

**Michton Ltd T/as The Chocolate Factory**  
**Wood Chip Method Statement - March 2017**

1. The following comprises a Method Statement, prepared on behalf of The Chocolate Factory in order to highlight the processes undertaken on site in respect of the preparation, storage and use of wood chip at the site.

**Wood Chip Processes**

2. The process of converting round logs to chips suitable to burn in biomass boilers is a simple, but vital process:

- 1) Logs are received via a haulier, typically an articulated lorry. The lorry offloads the logs via its crane.
- 2) The logs are stacked in neat piles on the southern perimeter of the site. This location has been selected given its distance from the main factory building with a view to reducing risk of any fire spreading in an emergency situation.
- 3) When required (approx. once a month) a mobile chipping contractor is brought in order to cut the logs. Depending on the amount of wood chip required, the contractor is on site generally between ½ a day and a full day.
- 4) The wood is chipped into a pile in the yard. Chipping is limited to wet, virgin timber only. Wet timber is used in order to reduce the sawdust. The company will only chip virgin timber as it is important to them not to burn and foreign bodies (eg paint, glue etc) which may pollute the atmosphere.
- 5) Wood chip is then moved into the warehouse on the same day that we chip it using a telehandler. This again reduces the chance of sawdust being blown around.
- 6) The wood chip is stored in a large pile in the warehouse and is then sieved to grade the chip to the sizes required.
- 7) The graded chip is then packed into tote bags.

There are now 2 options we have to dry the wood chip:

A)

- 8) The bagged chip is then transported outside to the drying (storage) containers.
- 9) The chip is removed from the tote bags inside the drier and spread out on the drying floor to dry.
- 10) Once dry, the chip is bagged up into tote bags and stored until required to be used as fuel in the boilers.
- 11) Safety measures in association with the above process are highlighted in the Facilities Management Plan also submitted as part of the application.

B)

- 12) The chip is transported outside to a hopper on the side of a drying container by telehandler.
- 13) The hopper feeds a walking floor which dries the chip.

14) The chip comes out of the container and packed into tote bags, ready for use in the boilers.