
STATUTORY RULES OF NORTHERN IRELAND

2003 No. 496

The Landfill Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003

PART II

LANDFILL PERMITS

Classification of landfills

7.—(1) Before granting a landfill permit, the Chief Inspector shall classify the landfill –

- (a) as a landfill for hazardous waste;
- (b) as a landfill for non-hazardous waste; or
- (c) as a landfill for inert waste,

and shall ensure that the classification is stated in the landfill permit.

(2) Hazardous waste means any waste as defined in Article 1(4) of Council Directive [91/689/EEC](#) of 12th December 1991(1) (hazardous waste).

(3) Non-hazardous waste is waste which is not hazardous waste.

(4) Waste is inert waste if –

- (a) it does not undergo any significant physical, chemical or biological transformations;
- (b) it does not dissolve, burn or otherwise physically or chemically react, biodegrade or adversely affect other matter with which it comes into contact in a way likely to give rise to environmental pollution or harm to human health; and
- (c) its total leachability and pollutant content and the ecotoxicity of its leachate are insignificant and, in particular, do not endanger the quality of any surface water or groundwater.

Conditions to be included in landfill permits

8.—(1) A landfill permit shall include conditions specifying the list of defined types, and the total quantity, of waste authorised to be deposited in the landfill.

(2) A landfill permit shall also include appropriate conditions –

- (a) specifying requirements for –
 - (i) preparations for, and the carrying out of, landfilling operations;
 - (ii) monitoring and control procedures, including contingency plans;
- (b) ensuring that the financial provision required by regulation 4(3)(b)(2) of the 2003 Regulations is maintained until the permit is surrendered in accordance with those Regulations;

(1) O.J. No. L377, 31.12.91, p. 20 as amended by Council Directive [94/31/EC](#) (O.J. No. L168, 2.7.94 p. 28)

(2) See paragraph 1(3) of Schedule 5 to these Regulations

- (c) ensuring that the landfill is operated in such a manner that the necessary measures are taken to prevent accidents and to limit their consequences; and
 - (d) requiring the operator to report at least annually to the Chief Inspector on –
 - (i) the types and quantities of waste disposed of; and
 - (ii) the results of the monitoring programme required by regulations 14 and 15.
- (3) A landfill permit shall also include –
- (a) appropriate conditions for ensuring compliance with the requirements of the following provisions of these Regulations –
 - (i) Schedule 2 (General requirements for landfills);
 - (ii) regulation 9 (Prohibition of acceptance of certain wastes at landfills);
 - (iii) regulation 10 (Waste which may be accepted in the different classes of landfill);
 - (iv) regulation 11 (Costs of disposal of waste in landfills);
 - (v) regulation 12 (Waste acceptance procedures);
 - (vi) regulation 13 (Initial site inspections by the Chief Inspector);
 - (vii) regulation 14 (Control and monitoring of operational landfills);
 - (viii) regulation 15 (Closure and after-care procedures for landfills); and
 - (b) such other conditions as appear appropriate to the Chief Inspector, including in particular conditions giving effect to –
 - (i) any requirement imposed by Community or national legislation; and
 - (ii) in the case of landfills falling within paragraph (a) of Part A of section 5.2 in Part I of Schedule 1 to the 2003 Regulations, the principle that energy should be used efficiently.
- (4) The provisions of these Regulations mentioned in paragraph (3)(a) above shall impose obligations directly on an operator of a landfill (rather than through the conditions of a landfill permit) only to the extent specified in paragraphs 1(14) and 3(3) to (5) of Schedule 4.

Prohibition of acceptance of certain wastes at landfills

- 9.—(1)** The operator of a landfill shall not accept any of the following types of waste at the landfill –
- (a) any waste in liquid form (including waste waters but excluding sludge);
 - (b) waste which, in the conditions of landfill, is explosive, corrosive, oxidising, flammable or highly flammable;
 - (c) hospital and other clinical wastes which arise from medical or veterinary establishments and which are infectious;
 - (d) chemical substances arising from research and development or teaching activities, such as laboratory residues, which are not identified or which are new, and whose effects on man or on the environment are not known;
 - (e) as from the relevant date, whole used tyres other than –
 - (i) tyres used as engineering material;
 - (ii) bicycle tyres; and
 - (iii) tyres with an outside diameter above 1400mm;
 - (f) as from 16th July 2006, shredded used tyres other than –
 - (i) bicycle tyres; and

