
Interim SEPA Technical Guidance Note

The Disposal in Landfills for Non-Hazardous Waste Of Asbestos, Wastes.

1.0 Background

The Landfill (Scotland) Regulations 2003, (Landfill Regulations), set out those wastes which may be accepted in the different classes of landfill. Landfills will be classified as **Hazardous, Non-hazardous or Inert.**

Regulation 12. (3) and (4), set out below, details the wastes that may be accepted in a landfill for non-hazardous waste:

12. (3) The operator of a landfill for non-hazardous waste shall ensure the landfill is only used for landfilling –

(a) municipal waste;

(b) non-hazardous waste of any other origin which fulfils the waste acceptance criteria in paragraphs 1 and 3(b) of Schedule 2; and

(c) stable, non-reactive hazardous waste (such as that which is solidified with leaching behaviour equivalent to that of non-hazardous waste referred to in sub-paragraph (b) and which fulfils the waste acceptance criteria in paragraphs 1 and 3(a) of Schedule 2.

(4) Where hazardous waste of the type described in paragraph (3)(c) is disposed of at a landfill for non-hazardous waste, the operator shall ensure it is not deposited in cells used or intended to be used for the disposal of biodegradable non-hazardous waste.

This document provides guidance on the additional measures required for asbestos wastes as SEPA considers they present specific hazards requiring special measures to be taken.

2.0 Asbestos Wastes

SEPA accepts that asbestos waste can be determined to meet the definition and criteria of a stable non-reactive hazardous waste suitable for disposal in a non hazardous landfill provided it is landfilled in a separate, sufficiently self contained cell.

2.1 Containment

The important requirements for separation given below are that in a non-hazardous site, asbestos waste can be landfilled in a separate cell if the cell is sufficiently self-contained. The asbestos cell can contain no other waste materials other than those used for the purposes of covering the asbestos. With respect to the management of landfill gas and leachate from the biodegradable wastes, it is important to note that, in order to prevent the uncontrolled release of asbestos fibres, no drilling should take

place through the asbestos. The following principles ensure that sufficient separation is provided:

- no physical contact with any other wastes except suitable inert wastes used as cover materials;
- the purpose of any engineered barriers is to physically separate the waste types;
- the design and location of the cell should minimise the need for leachate management within the asbestos cell;
- there should be limited contact of landfill gas and leachate from the biodegradable wastes with the asbestos wastes; and
- the asbestos waste cell must not compromise the landfill gas and leachate management of the biodegradable waste cells.

2.2 Criteria for Disposal in Non-hazardous Sites

Asbestos wastes can be disposed of untreated in separate cells of non-hazardous sites provided the following procedures are adhered to.

- Only waste asbestos and non-hazardous construction materials containing, or contaminated, with asbestos can be accepted in the cell.
- The asbestos must either be rigid asbestos bound by a binding agent or fibrous asbestos. All asbestos wastes shall be packaged where appropriate in accordance with the appropriate approved codes of practice and guidance documents.
- In order to avoid dispersion of fibres, the zone of deposit shall be covered daily with suitable inert material and, if the waste consists of rigid asbestos that is not packed or for any other reason asbestos is not properly contained, it shall be regularly sprinkled. The waste shall be covered immediately to a depth of at least 250mm. Final cover should be not less than two metres of suitable material and asbestos waste shall not be within 2 metres of the edge or surface of the landfill after final completion of restoration works. For all these purposes, suitable material should be used, comprising incombustible, granular material free from any objects capable of disrupting the waste or any packing.
- Asbestos waste to be segregated from non hazardous waste by at least 2m of suitable material.
- A final top cover shall be placed on the landfill/cell in order to avoid the dispersion of fibres.
- No works shall be carried out on the landfill/cell that could lead to a release of fibres (e.g. drilling of holes).