

## SEPA Policy Statement – Gypsum from Waste Plasterboard

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### Purpose

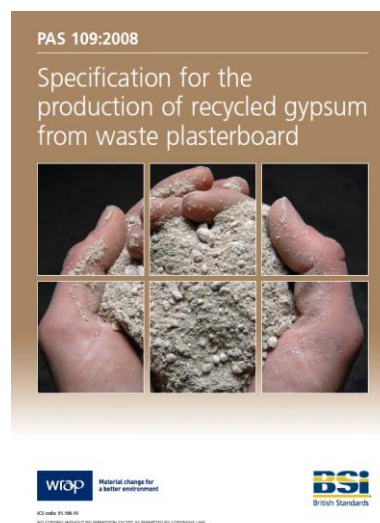
This statement supports the manufacture of **gypsum from waste plasterboard**. Gypsum produced in compliance with this statement will not be regulated under waste legislation. Processors and users are not obliged to comply with the terms of this statement but the reprocessed gypsum will remain classified as a waste.

### Introduction

The recently published PAS 109:2008<sup>1</sup> “Specification for the production of recycled gypsum from waste plasterboard” specifies minimum requirements for the recycling process itself. PAS 109:2008 covers the selection, receipt, handling of inputs, specification of product grades and the storage, labeling, dispatch and traceability of the products that are produced from that process.

Further to PAS 109:2008, environmental risk assessments have been carried out on the following uses of waste plasterboard that has been recycled in line with the PAS 109: 2008 process specification:

- Plasterboard manufacture
- Cement manufacture
- Soil Conditioner



### SEPA Position

When sold and made ready for dispatch to any of the above three end-uses, PAS 109-compliant gypsum will no longer be regarded as waste by SEPA.

If the processed gypsum has been fully recovered in this way, the subsequent storage, movement and use will not be subject to the requirements of waste legislation. Therefore, for example, it does not have to be transported by a registered waste carrier or be accompanied by a controlled waste transfer note.

In order for processors to take advantage of this position, the local SEPA team must be contacted and a demonstration of compliance with PAS 109 and this position provided. SEPA will provide confirmation on receipt of evidence demonstrating compliance with this position.

Where the terms of this statement are not complied with, the gypsum will be considered as waste by SEPA. In such circumstances the processor/user must comply with the appropriate waste management controls for the storage, movement and use of the gypsum and may be committing an offence if they do not do so.

Processors of gypsum from waste plasterboard should note that the processing and associated storage still requires to be carried out under and in compliance with a Waste Management Licence or Exemption<sup>2</sup>.

For agricultural applications, gypsum must be used in compliance with good agricultural practice such as, but not limited to:

- CAR General Binding Rule (GBR) 18 – Storage and Application of Fertiliser<sup>3</sup>
- Prevention of Environmental Pollution From Agricultural Activity Code of good practice (PEPFAA code)<sup>4</sup>
- Four Point Plan<sup>5</sup>
- Nitrate Vulnerable Zones regulations (NVZ regulations)<sup>6</sup>

Even if this statement is complied with and the gypsum from waste plasterboard gypsum can become waste again and so be subject to waste management controls. Therefore gypsum will again be regulated as waste if, for example, it is at any stage:

- discarded; or
- stored indefinitely with little prospect of being used.

### Disclaimer

This statement applies only in Scotland and is based on current understanding. The terms of this statement may be subject to periodical review and changed or withdrawn in light of technological developments, regulatory or legislative changes, future government guidance or experience of its use. SEPA reserves its discretion to depart from the position outlined in this statement and to take appropriate action to avoid any risk of pollution or harm to human health or the environment.

### References

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<sup>1</sup> PAS 109:2008 - Specification for the production of recycled gypsum from waste plasterboard  
[www.wrap.org.uk/recycling\\_industry/information\\_by\\_material/plasterboard/pas109.html](http://www.wrap.org.uk/recycling_industry/information_by_material/plasterboard/pas109.html)

<sup>2</sup> SEPA's Guide to Waste Management Licensing -  
[http://www.sepa.org.uk/waste/waste\\_regulation/idoc.ashx?docid=4b0d1dd4-1c8e-4cda-8d4b-0e8fb0cb53df&version=-1](http://www.sepa.org.uk/waste/waste_regulation/idoc.ashx?docid=4b0d1dd4-1c8e-4cda-8d4b-0e8fb0cb53df&version=-1)

<sup>3</sup> CAR General Binding Rule (GBR) 18 – Storage and Application of Fertiliser -  
<http://www.sepa.org.uk/water/idoc.ashx?docid=2a4b7ea0-ccf7-48b5-a85b-1404de0f58ea&version=-1>

<sup>4</sup> Prevention of Environmental Pollution from Agricultural Activity – A Code of Practice -  
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2005/03/20613/51366>

<sup>5</sup> Four Point Plan - <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2002/11/15778/13464>

<sup>6</sup> Nitrate Vulnerable Zones -  
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/farmingrural/Agriculture/Environment/NVZintro>