

## UKWAS Interpretation Note 6 - Use of bio-solids

**PLEASE NOTE: THIS INFORMATION NOTE RELATES TO THE SUPERSEDED SECOND EDITION OF THE UK WOODLAND ASSURANCE STANDARD**

**Key Words:** Fertilizers, bio-solids, waste disposal.

**Relevant requirement references:** 5.2.5c, UKWAS 2nd edition

**Date:** Discussed at Interpretation Panel meeting 1 November 2006 and agreed via email communication.

### **Question:**

Tilhill auditors are unsure on the ability to use bio-solids under wording of requirement 5.2.5c. Does the standard mean that bio-solids cannot now be used, and, if so is that what the standard should mean?

### **Discussion:**

Bio-solids are used at rates of 2-400t/ha, and their use is a highly regulated activity needing an EIA. While bio-solids are used for fertilization, they also provide some weevil control, as well as a social service in waste disposal. Concern was raised that the quantities used are not simply to aid establishment. Concern was also raised that bio-solid use as a social service is not an acceptable use in a certified woodland. The rates of bio-solids applied are required in order to achieve the corresponding N P K outputs of inorganic fertilizers.

Interpretation Panel meeting of 1st November 2006 agreed that:

1. the Standard only permitted the use of bio-solids as a fertilizer within the limits stated in requirements 5.2.5a and 5.2.5b; and
2. when bio-solids were used as a fertilizer an assessment of the environmental impacts of their application was necessary under the relevant parts of Requirements 3.1.1, 3.1.2 and 3.1.3.

### **Conclusions:**

The use of bio-solids as a fertilizer is permitted.

### **References:**

FC Information Note 079 "Use of Sewage Sludges and Composts in Forestry", January 2006, Andy Moffat. (Replaces and updates FC Bulletin 107, "A Manual of Good Practice for the use of sewage sludge in forestry", 1992.)