Regulatory requirements for the Transportation, Storage, Processing, and Export of Waste Tyres.

TyreStewardship AUSTRALIA

Australian Government Accredited Product Stewardship Scheme

Quick Reference Guide

New South Wales (NSW)

For waste tyre collectors and recyclers to comply with national and state-based regulations, improving industry practices and ensuring environmental safety, the following requirements are specified for each operation and business activity pertaining to waste tyre management. Each requirement contains a hyperlink to the regulator's website for application information and/or detailed compliance requirements.

For more detailed information on each state and territory's regulatory requirements, please refer to *Appendix A* of *TSA's Best practice guidelines for tyre storage and fire and emergency preparedness* (TSA Guidelines, 5th revision, 2026).

	OPERATION	ACTIVITY	REQUIREMENTS
COLLECTION	TRANSPORT	Transport of 200kg or more, or 20 EPUs of waste tyres within NSW	Waste Tracking via IWTS
		Transport of waste tyres into NSW from another state or territory	Consignment Authorisation
			Transport Certificate
		Transport of waste tyres from NSW to another state or territory	Consignment Authorisation (Destination jurisdiction)[1]
			Transport Certificate
RECYCLING	STORAGE	Storage of >5 tonnes or 4m^3 (500 EPUs) of waste tyres at any one time at a designated premises	Development approval / permit / consent[2]
			Environmental Protection License
			Fire Safety Requirements[3]:
			Fire Risk Assessment
			Acceptable Tyre Storage
			Fire Fighting System
			Fire Water Containment
	PROCESSING	Processing more than 5000 tonnes of waste tyres per year[4]	Development approval / permit / consent[2]
			Environmental Protection License
			Fire Safety Requirements[3]:
			Fire Risk Assessment
			Fire Water Containment
			Fire Fighting System
	EXPORT	Exporting waste tyres or tyre-derived product/fuel to another country	DCCEEW Licence to Export
			Foreign End Market Verification*

1. Information on regulatory permissions from a jurisdiction outside of NSW can be sought from the respective state/territory summary chart.
2. Local government approval for development is subject to locality. Refer to your local council for information on development applications for appropriate permitting
3. Refer to the conditions specified in the Waste Facility Licence on fire safety and the Essential Requirements listed in Appendix B of the TSA Guidelines (2025)
4. Processing less than 5,000 tonnes of waste tyres per year still requires a development approval / permit / consent from the local council[2]. The relevant local council may refer development application to NSW EPA for licencing permissions, if required.

* TSA's FEMV program is not a mandatory regulatory requirement. It may assist exporters who need to demonstrate that their retread customer is an "appropriate" facility under the Waste Export Rules. TSA recommends that accredited participants exporting material have their customers participate in the FEMV program to show that their processed material is not causing environmental or social harm in the destination community.

NSW Tyre storage regulations

Protection of the Environment Operations (Waste) Regulation 2014

https://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/your-environment/waste/industrial-waste/tyres

A licence is required under the Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997 to store more than 5 tonnes of waste tyres (classifying it as a scheduled activity) (being casings, seconds, shredded tyres or tyre pieces) or 500 waste tyres at any time or a business involved in processing more than 5,000 tonnes of waste tyres per year. Licences require compliance with NSW Fire Brigade Storage Guidelines.

Fire safety requirements

The Fire & Rescue NSW Guideline for bulk storage of rubber tyres (2014) may be imposed in part or in full as a condition by the authority having jurisdiction. This Guideline has minimum requirements for the storage of rubber tyres, including those in an open yard or within buildings and structure.

Acceptable rubber tyre storage:

- Bundled tyres – tyres strapped together in bundles and stacked together in a system or on their sides
- Pallet system – a system containing a number of tyres which includes stringers for material handling equipment
- Horizontal system – a system (pallets, shelving, racks) where tyres are stacked upright along a horizontal length exceeding 1.5m
- Laced storage (outside only) – tyres which are stacked overlapping to create a woven or laced arrangement
- Portable system – small portable systems that can be readily moved by fork lift.

Outdoor tyre storage:

- The site should be level, clear of all rubbish and combustible materials, and enclosed by fences or walls constructed of non-combustible materials.
- A hydrant system complying with AS2419.1 should be provided when the total quantity of outdoor storage will exceed 50 tonnes.
- Individual tyre stacks should not exceed 3.7m in height, 60m^2 in area and 12.5 tonnes in weight.
- A maximum of four small individual tyre stacks can be grouped into a stack pile. A minimum clear separation of 2.5m must be maintained between each stack.
- A minimum clear separation of 18m must be maintained between each stack pile of four small stacks.

Small tyre facilities (less than 50 tonnes):

- Tyres should be stacked at least 6m from all non-combustible boundaries and buildings, and 18m from combustible boundaries or buildings.
- Tyre stacks must be at least 6m from the site boundary facing the public road.

Large tyre facilities (50 tonnes or more):

- Tyre stacks should be at least 18m from any boundary or any building.
- Any outdoor tyre storage facility should have at least two site access points each being not less than 4m wide.

Indoor tyre storage:

- Buildings with a floor area of 2,000m^2 or more and containing more than 20 tonnes of tyres should have a sprinkler system complying with AS2118 .1 .
- Buildings with a floor area of 2,000m^2 or more and containing more than 10 tonnes of tyres should have smoke and heat vents complying with specification E2 .2c Volume 1 of the NCC .
- Individual tyre stacks within buildings should not exceed 3 .7m in height and 30m^2 in area .
- Stored tyres must remain at least 1m clear in all directions from the underside of the building's roof or ceiling, roof structural members, lights (including light fixtures), and sprinkler heads .
- A minimum clearance of 1m must be maintained along paths of travel to required exits and firefighting equipment (e .g . hose reels, extinguishers, hydrants) . The paths of travel must be kept clear and unobstructed at all times.

Unsprinklered buildings:

- A minimum clearance of 3m should be provided between stacks .



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)[5], 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.



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