LoadLog

2027 waste exemption checklist

A preparation aid for waste sites in England. Checked 7 November 2026 against GOV.UK guidance. The reforms are subject to parliamentary approval.

Use this checklist to work out what the 2027 exemption reforms mean for each site you operate. Fill it in, keep it with your records, and use it when you apply for a permit or a variation. It is not the regulator's form and it is not legal advice.

The four dates

Date	What happens	Codes
6 January 2027	Reforms come into force, subject to approval. Code and description changes take effect.	S3, T20, T21
6 April 2027	Exemptions withdrawn. Apply for a permit before this date, or stop.	T8, T9, U16
6 July 2027	Transition periods end. Technically connected exemptions must be in a permit.	T4, T6, T12, D7
6 January 2028	Transition periods end.	U1, S1, S2

1. List your exemptions

Check the public register for every exemption registered at each site. Record the code, the site and the registration number.

2. Read the conditions

Open the guidance page for each code and read the current conditions and waste codes. Note anything your operation does that sits close to the edge of them.

3. Check the date for each code

Code	Exemption	Status	Date
S3	Storing sludge	Code and description change	6 Jan 2027
T20	Treating waste at a water treatment works	Code and description change	6 Jan 2027
T21	Recovering waste at waste water treatment works	Code and description change	6 Jan 2027

Code	Exemption	Status	Date
T8	Mechanically treating end-of-life tyres	Withdrawn	6 Apr 2027
T9	Recovering scrap metal	Withdrawn	6 Apr 2027
U16	Using depolluted end-of-life vehicles for parts	Withdrawn	6 Apr 2027
T4	Storing and preparing for further treatment	Changing	6 Jul 2027
T6	Treating waste wood and waste plant matter	Changing	6 Jul 2027
T12	Manually treating waste	Changing	6 Jul 2027
D7	Burning plant and untreated wood waste where it is produced	Changing	6 Jul 2027
U1	Use of waste in construction	Changing	6 Jan 2028
S1	Storing waste in secure containers	Changing	6 Jan 2028
S2	Storing waste at a secure site	Changing	6 Jan 2028

4. Answer the technical connection questions

The Environment Agency says it is up to you to work out if you have a technical connection. Answer for each site and write down the reasoning.

Does the exempt activity take place at, or use, a site that already has an environmental permit? Yes / No / Not sure

Could the exempt activity increase the overall environmental risk from that permitted site, for example storage, treatment, emissions, discharge, fire risk or traffic? Yes / No / Not sure

Is the exemption relied on as part of the permitted site's operations, for example the same operator, boundary, drainage or access? Yes / No / Not sure

Do you have written advice from the Environment Agency or a consultant about this site? Yes / No

5. Choose the route and diary the date

Apply for a permit, apply to vary an existing permit to bring the activity into it, register a different exemption, or stop. For T8, T9 and U16, apply before 6 April 2027: the guidance says you can continue working under the exemption while the permit is being processed.

Before you file this

Check that you have covered every exemption at every site, not just the one you think of first. A site can hold several exemptions, and from 6 July 2027 the lowest storage limit among them applies to each waste type.

Sources: GOV.UK, Waste exemptions: new rules from January 2027 (updated 21 October 2026), and the individual exemption guides. Checked 7 November 2026. The reforms are subject to parliamentary approval. This checklist is LoadLog's interpretation of published

guidance, not legal advice. LoadLog is listed on GOV.UK as a compatible software provider for the report receipt of waste service.
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