

DUNGOG SHIRE COUNCIL

DUNGOG LANDFILL DEPOT

DISPOSAL OF ASBESTOS WASTES

Waste Description

Asbestos Wastes are any wastes containing asbestos. (Asbestos is defined by the NSW Environment Protection Authority Guidelines *Assessment Classification & Management of Liquid & Non-Liquid Wastes*). Asbestos wastes can be further classified into two groups:

1. **Asbestos Fibre and Dust Waste** is any waste containing asbestos dust or fibres eg. brake lining dust, acoustic insulation, thermal insulation (lagging), dust from ventilation collection systems
2. **Stabilised Asbestos** is any waste containing asbestos in a bonded matrix eg. asbestos cement sheet ("fibro"), bituminous floor tiles/roof sheeting.

Health Hazards

Asbestos dust contains tiny, almost indestructible fibres that can cause damage when they are breathed into the lungs. The most dangerous fibres are the smallest ones which may be invisible to the naked eye, but which penetrate the lungs most deeply.

Requirements for Disposal

This legislation requires that arrangements be made with the landfill operator to accept the asbestos prior to its disposal and sets out how the waste should be covered.

This regulation also requires that asbestos waste in any form "be unloaded in such a manner as to avoid the creation of dust".

The following procedure for the disposal of asbestos wastes at Dungog Landfill is aimed at ensuring operations at the Centre comply with the requirements of this Regulation as well as those of other relevant legislation including the Occupational Health and Safety Act.

Procedure for Disposal of Asbestos

- Asbestos wastes must be booked in by contacting the Dungog Landfill office on 4992 1634 24 hours prior to the delivery date. Booking details will include the type of asbestos waste, number and size of loads, source of the waste, contact details for the transporter and delivery date. Operating hours are Thursday, Friday & Monday 8.00 to 5.00pm and Saturday and Sunday 8.00 to 12 noon.
- Asbestos wastes must be delivered the day they are booked to Dungog Landfill before 3.00pm if on a Thursday, Friday and Monday or before 10.00 am if on a Saturday and Sunday. Asbestos wastes will not be received within two hours of landfill closing time.
- In the event that rain falls during the day or night leading up to the delivery date, customers are advised to contact the Centre prior to delivering the load to ensure that site conditions will permit the acceptance of asbestos loads. Acceptance is based on an assessment of site safety, trafficability etc.
- Asbestos waste loads will be directed to a designated area of the landfill's active face. Vehicles delivering asbestos wastes should therefore be capable of safely traversing the landfill area.

- Asbestos waste that is in the form of **asbestos fibre and dust waste** must be presented in two (2) sealed, heavy duty bags made from low density polyethylene (LDPE) at least 0.2mm thick. Each bag will have maximum dimensions less than or equal to 1.2 m in height and 0.9 m in width and a maximum weight of 25 kg. Each bag must be marked "CAUTION ASBESTOS" in letters of not less than 40 mm in height. These sealed bags must be placed on the ground in a manner which prevents their rupture. Permission will not be given to unload these bags by tipping from a vehicle fitted with a tipping body.
- Asbestos waste that is in the form of **stabilised asbestos** must be presented for disposal and unloaded in a manner which avoids the creation of dust. Where stabilised asbestos wastes are not presented and unloaded in the manner prescribed for asbestos fibre and dust wastes, the following procedure will be acceptable:
 - ✓ Thoroughly wet each individual sheet of asbestos waste at their source
 - ✓ Wrap bundles of wetted sheets in heavy duty builder's-type plastic and seal individual bundles with heavy duty tape, such as duct tape. (The size of these bundles should be suited to the method of unloading).
 - ✓ Present loads for inspection by landfill operational staff.
 - ✓ Unload sealed bundles at the area identified by landfill staff in a manner which prevents the rupture of bundles. **Note that it is the responsibility of transporters to deposit waste on the ground at the correct location and with bundles intact.**
 - x The practice of "running out" loads deposited by tip trucks will not be permitted. Landfill operators are prohibited from contacting asbestos waste with earthmoving equipment. Loads must be deposited in a compact pile at the identified location to allow the wastes to be covered by operators without the need to first "push-up" the asbestos waste.

Non-Compliance with Required Procedures for Disposal

The potential health impacts associated with asbestos exposure and the clear legislative constraints for landfill operators mean that Centre management will not tolerate non-compliance with the above procedures for disposal of asbestos wastes.

1. Inappropriate packaging of Waste

In the event that waste is deemed unable to be unloaded without rupturing following inspection by landfill operational staff, a supervisor will inspect the load. Should the supervisor also determine that the load cannot be unloaded in accordance with requirements, permission will not be granted to dispose of the material and the driver will be directed to leave the site.

2. Failure to Unload as per Requirements

Where loads are packaged as required but the method of unloading results in bundles rupturing, details of the vehicle and load will be recorded by the Centre and the customer reminded of the Centre's requirements. Should a second load be ruptured when unloading then no further asbestos loads will be accepted from that vehicle until it can be demonstrated that an alternative unloading method will be employed.

Charges

Asbestos wastes will be charged at 1.5 times the standard rate.

Where asbestos wastes are mixed with other wastes, the entire load will be charged at the rate for asbestos.

(Note: Failure to comply with the special requirements of the Protection of the Environment Operations (Waste) Regulation 1996 relating to asbestos waste is an offence. Such an offence is liable to incur a \$500 infringement notice issued by authorised Council or EPA officers).