

What a waste!

Know your waste classifications

**Meres & Mosses
Business
Environment
Network**

Definition of waste

The EU legal definition of waste:

“... means any substance or object which the holder discards or intends or is required to discard.”

*From Article 3 of the revised Waste Framework Directive
2008/98/EC*

The concept of waste

What about different types or categories of waste?

For example, hazardous and non-hazardous

Definitions of waste categories

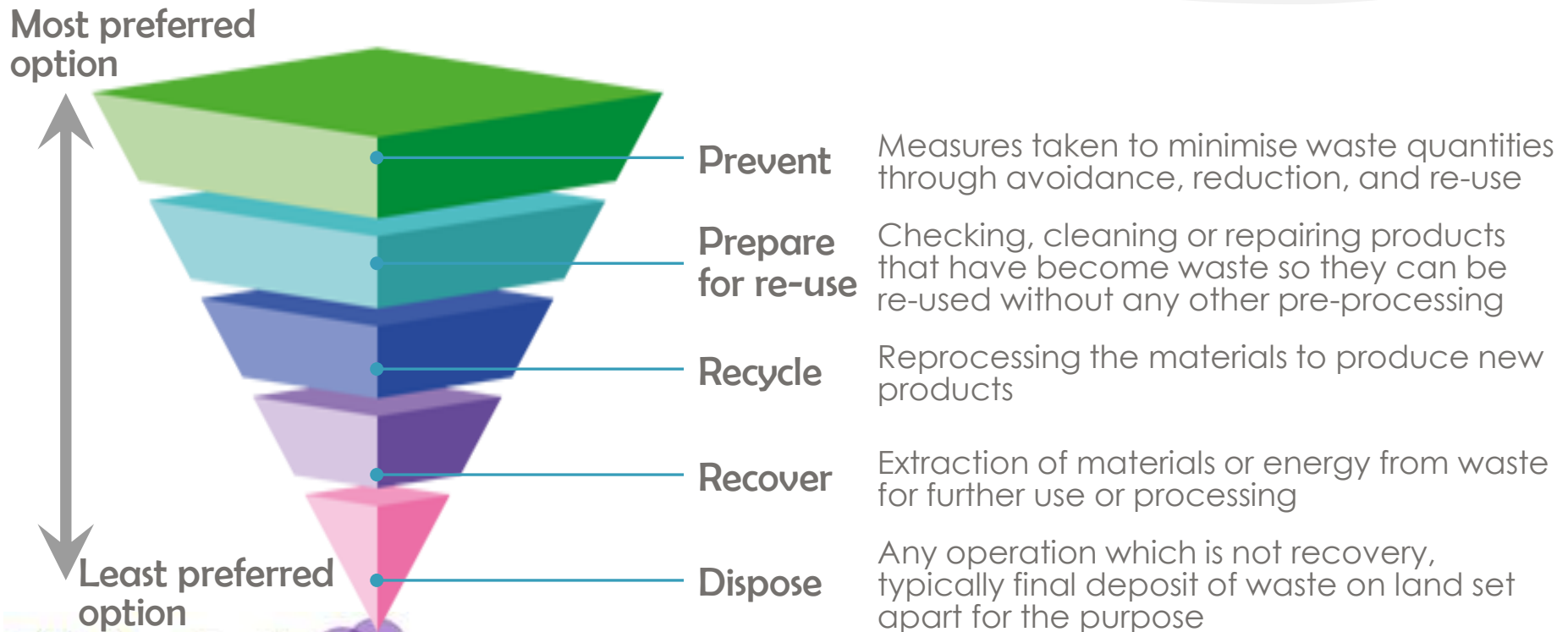
- * **Hazardous waste** is any waste that contains substances or has properties that make it **harmful to human health or the environment** and displays one or more hazardous properties and features on the list of waste. This may be immediately or over an extended period of time.
- * **Non-hazardous waste** is any waste that is not classified as hazardous.

