NIEA Technical Guidance Note

The Management for Non-Hazardous Waste of Gypsum Wastes

1.0 NIEA – Revised Policy on Gypsum waste going to landfill from 1 April 2009
NIEA has reviewed its policy on the disposal of gypsum waste going to landfill in accordance with COUNCIL DECISION of 19 December 2002 (establishing criteria and procedures for the acceptance of waste at landfills pursuant to Article 16 of and Annex II to Directive 1999/31/EC (the landfill Directive)) which states, "*Non-hazardous gypsum-based materials should be disposed of only in landfills for non-hazardous waste in cells where no biodegradable waste is accepted".*

2.0 Separate Cell Requirements
The important requirements for separation are that, in a non-hazardous site, gypsum waste can only be landfilled in a separate cell if the cell is sufficiently self-contained. Site specific proposals must be risk assessed and addressed on a site specific basis and will require a pollution prevention and control permit (or a variation to an existing permit) to operate in accordance with the legislative requirements of The Landfill Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003, as amended and The Pollution Prevention and Control Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003, as amended. There are presently no landfills in Northern Ireland with a separate cell for high sulphate bearing wastes, although there are such landfills available in other areas of Great Britain.

3.0 Producers of construction and demolition waste, including suitably licensed waste transfer facilities
Producers must try to separate the gypsum based materials from other wastes so that it can then be either recycled/reused or disposed of to a suitably permitted landfill. This can either be done on the site of production of the waste, or at a licensed transfer facility although this option will have additional processing costs.

If you wish to accept gypsum wastes for transfer and/or recycling, you must have a waste management licence to do so (please contact NIEA Land and Resource Management Unit for more information).

Producers must comply with Duty of Care and only pass waste onto an authorised carrier or a suitably licensed facility.

4.0 Landfill Operators
NIEA wrote to all operating landfills in January 2009 to inform them of this change in position.

Landfill operators must adopt waste acceptance procedures that will identify whether a waste stream contains gypsum based material.

If you wish to accept gypsum wastes, you must have a Pollution Prevention and Control permit to do so (please contact NIEA Land and Resource Management Unit for more information).

5.0 NIEA

NIEA is currently working with various industry sectors, WRAP and the waste management industry to raise awareness on this revised position.

Please follow the link for further information on the draft WRAP protocol for recycled gypsum,
www.wrap.org.uk/construction/plasterboard/

If you require more information please contact NIEA Land and Resource Management