

5.4 Recycled wood

A large proportion (estimated in 1997 as 50 per cent and growing at a consistent rate year on year since then) of the wood used in construction, furniture manufacture, packaging etc. becomes available for reclamation. In addition to the use of such materials for the production of energy by incineration and their disposal to landfill, (now much reduced on account of tax legislation), increasing quantities of such reclaimed wood are now recycled into the production processes for the manufacture of wood-based panels, particularly particleboard and to some extent medium density fibreboard.

In 2005 it was estimated by the Waste Resource action Programme (WRAP) that approximately 10 million tonnes of recovered wood waste was generated in the UK. Of this recovered wood, in 2007 the wood panel industry in the UK reprocessed / recycled approximately 1.2 million tonnes. (Wood Panel Industries Federation – Industry returns)

The following definitions⁴ are recognised by the UK wood-based panel industry:

Recycled wood: Wood, in the form of **either** reclaimed pre-consumer by-products from manufacturing processes (e.g. from the manufacture of wood-based panels, assembled products, building structures), **or** reclaimed post-consumer wood material (e.g. pallets or other wood packaging material, demolition waste, used furniture) which after reclamation is recycled as a raw material into the chain of commercial supply and reduced to a raw material form.

Industrial by-products (Pre-consumer recycled wood): Wood material in the form of sawdust, fibrous wood, solid wood off-cuts or composite wood-offcuts resulting from any wood transformation or manufacturing process and which may be reclaimed and recycled as raw material for a manufacturing process.

Sawmill products: A class of virgin wood consisting of chips, slabs, sawdust and the like co-produced with the cutting of sawnwood from the roundwood log and used as materials for industrial processing or other commercial applications.

References

⁴ Definitions taken from the "Industry Standard Code of Practice for the application of wood chain of custody criteria in the sawmilling, wood panelboard and assembled wood product sectors. WPIF/UKFPA/1-2004