

# WAS-G-HAZ-04

Asbestos in demolition waste

## Version 2.0 - August 2025

## Introduction

This guidance provides advice for anyone managing asbestos contaminated demolition wastes. It sets out when it is necessary to consign that material as hazardous waste to an authorised site.

Although the use of new asbestos products has been banned since 1999 any asbestos containing material (ACM) installed before 1999 can remain in place and there is a risk that any demolition works carried out on buildings more than 15 years old has the potential to produce asbestos contaminated demolition wastes.

It is best practice to remove asbestos from buildings prior to demolition. However, this is not always possible e.g. when a building is unsafe to enter. Where asbestos is not removed prior to demolition then assessment is required as to whether the resulting demolition material is hazardous waste.

## Classifying asbestos contaminated demolition wastes

All types of Asbestos are carcinogenic and therefore Asbestos contaminated wastes are assessed by threshold calculation and are measured against the threshold value for the HP7 – Carcinogenic Hazard Property which is 0.1% w/w.

Asbestos will generally appear in demolition wastes in two forms, as identifiable pieces of asbestos contaminated material (ACMs) or as ‘free and dispersed fibres’.

## Identifiable pieces

Where easily identifiable, i.e. visible to the naked eye, for example, cement sheeting or floor tiles, the status of pieces of suspected asbestos contaminated material (ACM) may be assessed in isolation. The identifiable pieces will be deemed special waste if the concentration of asbestos, in the piece of ACM, is at or above 0.1% w/w.

Where demolition takes place without prior removal of asbestos then the resultant demolition material will be deemed to be hazardous waste, until proven otherwise, if it contains any identifiable pieces of ACM.

It may be acceptable to remove these ACM’s. The removal of suspected ACMs should be done without causing risk to human health or the environment. SEPA would advise users to refer to the Health & Safety Executive before attempting the removal of suspected ACMs.

Where the pieces of ACM have not been removed the waste is viewed as being ‘mixed waste’ and should be described using the following EWC code: 17 06 05\* Construction material containing asbestos.

Please Note: In Scotland there is no de-minimis for levels of hazardous waste if it is mixed with non-hazardous waste.

Where the identifiable pieces of ACMs have been safely removed from the waste, they can be classified using the following EWC code: 17 06 01\* Insulation material containing asbestos.

## Free and dispersed fibres

Where the asbestos fibres are free and dispersed the waste will be classified as hazardous waste if the waste, as a whole, exhibits an asbestos content of 0.1% or more. The waste can be classified using the following European Waste Catalogue (EWC) code: 17 06 05\* Construction material containing asbestos.

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