QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE TO TYRE STORAGE REGULATIONS

South Australia

This quick reference guide has been extracted from the TSA Best Practice Guidelines for Tyre Storage. For a more detailed discussion of the many considerations around tyre storage, please refer back to the Guidelines.

SA Tyre storage regulations

Environment Protection Act 1993

In South Australia, the *Environment Protection Act 1993,* governs the licensing requirements regarding the transportation, storage and processing of waste tyres.

Key storage requirements are summarised as follows:

- The reception, storage, treatment and disposal of waste tyres (greater than 250 millimetres in size) is listed as a Prescribed Activity of Environmental Significance and therefore requires a licence, unless the amount in question is below 5 tonnes and being used solely for the purpose of recycling, reuse, or if it is conditionally approved by the Authority.
- Used tyres should be stored in a manner that minimises risks to the environment, human health and therefore minimising the risk of fire. Businesses are considered to be compliant if they operate in accordance with the following guidelines:
  - *General Guidelines for the Outdoor Storage of Used Tyres* issued by the South Australian Fire Service Fire Safety Department

Some general storage requirements are listed under the *EPA 183/10: Waste guidelines – Waste tyres, updated September 2010*, such as secure fencing and access for emergency vehicles, and there is a specific requirement that all tyre facilities comply with the guidelines issued by the South Australian Fire Service Fire Safety Department.

EPA Guidelines: Waste Tyres

Under the Environment Protection Act 1993, an environmental authorisation is not required if:

- *the tyres are handled solely for recycling or reuse and are not in quantities exceeding five (5) tonnes per year (approximately 500 passenger vehicle tyres); or*
- *the EPA is satisfied that the waste or recycling depot will be conducted for such limited purposes that requiring an environmental authorisation would not be justified.*

Tyres should be stored on a level site away from surface watercourses, flood zones and groundwater recharge points. The site should be securely fenced and have access gates wide enough to allow the entry of emergency vehicles. Flammable or combustible liquids, hazardous wastes or other ignitable materials should not be stored close to tyre stockpiles.

All tyre sites should comply with the General Guidelines for the Outdoor Storage of Used Tyres issued by the South Australian Fire Service Fire Safety Department (replaced in March 2022 by the Fire Safety Guideline - Rubber Tyre Storage (see section 7 and below).

Tyre storage in buildings must comply with the Building Code of Australia, Part E of Book 1; refer to your local council for further details.

Fire safety requirements

Fire Safety Guideline for Rubber Tyre Storage issued by the South Australian Metropolitan Fire Service.

Fire Safety Guideline for Rubber Tyre Storage

This Guideline is applicable to sites storing more than 100 individual tyres or 10 tonnes of tyre product (whichever is the lesser).

Where the requirements of this Guidelines do not fit site-specific circumstances, advice should be sought directly from the South Australian Metropolitan Fire Service (MFS).

Some of the key storage aspects provided in the Guide are listed as follows:

Outdoor storage:

- Storage heights should be determined by the stability of the pile and must not exceed 3 metres high
- 'on-flat' or 'laced' tyre storage will be employed for all outdoor tyre piles
- Tyre piles shall be arranged in 'thin' rows to assist firefighting operations and shall be no more than 6 metres wide.
- Tyre pile rows shall be no more than 20 metres in length to limit the total volume of tyres contained in a pile to a maximum of 360m^3.

Indoor storage:

- Building with more than 500m^2 floorspace should be used.
- Buildings that store more than 10 tonnes or 1,000 tyres should have natural ventilation, automatic smoke hazard management systems. All systems to comply with BCA.
- If a building stores more than 20 tonnes or 2,000 tyres then automatic sprinkler systems are to be fitted, including automatic smoke hazard management. All systems to comply with BCA.
- Tyres should be stored 'on-flat- or laced.

Australia (Federal) Tyre Storage Regulations

Transport

Nationally, tyres are listed as a 'controlled waste' in List 1 of Schedule A of the National Environmental Protection (Movement of Controlled Waste between States and Territories) Measure 2004 (Controlled Waste NEPM). The NEPM has established a national system to track the transport movements of controlled waste between States and Territories and developed nationally recognised licences for interstate transporters. While, the interstate transport of tyres is regulated via this legislation, there is no federal control over the storage of tyres.

Storage

While there are no federal requirements on storage of tyres, where tyres are stored indoors, buildings must be constructed in compliance with Part E of Volume 1 of the National Construction Code (Building Code of Australia)[1], which lists requirements and specifications for firefighting equipment and smoke hazard management, and tyre storage facilities must comply specifically with Clause E1.10 and E2.3. Clause E1.10.

State jurisdictions may specify separate requirements (under state-specific guidelines or waste management regulation) that must be complied with. For example, in Western Australia clearly specifies pile sizes for indoor and outdoor provided in Guidance Note GN02: Bulk Storage of Rubber Tyres Including Shredded and Crumbed Tyres.

Work Health and Safety (WHS)

In addition, Australian businesses have obligations under the harmonised Work Health and Safety (WHS) framework in Australia, including the Model WHS Regulations (1 January 2021). However, there are no specific requirements under the WHS framework for tyre storage facilities.

[1] Australian Building Codes Board (2015) *National Construction Code Volume One, Building Code of Australia, Class 2 to Class 9 Buildings.*