

Waste Classification Schemes

Country: UNITED KINGDOM

Reporting Year: 2013

Waste Class Matrix: **IAEA Def.**

This country does use the IAEA Scheme: No

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

Waste Class Matrix: **UK Classes**

Yes

Description: The categorisation of Radioactive Waste in the UK includes:
 VLLW: Very Low Level Waste
 LLW: Low Level Waste
 ILW: Intermediate Level Waste
 HLW: High Level Waste
 Spent fuel is not categorised as waste, while the option of reprocessing it remains open and a future use for the fuel can be foreseen.

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 **# 12246: Waste Matrix UK Classes**

CATEGORISATION OF RADIOACTIVE WASTE IN THE UK

VLLW: Wastes which can be disposed of with ordinary refuse, each 0.1 cubic metre (m³) of material containing less than 400 kilobecquerels (kBq) of beta/gamma activity or single items containing less than 40 kBq. These wastes are not reported to the NEWMDB.

LLW: Wastes other than those suitable for disposal with ordinary refuse, but not exceeding 4 gigabecquerels per tonne (GBq/te) of alpha or 12 gigabecquerels per tonne (GBq/te) of beta/gamma activity

ILW: Wastes with radioactivity levels exceeding the upper boundaries for LLW, but which do not need self-heating to be taken into account in the design of storage or disposal facilities

HLW: Wastes in which the temperature may rise significantly as a result of their radioactivity, so this factor has to be taken into account in designing storage or disposal facilities.

Comment **# 12247: Waste Matrix UK Classes**

The UK categorisation of radioactive waste does not contain categories for transitional waste that will decay within a short period of storage to unrestricted clearance levels, or for the division of ILW and LLW classifications into short-lived and long-lived LILW (Low and Intermediate Level Waste). Such a system would, theoretically, have the advantage of making it easier to identify appropriate management routes. However, although in principle it should be possible to construct and operate a system that makes allowance for reductions in radioactivity over time, most UK wastes contain a mixture of radionuclides of different half-lives making the operation of such a system problematic. Additionally, the dose resulting from contact with radionuclides is not related to their half-life and the toxicities of radionuclides of similar half-lives are not necessarily the same. Therefore, in the UK, the management of radioactive wastes is determined by the actual characteristics of the waste rather than by its classification

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

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This country uses the following definitions:

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