

DEFINING RADIOLOGICALLY CLEAN WASTE

The definition of Radiologically Clean waste comes from the Nuclear Industry Code of Practice "Clearance and Exemption Principles, Processes and Practices for Use by the Nuclear Industry", and is as follows:

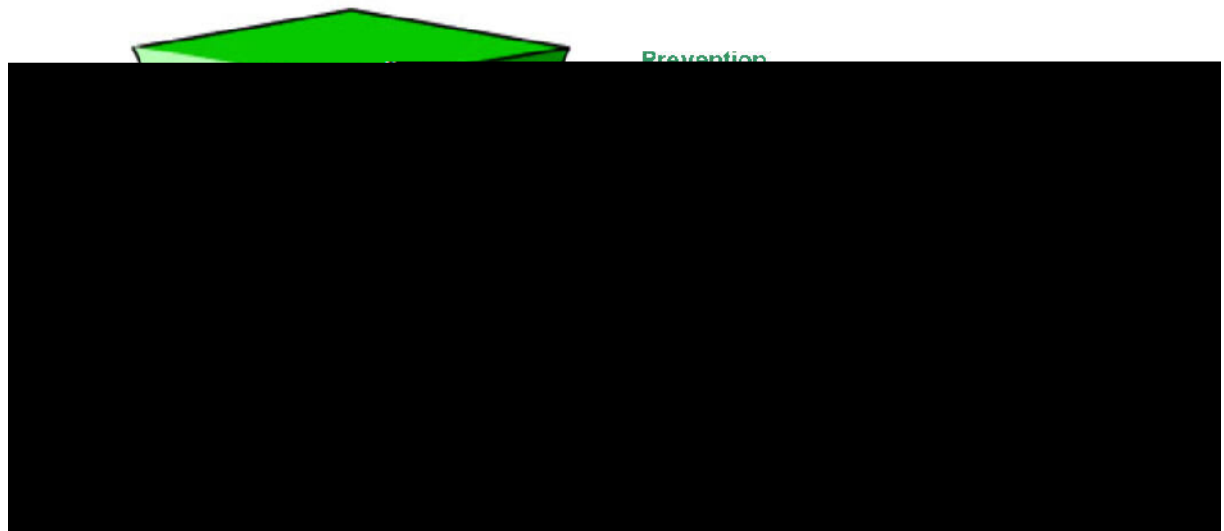
"An article or substance that has never been contaminated or activated. This is usually declared on the basis of provenance alone. An article or substance for which there is inadequate provenance to justify an immediate declaration as clean may still be declared clean if suitable measurements confirm the absence of activity above normal background for the article or substance in question."

All Radiologically Clean wastes are treated as "controlled wastes". The Environmental Protection Act 1990 defines "controlled waste" as: "household, industrial and commercial waste or any such waste".

WASTE HIERARCHY

The Waste (Scotland) Regulations 2011 and the Waste Management Licensing (Scotland) Regulations 2011 place a duty on all persons who produce, keep or manage waste to apply the waste hierarchy. This means that DSRL has a legal requirement to apply the waste hierarchy.

The Waste Hierarchy



It is the responsibility of the consigning project/area at Dounreay to apply the waste hierarchy and arrange an appropriate recycling or disposal route for the waste.

METHODOLOGY FOR DEMONSTRATION

Radiologically Clean waste can usually be sentenced on the basis of suitable history or provenance alone. Where there is inadequate historical data to support an item's immediate characterisation as Radiologically Clean, justification must be supported by an appropriate monitoring methodology.

WASTE CATEGORISATION

Once an item or material is considered as Radiologically Clean, a decision is required

concerning the classification of its chemical and/or biological properties.

In Scotland, the terms 'hazardous waste' and 'special waste' are interchangeable. Under Scottish law, special waste is any waste that is defined as hazardous by the Waste Framework Directive. Special waste has hazardous properties that may make it harmful to human health or the environment.

Waste consignors at Dounreay have a duty to determine if waste is hazardous or non-hazardous. The waste can only be classified as non-hazardous where there is sufficient information to support assessment and demonstrate that the waste has no hazardous properties. It is not expected that a waste consignor will assume an unknown waste is hazardous (or not) without rudimentary testing of the components of the waste, or ascertaining the nature of the waste from informed sources.

DOUNREAY CLEAN WASTES

Radiologically Clean hazardous waste at Dounreay typically includes such wastes as:

- Asbestos – Disposal at Avondale landfill via licensed contractor (e.g. Sureclean, Northern Asbestos)
- Heavy metals, such as lead - Lead is recycled e.g. used to make future waste containers.
- Chemically contaminated materials – Disposal e.g. via SITA, Environmental Reclamation Services, Veolia.
- Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs) -