

Waste Classification Schemes

Country: NETHERLANDS

Reporting Year: 2005

Waste Class Matrix: **IAEA Def.**

This country does use the IAEA Scheme: No

Description: The Agency's standard matrix

Waste Class Name	Distribution %		
	LILW-SL	LILW-LL	HLW
LILW-SL	100.0	0.0	0.0
LILW-LL	0.0	100.0	0.0
HLW	0.0	0.0	100.0

Waste Class Matrix: **National**

Yes

Description: LILW, is called in Dutch the category of 'laag- en middel radioactief afval'. For the Dutch situation no distinction is made between short lived and long lived. The reason for this is that shallow land burial is not applicable for the Netherlands and therefore all categories of waste will be disposed of in a deep geologic repository after a period of long term storage. The long term storage will take place for a period of at least 100 years.

Waste Class Name	Distribution %			
	VLLW	LLW	ILW	HLW
LILW	0.0	90.0	10.0	0.0
LILW, NORM	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0
LILW, depU	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0
HLW, non heat producing	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0
HLW, heat producing	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0

Comment **# 250: national waste categories**

Three groups of LILW are identified:

- LILW;
- LILW,NORM and
- LILW, depU

The first group, LILW is the 'normal' waste generated by the nuclear industry, users of radioactivity and users of radiation sources. According to the nature of the activity this waste group is further classified as follows:

- category A: all alpha bearing wastes
- category B: beta/gamma waste from nuclear power plants only
- category C: beta/gamma waste with half-life >15 years
- category D: beta/gamma waste with half-life <15 years.

All beta/gamma waste from the nuclear power plants is kept as a separate group because this is a well defined group that generally contains higher levels of strong emitting gamma nuclides. The A category is kept separate because these nuclides have long half-lives and are highly radiotoxic. The separation between the C and D category is done on half-life, such as to include H-3 in the last category. Within a storage period of at least 100 years the last category will have decayed completely. SRS as a waste product is not kept separate. SRS is treated in the same way as 'normal' LILW, sources are embedded in a concrete matrix and subsequently stored together with other LILW.

HLW, heat producing, consists of:

- the vitrified waste from reprocessing of spent fuel from the two nuclear power plants (Borssele and Dodewaard);
- the spent fuel of the two research reactors (Petten and Delft).

HLW, non-heat producing, consists mainly of the reprocessing waste other than the vitrified residues. It also includes a small amount of waste from research on reactor fuel and some decommissioning waste.

The waste class scheme for The Netherlands is not based on a law or a regulation. It is since long (1985) common practice to use this class scheme.

The percentages in the matrix are based upon a comparison of the definitions of waste classes in both The Netherlands' and the IAEA's waste classification schemes. The percentages cited are a best estimate.

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

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This country uses the IAEA standard definition:

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

Comment **# 12224: Definitions for Unprocessed Waste and Processed W**

The LILW is processed in such a way that a cemented waste form results. These cemented waste forms (mostly 200 and 1000 litre packages) are suitable for at least 100 year storage in above ground buildings and are expected to be suitable also for deep geologic disposal.

The LILW, NORM, is stored in 20 ft containers as unprocessed product. This is a calcinated product, that can easily be stored in containers for a period of 100 years. After 100 years the radioactivity will have decayed to a level that the material can be moved out of the radioactive materials regime (Po, Bi, and Pb-210 are short-lived). The material can either be reused, possibly after some treatment, in road-filling or comparable, or the material will be removed as chemical waste according to applicable rules and regulations at that time.

The LILW, depleted uranium, is stored as unprocessed U3O8, in DV70 containers. The material is stored in an unprocessed way because of the potential value of the material in the future. If, after 100 years storage, the material has to be disposed of in a deep geological repository, it has to be treated according to the requirements for disposal at that time.

The HLW, heat producing, consists of vitrified reprocessing waste and spent fuel from the research reactors. The vitrified product is suitable for long-term storage as well as for deep geological disposal. The spent fuel is contained in helium-filled canisters, which are suitable for long-term storage. Repackaging or reconditioning might be needed after 100 years according to the requirements for disposal at that time.