

Waste Classification Schemes

Country: AUSTRALIA

Reporting Year: 2013

Waste Class Matrix: **IAEA Def.**

This country does use the IAEA Scheme: Yes

Description: The Agency's standard matrix

Waste Class Name	Distribution %			
	VLLW	LLW	ILW	HLW
VLLW	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
LLW	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0
ILW	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0
HLW	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0

Comment **# 12291: Waste Matrix IAEA Def.**

Australia does not have a uniform definition of waste categories. Most jurisdictions do not specifically define or categorize radioactive waste in legislation. In practice in most jurisdictions, any sealed or unsealed material containing radionuclides at levels above exemption and for which no further use is envisaged is regarded as radioactive waste. In most cases wastes are categorized, for management purposes, as long-lived or short-lived, liquid or solid, and sealed or unsealed. Further categorization is based on IAEA recommendations (New South Wales, Northern Territory), nuclide (Queensland), or, for small quantities of solid waste, on the Code of Practice for the Disposal of Radioactive Wastes by the User (NHMRC, 1985). Categorization is also based on the Code of Practice for the Near-Surface Disposal of Radioactive Waste in Australia (NHMRC, 1992). Between them these codes define waste that can be disposed of at urban landfill and therefore what needs to go to a near surface disposal facility. The Near Surface Disposal Code defines three categories of waste that can be disposed of by near surface disposal: lightly contaminated items such as protective clothing, laboratory equipment, plastic, etc; shielded sources and small items of contaminated equipment; and bulk materials such as contaminated soils or large individual items of contaminated plant. Waste that is unsuitable for near surface disposal must be stored pending deep geological disposal or disposal following a suitable period of decay.

Comment **# 12292: Waste Matrix IAEA Def.**

For the classification of Australian radioactive waste, regulators agreed that the IAEA classification system as specified in Safety Guide 111-G-1.1 was appropriate for Australia with some modification for bulk waste together with supporting documentation, particularly in relation to the thresholds between classification levels. The IAEA classification was used for this report (NEWMDB submission).

Australia's new national classification scheme for radioactive waste (Safety Guide RPS20, 2010) is consistent with the current International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) classification scheme (GSG-1, 2009), and includes a definition of radioactive waste. Thus the national radioactive waste inventory reported in NEWMDB will progressively be more consistent with the new classifications as it is updated into the future.

Definition of «unprocessed waste» and «processed waste»:

This country uses the IAEA standard definition:

	as-generated waste	processed for handling	processed for storage	processed for disposal
Inprocessed means:	x			
Processed means:		x	x	x