

HAZARDOUS WASTE REGULATIONS (NI)
2005Northern Ireland
Environment
AgencyHAZARDOUS WASTE GUIDANCE
DOCUMENT

WASTE ASBESTOS

Introduction

Hazardous waste is subject to the requirements of the European Hazardous Waste Directive (91/689/EEC) which was transposed into Northern Ireland legislation by The Hazardous Waste Regulations (NI) 2005 and The List of Wastes Regulations (NI) 2005. All wastes have a European-wide code assigned to them in the European Waste Catalogue (EWC 2002) which is contained in [Technical Guidance WM2](#). The WM2 manual has been developed to provide guidance on the assessment and classification of hazardous waste. The commonly used codes for asbestos containing material are shown below.

Asbestos is the name given to a group of naturally occurring minerals which consist of flexible fibres. The most common types of asbestos are chrysotile (white), amosite (brown) and crocidolite (blue). The properties of asbestos, in particular its strength, high thermal and electrical insulation, chemical resistance and fire resistance made it a very useful building material. However, breathing in asbestos fibres can cause diseases of the respiratory system. Whilst its use has now been banned, there are still many buildings which have asbestos containing materials which were installed before the ban came into effect.

Where can asbestos be found?

Asbestos is often bonded into a matrix of cement or resins. Typical bonded asbestos products include -

Asbestos cement (AC) – found in corrugated roofing and cladding panels and roof slates, guttering, downpipes, boiler flues, toilet cisterns and other water tanks.

Bitumen based roof tiles and roofing felts.

Plastic floor tiles, brake pads and clutch linings.

Textured coatings, plasters and fire resistant coatings.

Asbestos was also used in products where the fibres were more loosely bound -

Asbestos insulating board (AIB) - found in ceiling tiles, wall facings, partitions, soffits and fire doors.

Pipe insulation - often in the form of pre-formed sections but also as blankets, tapes, ropes or plaster.

Insulation around electrical cables, or packed in bags for use in fire doors.

Pipe and valve gaskets, ironing boards, fire blankets,

Managing and removal of asbestos on a site

Working with asbestos is dangerous and should only be carried out by competent persons. All work which is likely to disturb asbestos is subject to the Control of Asbestos Regulations (NI) 2007. The Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland (HSENI) is responsible for enforcing legislation on asbestos in the workplace. Work with asbestos insulation and insulation board will normally need to be undertaken by a contractor licensed for this type of work by HSENI. They can provide advice on managing asbestos in a building and safe methods of work for its removal. HSENI issue licences to asbestos removal contractors. Further guidance on managing asbestos in a building and safe methods of work for its removal may be sought from the Asbestos Advisory Service of HSENI (contact details below).

Disposal of waste asbestos

Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) is responsible for regulating the disposal of waste materials containing asbestos. This is done through a system of licences and authorisations for transport, storage and disposal of asbestos, and a paperwork system (consignment notes), which provides an audit trail for all organisations involved in the disposal chain. The licenses issued by NIEA for transport, storage and disposal are separate from asbestos removal licences issued by HSENI.

The classification of asbestos as hazardous waste

The most commonly used EWC codes for asbestos containing materials are

1706	Insulation materials and asbestos containing construction materials
170601	Insulation materials containing asbestos
170605	Construction materials containing asbestos

Other EWC codes applicable to asbestos containing materials are

0607	Wastes from the manufacture, formulation, supply and use of halogens and halogen chemical processes
060701	Wastes containing asbestos from electrolysis
0613	Wastes from inorganic chemical processes not otherwise specified
0613 04	Wastes from asbestos processing
1013	Wastes from manufacture of cement lime and plaster and articles and products made from them
101309	Wastes from asbestos-cement manufacture containing asbestos
1501	Waste packaging (including separately collected municipal packaging waste)
150111	Metallic packaging containing a dangerous solid porous matrix (for example asbestos), including empty pressure containers
1601	End of life vehicles from different means of transport (including off-road machinery) and wastes from dismantling of end of life vehicles and vehicle maintenance
160111	brake pads containing asbestos

1602 Wastes from electrical and electronic equipment
160212 **discarded equipment containing free asbestos**

1705 soil (including excavated soil from contaminated sites), stones and dredging spoil
170503 **Soil and stones containing dangerous substances**

The Technical Guidance in WM2 defines absolute (**red**) and mirror (**blue**) entries. Absolute entries are always classed as hazardous waste regardless of the concentration of hazardous material in them. Mirror entries must be assessed against a threshold limit.