Why waste needs to be managed

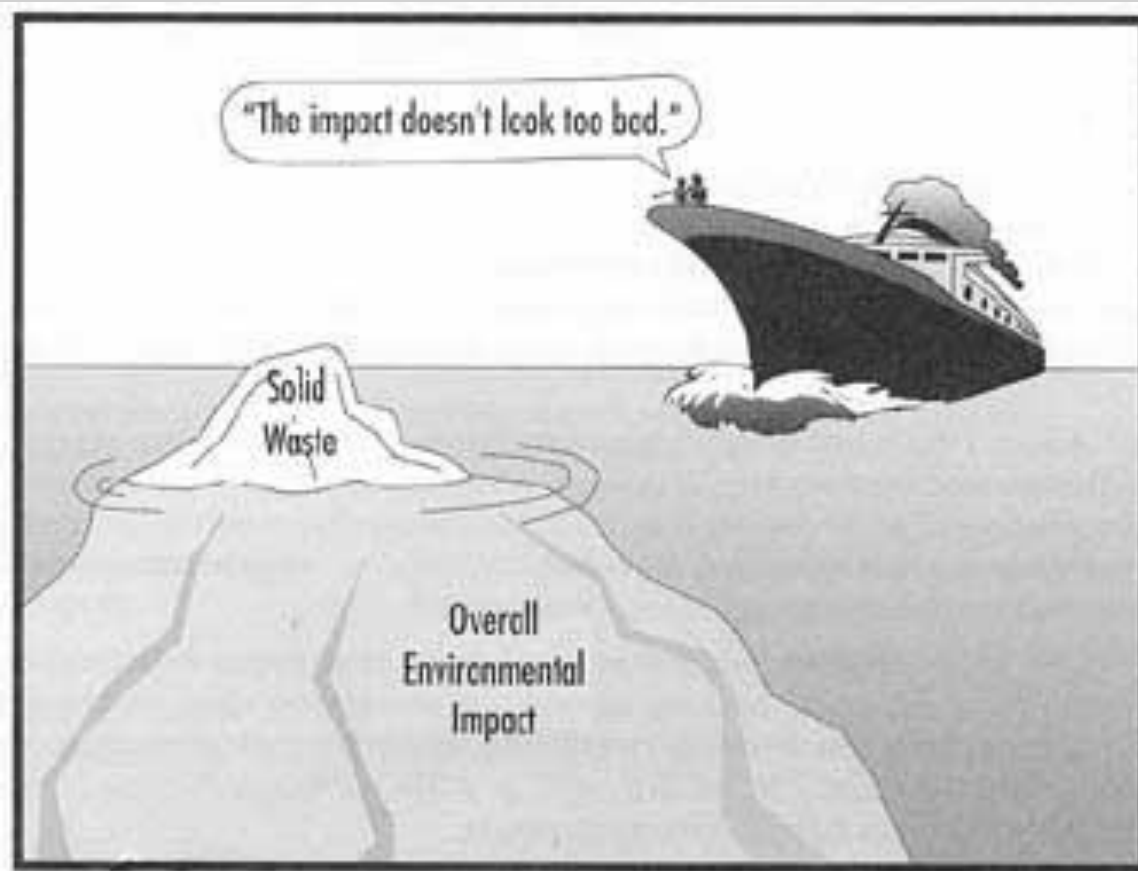
- * Implement measures to prevent possible harmful releases and contact with the environment
- * Safeguard those potentially exposed to prevent adverse health effects in human and environmental receptors
- * Identify the types, quantities and composition of wastes that are generated for tracking and financial purposes

The Waste Hierarchy

The five-step hierarchy lays out the waste management options in the preferred order of consideration:



Waste needs to be managed because...



Coding and classification – Why describe waste?

- * Waste characterisation - determines disposal/recovery options
- * Environmental Permit compliance
- * Duty of care
- * Ban on mixing of wastes – rWFD Article 18
- * Premises notification (Wales only)
- * Consignment note completion

Coding and classification – Why describe waste?

- * Landfill disposal – 3 types: hazardous, non-hazardous and inert
- * Compliance cost savings
- * Dispute resolution

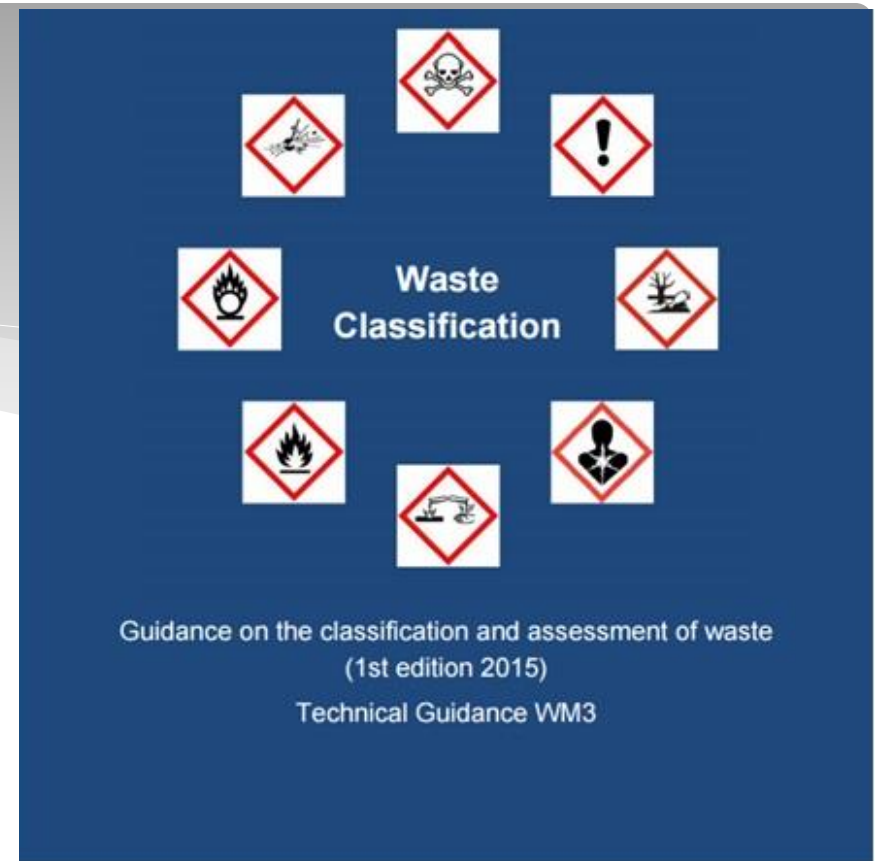
Therefore understanding whether a waste is hazardous **by definition** is essential for compliant management and disposal.

