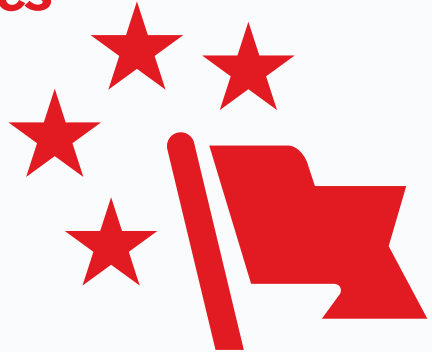


European Waste Catalogue (EWC) Codes

Waste legislation can be complex and difficult to comprehend. Our straight talking, no nonsense guides to make it easier to understand how each law affects you. Compliance comes as standard in everything we do, protecting your organisation every step of the way.



1. Overview

EWC Codes are a standard European system for describing waste types. There are over 650 codes and they must be used on all waste movement documentation. They are also used to determine the waste types that can be accepted under an Environmental Permit or Exemption.

2. Are you affected

Any business that is party to waste documentation must ensure it contains the correct EWC code. This is normally the responsibility of the waste transferor.

3. Summary

- A Waste Transfer Note (WTN) or Consignment Note (CN) must contain an EWC code that best describes the waste that is being moved.
- EWC Codes are transposed into UK law through the List of Waste Regulations.

- It is the legal duty of the waste producer to ensure the correct EWC code is on the WTN or CN on collection.
- Some waste types will have multiple EWC codes, depending on where it came from. The EA has a process that should be used to determine the right EWC code.
- Where a site has an Environmental Permit or is operating under a registered Exemption, it can only receive waste of EWC codes that are listed in the conditions.
- Where a code has an asterisk, it is defined as hazardous waste and can therefore only be moved using hazardous waste procedures.
- What next – The EU is conducting a review of the EWC Codes which may see changes in 2014.

4. More information

- List of Waste Regulations
- EA Guidance