- (ii) tyres with an outside diameter above 1400mm; and
 - (g) any waste which does not fulfil the relevant waste acceptance criteria.
- (2) The operator of a landfill shall ensure that the landfill is not used for landfilling waste which has been diluted or mixed solely to meet the relevant waste acceptance criteria.
- (3) For the purposes of this regulation, waste is –
- “corrosive” if it consists of substances and preparations which may destroy living tissue on contact;
 - “explosive” if it consists of substances and preparations which may explode under the effect of flame or which are more sensitive to shocks or friction than dinitrobenzene;
 - “flammable” if it consists of liquid substances and preparations having a flash point equal to or greater than 21°C and less than or equal to 55°C;
 - “highly flammable” if it consists of –
 - (a) liquid substances and preparations having a flash point below 21°C (including extremely flammable liquids);
 - (b) substances and preparations which may become hot and finally catch fire in contact with air at ambient temperature without any application of energy;
 - (c) solid substances and preparations which may readily catch fire after brief contact with a source of ignition and which continue to burn or to be consumed after removal of the source of ignition;
 - (d) gaseous substances and preparations which are flammable in air at normal pressure;
 - (e) substances and preparations which, in contact with water or damp air, evolve highly flammable gases in dangerous quantities;
 - “infectious” if it consists of substances containing viable micro-organisms or their toxins which are known or reliably believed to cause disease in man or other living organisms; or
 - “oxidising” if it consists of substances and preparations which exhibit highly exothermic reactions when in contact with other substances, particularly flammable substances.

Waste which may be accepted in the different classes of landfill

- 10.**—(1) The operator of a landfill shall ensure that the landfill is only used for landfilling waste which is subject to prior treatment unless –
- (a) it is inert waste for which treatment is not technically feasible; or
 - (b) it is waste other than inert waste and treatment would not reduce its quantity or the hazards which it poses to human health or the environment.
- (2) The operator of a landfill for hazardous waste shall ensure that only waste which fulfils the waste acceptance criteria in paragraphs 1 and 2 of Schedule 1 is accepted at the landfill
- (3) The operator of a landfill for non-hazardous waste shall ensure that the landfill is only used for landfilling –
- (a) municipal waste;
 - (b) non-hazardous waste of any other origin which fulfils the waste acceptance criteria in paragraphs 1 and 3(1)(b) of Schedule 1; and
 - (c) stable, non-reactive hazardous waste (such as that which is solidified) with leaching behaviour equivalent to that of non-hazardous waste referred to in sub-paragraph (b) and which fulfils the waste acceptance criteria in paragraphs 1 and 3(1)(a) of Schedule 1.

(4) Where hazardous waste of the type described in paragraph (3)(c) is disposed of at a landfill for non-hazardous waste, the operator shall ensure it is not deposited in cells used or intended to be used for the disposal of biodegradable non-hazardous waste.

(5) The operator of a landfill for inert waste shall ensure that the landfill is only used for landfilling inert waste which meets the waste acceptance criteria in paragraphs 1 and 4 of Schedule 1.

Costs of disposal of waste in landfills

11.—(1) The operator of a landfill shall ensure that the charges it makes for the disposal of waste in its landfill covers all of the following –

- (a) the costs of setting up and operating the landfill;
- (b) the costs of the financial provision required by regulation 4(3)(b) of the 2003 Regulations; and
- (c) the estimated costs for the closure and after-care of the landfill site for a period of at least 30 years from its closure.

Waste acceptance procedures

12.—(1) The operator of a landfill shall visually inspect the waste at the entrance to the landfill and at the point of the deposit and shall satisfy himself that it conforms to the description provided in the documentation submitted by the holder.

(2) The operator of a landfill shall, in accordance with such procedures as are specified by the Department, test waste to establish whether it corresponds to the description in the accompanying documents and, if representative samples are taken for analysis, the operator shall retain the samples and results of any analysis for at least one month.

(3) The operator of a landfill shall keep a register showing –

- (a) the quantities of waste deposited;
- (b) its characteristics;
- (c) its origin;
- (d) the dates of its delivery;
- (e) the identity of the producer or, in the case of municipal waste, the collector; and
- (f) in the case of hazardous waste, its precise location on the site.

