

Wood Chip Process Method Statement – July 2022

Below is the Method Statement of how The Chocolate Factory prepares, stores and uses the wood chip on site.

Wood Chip Processes

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

- 1) Logs are received via a haulier, typically an articulated lorry. The lorry offloads the logs via its onboard crane. Full documentation about the weight, the source and sustainability of the wood is documented and retained in the office.
- 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. The stacks are piled to a safe height to ensure the stack will not fall over and cause harm. The location of the wood stack has also been chosen to reduce and visual impact from the road. The logs are stacked on bearers to aide airflow. The logs are orientated to aid airflow.
- 3) When required (approx. once a month) a mobile chipping contractor is brought in order to chip the logs. Depending on the amount of wood chip required, the contractor is on site generally between half a day and a full day.
- 4) The wood chipping takes place in the yard. The wood is chipped into a pile on the yard floor. Chipping is limited to wet, virgin timber only. Wet timber is used in order to reduce the sawdust that may be created during the chipping process. We only burn chip from virgin timber because it is important to not burn any foreign bodies (eg paint, glue etc) which may pollute the atmosphere.
- 5) The wood chip is then moved into the warehouse using a telehandler as soon as possible. This reduces the chance of sawdust being blown around and the chance of the wood getting wet in the rain.
- 6) The wet wood chip is stored in a large pile in the warehouse and is then loaded into a hopper and transported via a conveyor to a sieve to grade the chip to the sizes required.
- 7) The graded wet chip is then piled into various piles according to its size.
- 8) The wet chip is then transported with a telehandler to the drier outside.
- 9) The wet chip is placed in the hopper that feeds a conveyor which transports the chip to the start of the drying process. The wet chip is mechanically transported through the drier and dry chip comes out the drier at one of three outlets. The chip is now ready to be used as biomass fuel.
- 10) All the dry chip is then collected by the telehandler and either stored inside the warehouse until required or immediately transported to the biomass boilers' feed hopper to be used as fuel.
- 11) Safety measures in association with the above process are highlighted in the Facilities Management Plan also submitted as part of the application.

Process Flow Chart