Waste Classification

- * **All** wastes must be accurately described before recovery or disposal – Duty of care
- * Must include:
 - Waste classification code – EWC code
 - Classification as hazardous or non-hazardous
 - Type of premises/business where the waste was produced
 - Name of substance or article
 - Process that produced the waste
 - Chemical and physical analysis
 - Any special problems, requirements or handling needed for the waste

Official guidance

- * Technical guidance WM3
- * Reproduces List of Waste
- * Worked examples
- * Decision trees
- * Links Hazard statements and hazardous properties



European Waste Catalogue (EWC)

- * The European Waste Catalogue (EWC) formerly also known as List of Wastes (LoW) classifies waste materials against clear criteria
- * Broadly speaking, the catalogue describes the type of process, industry or sector from which a waste type arises
- * It is a harmonised, non-exhaustive list of waste types
- * Each waste type is assigned a six digit code made up of three two digit sub-codes

List of wastes pursuant to Article 1(a) of Directive [75/442/EEC](#) on waste & Article 1(4) of Directive [91/689/EEC](#) on hazardous waste

LoW Structure

- * **Comprises 20 chapters**
 - * Wastes catalogued and grouped according to generic industry, process or waste type.
 - * Chapters 1- 12 : Sources of waste
 - * Chapters 13, 14 and 15 : Waste Types
 - * Chapter 16 : Wastes not otherwise specified in the list
 - * 17 – 20 : Sources of waste

What is an EWC code?

04 02 10

Chapter Heading

e.g. 04 - Wastes from the leather, fur and textile industries

Sub-chapters further define waste

e.g. 04 02 - Wastes from the textile industry

List of wastes

e.g. 04 02 10 – Organic matter from natural products (e.g. Grease and wax)

Code	Description	Entry Type	Example provided
16	WASTES NOT OTHERWISE SPECIFIED IN THE LIST		
16 01	end-of-life vehicles from different means of transport (including off-road machinery) and wastes from dismantling of end-of-life vehicles and vehicle maintenance (except 13, 14, 16 06 and 16 08)		
16 01 03	end-of-life tyres	AN	
16 01 04*	end-of-life vehicles	AH	<u>3</u>
16 01 06	end-of-life vehicles, containing neither liquids nor other hazardous components	AN	<u>3</u>
16 01 07*	oil filters	AH	
16 01 08*	components containing mercury	MH	
16 01 09*	components containing PCBs	MH	o
16 01 10*	explosive components (for example air bags)	AH	
16 01 11*	brake pads containing asbestos	MH	
16 01 12	brake pads other than those mentioned in 16 01 11	MN	
16 01 13*	brake fluids	AH	
16 01 14*	antifreeze fluids containing hazardous substances	MH	
16 01 15	antifreeze fluids other than those mentioned in 16 01 14	MN	
16 01 16	tanks for liquefied gas	AN	

Order of Precedence

Identification by waste source

Chapters 1 to 12 or Chapters 17 to 20 (not 99 codes)



Identification by waste type

Chapters 13 to 15



Wastes not specified - Chapter 16



If no applicable codes, then assign the '99' code (wastes not specified)
from the most appropriate chapter 1 to 12 or 17 to 20

Remember more than one code can be used to classify a waste!

Closing thoughts

- * The Environment Agency report that a large proportion of wastes are misclassified
- * In Scotland SEPA insist on only one code being assigned to a waste, elsewhere more than one can be assigned
- * Complexities concerning mixtures of substances e.g. metal alloys
- * Different codes needed for waste exports
- * Some wastes not catered for
- * There can be different interpretations...

Help and advice

- * Technical guidance document WM3
- * Natural Resources Wales and Environment Agency
- * Your waste contractor
- * Waste management specialists/consultants