(4) The information required to be kept under paragraph (3) shall be made available to the Chief Inspector on request.

(5) The operator of a landfill on accepting each delivery of waste shall provide a written receipt to the person delivering it.

(6) Where waste is not accepted at a landfill, the operator shall inform the Chief Inspector of that fact as soon as reasonably possible.

Initial site inspections by the Chief Inspector

13.—(1) The operator of a landfill shall not commence disposal operations before the Chief Inspector has inspected the site in order to ensure that it complies with the relevant conditions of the landfill permit.

(2) Nothing in paragraph (1) in any way reduces the obligations of the operator to comply with the conditions of the landfill permit

Control and monitoring of operational landfills

14.—(1) The following requirements shall apply to landfills from the start of the operational phase until definitive closure.

(2) The operator shall carry out the control and monitoring procedures set out in Schedule 3.

(3) Where the procedures required by paragraph (2) reveal any significant adverse environmental effects, the operator shall notify the Chief Inspector as soon as reasonably possible.

(4) When it receives a notification of significant adverse environmental effects in accordance with paragraph (3), the Chief Inspector shall determine the nature and timing of corrective measures that are necessary and shall require the operator to carry them out.

(5) The operator shall report at intervals specified by the Chief Inspector, on the basis of aggregated data, the results of monitoring and on such other matters which the Chief Inspector requires to demonstrate compliance with the conditions of the landfill permit or to increase his knowledge of the behaviour of waste in landfill.

(6) The operator shall ensure that quality control of –

(a) analytical operations of control and monitoring procedures; and

(b) analyses of representative samples taken in accordance with regulation 12(2),

is carried out by competent laboratories.

Closure and after-care procedures for landfills

15.—(1) The following closure and after-care procedures shall apply to all landfills.

(2) The procedures may relate to the closure of the whole of the landfill or part of it.

(3) The closure procedure shall begin –

(a) when the conditions specified in the landfill permit are satisfied

(b) when the Chief Inspector approves the initiation of the closure procedure following a request from the operator; or

(c) by a reasoned decision of the Chief Inspector which shall be set out in a closure notice served on the operator in accordance with regulation 16.

(4) A landfill shall not be definitively closed until –

(a) such reports as may be required by the Chief Inspector have been submitted to it by the operator; and

(b) the Chief Inspector –

(i) has assessed all the reports submitted by the operator;

(ii) has carried out a final on-site inspection; and

(iii) has notified the operator by notice in writing that he approves the closure.

(5) Following definitive closure of a landfill, after-care procedures shall ensure that –

(a) the operator remains responsible for the maintenance, monitoring and control for such period as the Chief Inspector determines is reasonable, taking into account the time during which the landfill could present hazards;

(b) the operator notifies the Chief Inspector of any significant adverse environmental effects revealed by the control procedures and takes the remedial steps required or approved by the Chief Inspector; and

(c) the operator is responsible for monitoring and analysing landfill gas and leachate from the landfill and the groundwater regime in its vicinity in accordance with Schedule 3 for

as long as the Chief Inspector considers that the landfill is likely to cause a hazard to the environment.

(6) Notwithstanding regulation 19 of the 2003 Regulations (Application to surrender a permit for a Part A installation or Part A mobile plant) and regulation 21 of the 2003 Regulations (Revocation of permits), the Chief Inspector shall not accept any complete or partial surrender of a landfill permit, or revoke it in whole or part, for as long as it considers that the landfill (or the relevant part of it) is likely to cause a hazard to the environment.

(7) The operator shall not be relieved from liability under the conditions of the landfill permit by reason of the Chief Inspector's approval of closure under paragraph (4)(b)(iii).

Closure Notices

16.—(1) Where the Chief Inspector has taken a reasoned decision under regulation 15(3)(c), he shall serve a closure notice under this regulation (“a closure notice”) on the operator of the landfill.

(2) A closure notice shall –

- (a) state the Chief Inspector's reasons for requiring initiation of the closure procedure;
- (b) specify the steps the operator is required to take to initiate the procedure; and
- (c) the period within which they must be taken.

(3) The Chief Inspector may withdraw a closure notice at any time.