

Liquid Wastes - Characterising

Some liquid wastes are hazardous or have particular properties worth noting. Proper characterisation of the liquid wastes in your workshop creates a safeguard for your employees. In addition, it is a requirement of any trackable liquid waste that goes through the disposal process.

For more information on trackable wastes please see the environmental information guides; "Liquid Wastes - Disposal" and "List of Trackable Wastes".

Characterising requirements

- Form of the waste

This describes the physical state of the waste; compressed gas, liquid, solid, sludge or solid & liquid.

- Waste classification

The Environmental Guidelines: Assessment, Classification and Management of Liquid and Non-Liquid Waste contains classifications for all wastes. Waste should be classified in accordance with this guideline, which is available from:

www.environment.nsw.gov.au/resources/waste_guide.pdf.

Some examples of non-liquid waste classifications in the automotive industry are:

Hazardous	Explosives, gases, flammable liquids, flammable solids, toxic substances, corrosive substances.
Industrial Solid	- Drained and mechanically crushed oil filters, rags and oil absorbent materials.
Inert	Tyres, office waste and packaging (paper, cardboard, plastic, metal, wood).

Some examples of liquid waste classifications in the automotive industry are:

Hazardous	Explosives, gases, flammable liquids, flammable solids, toxic substances, corrosive substances.
Group A	Non-aqueous waste (where non-water liquid makes up over 20% of the waste)
Group B	-
Group C	-
Non-controlled aqueous liquid	-

- Waste code

The codes are based on the Controlled Waste National Environmental Protection Measure. The list of "Controlled Waste Under NEPM" is available from:

www.environment.nsw.gov.au/waste/list1.htm.

Some examples of codes in the automotive industry are:

Acidic solutions/substances	B100
Asbestos	N220
Contaminated containers/drums	N100
Contaminated soil	N120
Tyres	T140
Waste oil/water, hydrocarbons/water or emulsions	J120

- Waste description

Descriptions give more detail than is provided by the classification or code. It is a description of what the waste actually is, rather than just what it contains.

▪ **Dangerous goods properties**

If a waste is classed as a “dangerous good” then this information must be noted on the transport certificate. Any contractor transporting dangerous goods requires a Dangerous Goods Licence and a Protection of the Environment Operations Licence.

Contact the Department of the Environment and Climate Change (DECC) in NSW or Territory and Municipal Services (TAMS) in the ACT for more information on licensing.

Contact WorkCover for more information about dangerous goods.

Liquid waste characterisation

- Form of the waste
- Waste classification
- Waste code
- Waste description
- Dangerous goods properties

Online waste tracking (NSW)

Waste tracking obligations (including the characterisation of waste) can be fulfilled by using the DECC’s online waste tracking system. More information can be found at www.environment.nsw.gov.au/owt/index.htm.

This may help you to comply with the DECC’s regulations without the hassle of paperwork. If the online waste tracking system is used by a business, the DECC does not require a quarterly report as it would for other waste producers.

Key contacts

MTA NSW

02 9213 4222

www.greenstamp.mtansw.com.au

ACTewAGL (ACT)

13 11 93

www.actewagl.com.au

Department of Environment & Climate Change (NSW)

131 555

www.environment.nsw.gov.au

Emergency Services

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Hunter Water (NSW)

1300 657 657

www.hunterwater.com.au

Local Council Contacts (NSW)

www.dlg.nsw.gov.au

Sydney Water (NSW)

13 20 92

www.sydneywater.com.au

Territory & Municipal Services (ACT)

13 22 81

www.tams.act.gov.au

WorkCover (ACT)

02 6205 0200

www.workcover.act.gov.au

WorkCover (NSW)

13 10 50

www.workcover.nsw.gov.au

Important Disclaimer

These Information Guides have been developed to assist MTA NSW and MTA ACT members to better manage their environmental impacts. However it remains the responsibility of the individual business to determine the extent to which various laws and best practice guidelines apply to them and to take appropriate steps to achieve compliance. Though every possible effort has been made, MTA NSW accepts no responsibility for the accuracy of the information.