

## **Waste disposal - Superwool® products may be disposed of in non-hazardous waste landfill**

### **Key points summary**

- Disposal of waste materials in EU Member States is controlled by implementation of a number of Directives.
- Wastes containing more than 0.1 wt% of (RCF) are classified hazardous under Directive 91/689/EC. RCF wastes from manufacture and use are required to be handled and disposed of by a licensed waste contractor in an appropriately licensed hazardous waste landfill. Directive 1999/31/EC enables such wastes to be disposed in a non-hazardous waste landfill provided that leaching tests have shown there is no risk of soil or ground water contamination.
- As responsibility for the implementation for EU waste Directives lies with the individual member states, local regulations are not harmonised and waste disposal restrictions vary widely from country to country.
- In practice, many RCF users have experienced significantly increased costs because local waste disposal sites are not licensed to or prepared to accept hazardous wastes.
- Waste containing Superwool® fibre products may be disposed in a non-hazardous waste landfill.
- Superwool® products that do not contain an organic binder may be considered as waste glass-based fibrous materials (European Waste Code 10 11 03).

In practice, Superwool® users should experience no difficulty or increased costs for disposing of waste fibre.

**This is a clear benefit for Superwool® product users compared with RCF users.**

### **Some examples in different countries**

1. Superwool® product waste is considered inert waste in Germany and can be disposed of in a landfill designated for non hazardous waste according to the landfill ordinance (DepV) §6 and 7 and under §3 of the waste storage ordinance (AbfAbIV).
2. In the UK, the Environment Agency clearly suggests that Superwool® products are considered as waste glass-based fibrous materials as long as they do not contain any organic binder or are not contaminated by other hazardous material.
3. In France Directive 1999/31/EC has not yet been implemented. However an “Arrêté” from 30<sup>th</sup> December 2004 indicates that inert wastes can be stored in an industrial inert waste landfill as long as they meet the leaching testing limits referred to in its appendix 2.

## Guidelines for handling and disposing of Superwool® product waste

- Handle the waste with care so that it does not spread. Wetting (dampening only) the waste helps to minimise dust emission.
- Do not allow the waste to accumulate around the workplace.
- In the workplace, dispose of the waste in a suitable closed container or plastic bag as soon as it is produced.
- When full, seal containers or plastic bags before removing for disposal.
- Leaching tests may be required to show that waste will not pollute groundwater or soil. Superwool® product wastes may contain organic materials and/or other contaminants.
- Do not mix Superwool® product waste with hazardous waste.
- The responsibility for waste disposal or treatment remains with the waste producer. In most jurisdictions, records must be maintained and provided by the waste contractor / transporter to the landfill to verify disposal.
- Ensure written confirmation is received from the disposal company verifying that the waste has been disposed of properly.
- Superwool® product waste may have been contaminated by hazardous substances during its normal use. In such cases expert guidance should be sought.