The majority of EWC codes for asbestos containing materials are mirror entries. Asbestos is classed as being toxic (H6) and carcinogenic (H7). The threshold limit for carcinogenic materials (0.1%) is lower than the threshold for toxic materials (3%). **In practice this means that any material containing more than 0.1% asbestos is classed as hazardous waste.**

Waste disposal contractors are required to report these reference codes on consignment notes.

Coatings containing asbestos

Some textured paint coatings contained 3-5% asbestos. They were sold under trade names such as Artex, Wondertex, Suretex, Newtex, Pebblecoat and Marblecoat. It is difficult to safely remove this type of coating from the substrate and so NIEA consider that the combined paint and substrate should be assessed together to determine whether the waste is hazardous. The assessment should take into account the overall concentration of the asbestos in the combined paint and substrate – if this exceeds the 0.1% threshold limit the waste is hazardous and should be consigned as such.

What you need to do to dispose of asbestos legally

Guidance on the safe removal of asbestos from a building and its packaging for transport may be sought from HSENI.

Asbestos must be transported by a registered waste carrier (with few exceptions) and it must be disposed of to a licensed waste disposal site. Not all waste management companies are licensed to accept asbestos. Most council civic amenity sites will not accept asbestos. You can check current licences by contacting the Licensing team in NIEA.

NIEA must be notified 3 working days in advance of the movement of the asbestos. This is done by completing a consignment note – guidance on completing this form can be found in HAZGUIDE NI** “A Guide to Consigning Hazardous Waste”. The waste disposal company may complete the consignment note on your behalf.

Households

The Regulations permit waste asbestos from a domestic dwelling to be taken by the householder, or someone else acting on their behalf without reward, to a licensed waste facility without using a consignment note. However, if the householder pays someone to remove the asbestos from their premises, then the contractor must follow

the consignment note system.

Your local council may arrange for the collection of household asbestos waste, however there may be a charge for this service. For further information please contact your local council.

Things you should not do

It is illegal to

- **mix asbestos with other waste.**
- **place it on land without the appropriate licence.**
- **burn waste containing asbestos to reduce its volume.**

The Regulations do not permit mixing of asbestos with demolition rubble to be used as hard core or burying of asbestos resulting from the demolition of a building, in the foundations of a new building. NIEA has the power to require landowners to remove asbestos deposited illegally on their land.

Useful Contacts

Asbestos Advisory Service,
HSENI
83 Ladas Drive
Belfast
BT6 9FR.

Tel 0800 0320 121

Fax: (028) 90235383

Email: asbestos@detni.gov.uk

Or Visit www.hseni.gov.uk

For further information contact:

Northern Ireland Environment Agency
Hazardous Waste/TFS Section
Land & Resource Management
1st Floor, Klondyke Building
Ormeau Road, Belfast

BT7 2JA

Telephone: 02890 569710

Fax: 02890 569310

Or visit www.ni-environment.gov.uk and click onto the **Waste** link to obtain information on relevant waste legislation, a full list of downloadable Hazardous Waste Guidance Documents (**HAZGUIDE NI**), WM2 and other useful publications.

IMPORTANT NOTES PLEASE READ

This guidance document has been produced by Northern Ireland Environment Agency based on information contained in The Hazardous Waste Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2005 and on current understanding. This document may be subject to change in the light of regulatory changes, future Government guidance or experience of regulating this type of waste. It must be stressed that this document is for guidance only and it remains the responsibility of the waste producer or holder to establish the waste's status as "hazardous".