

Overview

- The *Environmental Management and Pollution Control (Waste Management) Regulations 2020*, also known as the Waste Management Regulations, are used to regulate and manage controlled waste and some aspects of the disposal of general waste within Tasmania. Similar regulations apply in Victoria under the *Environment Protection Act 1970*.
- Our waste falls into two categories: controlled waste and general waste. Controlled waste is the most hazardous category of waste and requires special management. General waste is less hazardous.
- It is important to remember that waste identification and correct disposal is the responsibility of the employee and project manager in charge of the project, where applicable.

What is this procedure for?

This procedure describes how to manage and dispose of waste in compliance with relevant legislation while striving for better environmental outcomes.



How do we manage controlled waste?

Controlled waste is the most hazardous category of waste and includes those wastes that exhibit toxicity, chemical or biological reactivity, environmental persistence, or the ability to bio-accumulate or enter the food chain. These wastes need to be carefully managed and are closely regulated because of their potential to adversely impact human health and the environment.

1) Identify the controlled waste by:

- Performing sampling and analysis of the waste. Sampling must be performed in accordance with Australian Standards with the analysis being undertaken by a NATA registered lab.

- These results will determine appropriate storage, transport and disposal options.
- Further information on characteristics of a controlled waste is available on the [EPA's website](#).

2) Transport and dispose of controlled waste by:

- Following the advice contained within the SDS and relevant legislation.
- **It is always Hydro Group's preference that controlled waste is transported and disposed of by a third party registered controlled waste handler.** However we acknowledge this is not always practical. Hydro Group is registered with the EPA to transport the following controlled wastes **only**:
 - D120 – Mercury; mercury compounds
 - J100 - Waste mineral oils unfit for their original intended use
 - J120 - Waste oil/water, hydrocarbons/water mixtures or emulsions
 - M100 - Waste substances and articles containing or contaminated with polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), polychlorinated naphthalenes (PCNs), polychlorinated terphenyls (PCTs) and/or polybrominated biphenyls (PBBs)
 - N220 – Asbestos (refer to the Asbestos Management Procedure for handling and disposing of asbestos waste).
- The Controlled Waste Transport Checklist must be completed prior to transporting controlled waste. A copy of the completed checklist must be kept and able to be produced, upon request.
- All other records including forms, records and dockets must be also be kept.

Other controlled waste we might encounter include soils contaminated with a controlled waste and coal tar enamel (CTE). Please remember that we are not permitted to transport these wastes.

UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCE MUST ANY OTHER CATEGORY OF CONTROLLED WASTE BE TRANSPORTED WITHOUT EPA APPROVAL.

Waste Management

How do we manage other waste streams?

- **Batteries** must be recycled and never disposed of within landfill. Hydro Group have battery recycling available at most sites.
- **Cable and insulation** can usually be recycled with scrap metals – they must be checked for PCBs first.
- **CCA treated poles and cross arms** are not considered to be a controlled waste by the EPA. They can be reused, recycled or disposed of in landfill.
- **E-waste** must be disposed of by returning the equipment to Information Services & Systems (IS&S). All e-waste is recycled.
- **Excavated spoil and construction waste** which has not been contaminated can be used as fill. Fill can be reused onsite, at another location or disposed of in landfill. It is important to consider other environmental aspects such as the spread of weeds and disease when moving fill between sites.
- **Gas cylinders and bottles** should be refilled or swapped where possible. Alternatively they can be returned to the supplier or manufacturer.
- **General office waste** includes paper and cardboard recycling, organic waste, soft plastic recycling, commingled recycling and landfill. Some of these options may not be available at each of our sites.
- **Office furniture** must be returned to Facilities where it can be reused or donated to charity.
- **Light globes** should be wrapped in paper and disposed of within landfill. Fluorescent light tubes contain mercury and must be collected by a licensed waste contractor. They must be stored separately. Mercury vapour globes must also be handled very carefully and sent to a metal recycler for processing. It is acceptable to store these globes for an extended period of time due to logistics of transporting them.
- **Meters, meter panels and other electrical equipment** (excluding oil insulated transformers and equipment) can be recycled with scrap metals. All equipment should be assessed for the presence of asbestos and mercury.
- **Optical fibre cabling** must not be left uncapped with broken ends of fibres. Scraps should be disposed of as sharps waste. Optical fibre cabling can be recycled with scrap metals.
- **Printer cartridges** must be recycled and never disposed of within landfill. Most locations will have a printer recycling collection point near a printer.
- **Sanitary waste** is not a controlled waste. Hydro Group recommends that specialist companies undertake the collection of sanitary waste.
- **SF6 equipment and used gas** must be disposed of according to the SF6 Management Procedure.
- **Steel, copper and aluminium** can all be reused or recycled as scrap metals.
- **Waste from vegetation clearing** may be left in rural situations or forested areas to decompose naturally or be used by the landowner as long as it will not pose a safety or fire risk. The mulching of or removal of vegetation debris may be required in other situations.
- **Waste water** from oil containment pits, tanks and interceptor traps should be inspected periodically to assess the need to remove any waste including oily sludge and sediment. The waste water may need to be tested to determine disposal options.
- **Wastes to sewer** should be avoided. No solid wastes are permitted to enter any sewer system. Black water (from toilets) and grey water (from kitchens, bathrooms and wash bays) are the only liquid wastes allowed to be disposed to the sewer without approval.

How do I report an incident?

- All hazards and incidents involving waste, particularly controlled wastes, including near misses, must be reported in accordance with the Incident Management and Investigation Procedure.

Still not sure or need more info? Please contact us at environment@hydro.com.au