when things can go wrong
14. type of problems that could occur including defects in production, storage and delivery process
15. how and when it is beneficial to use external testing facilities
16. equipment used for inspecting wood fuel products
17. how to check inspection equipment is correctly adjusted and functioning
18. actions to take if products don't conform to specification or vary widely within specification
19. actions to take to resolve variations in quality
20. information system used and why it is important to use correctly
21. how changes in processes, raw materials or legislation may affect quality monitoring processes
22. cross contamination of products and why it is important to avoid
23. how to quarantine products that have been contaminated

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