



Document title	Revision: 0
OKOMU OIL PALM COMPANY PLC	Date: 19/10/17
ZERO BURNING POLICY	Page 1 of 1

1.0 Policy Statement

Okomu Oil Palm Company (OOPC) adheres to a strict zero burning policy, which is enforced by all means, agriculturally, economically and/or socially (see Clause 6.0 for Policy Exception). This is in line with OOPC's commitment to following environmentally friendly practices and is also in accordance with Socfin's Responsible Management policy and sustainability principles.

2.0 Objective

This policy is aimed towards combating air pollution and is a pledge by the company to actively assist government's efforts to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions that have become a major factor in global climate changes.

3.0 Scope

This policy is applicable to all stakeholders actively engaged in OOPC's land clearing and preparation processes for all new developments as well as future replanting.

4.0 Definition

Zero burning: a method of land clearing whereby the tree stand is felled, shredded, stacked and/or left in situ to decompose naturally.

5.0 Guidelines

OOPC is committed to:

- Complying with all international and national legislation and RSPO national interpretations.
- A ban on the use of fire in land clearing (see Clause 6.0 for Policy Exception).
- Implementing the zero-burning policy on new plantings or replanting of oil palm/rubber.
- The provision of forest and fire management plans such as Fire Management Meetings & Fire Surveillance.
- Safeguarding OOPC's plantations against fire risks using fire hazard monitoring and management processes such as daily patrols during dry seasons/briefings and maintaining a competent firefighting team that is equipped with up-to-date fire-fighting equipment and proper skills through regular trainings and fire drills.
- Strictly applying this policy to waste management where all felled palms/rubber are left for biomass reuse.
- Continually channeling resources towards the prevention, management and suppression of fires from both inside and outside of the company's plantations.
- Communicating this policy to both employees and contractors, highlighting that any non-compliance may result in termination of employment or contracts. Efforts will be made to communicate this policy to the surrounding communities/farmers.

5.1 Mechanical Clearing

The following steps are to be taken to ensure proper implementation of this policy.

- Trees are to be directionally felled and stacked using excavators and/or bulldozers.
- The felled trees are stacked between the rows of re-plantings on flat or undulating terrain. On hilly areas, they are spread out evenly on the lips of planting terraces which will be opened when the slopes are above 6°.

The management and staff shall be trained and made aware that the zero burn policy should be adhered to.

The Palm Agriculture Coordinator, Rubber Agriculture Coordinator and HSE Manager shall implement and monitor this policy.

6.0 Policy Exception

OOPC will consider burning only as a last resort for the control of diseases such as Fomes in rubber. In such cases, burning will be limited to root disease infected or susceptible areas. Pictorial evidence (prior to burning) of the infections and/or presence of predisposing factors such as heaps of vulnerable soft wood biomass will be collected to substantiate the need for minimal burning. Organic matter will be retained on the ground as much as possible. In the case of a change in land use, such as the replanting of rubber to oil palm and with due consideration to clause 4.5.4 of the Guidelines for Implementation of ASEAN Policy on Zero Burning, 2003, the incidence of rodents, pests like *Oryctes* and pathogens like *Ganoderma* will be checked. If there is any need for use of fire, a decision will be taken by all the management staff, responsible for implementing this policy, after weighing the pros and cons with sufficient documentation.

7.0 Record of Approval

Task	Name/signature	Job title
Approved by	Dr. Graham Hefer	Managing Director

MANAGING DIRECTOR
 Date

 24 OCT/2017
 DR. G. HEFER