

SOIL HAZARD CATEGORISATION AND MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT OPTIONS

Waste generators must classify contaminated soil by hazard category in order to determine which facility is licensed to accept the soil. If the soil does not meet the acceptance criteria, further treatment or stabilisation will be required.

Category C and Category B Contaminated soil can be accepted at a landfill or facility licensed by EPA to accept such waste.

Category A Contaminated soil will require treatment to reduce or control the hazard before meeting acceptance criteria for disposal at an appropriate EPA-licensed facility.

Table 3: Contaminated soil management options

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| Category A contaminated soil | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On-site remediation Off-site remediation Storage pending availability of treatment | No disposal to landfill. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> EPA transport certificates must be used. Vehicles must hold EPA permit (unless exemption issued). |
| Category B contaminated soil | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On-site remediation Off-site remediation Licensed facility | Disposal to licensed facility. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> EPA Transport certificate system must be used. Vehicles must hold EPA permit (unless exemption issued). |
| Category C contaminated soil | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On-site remediation Off-site remediation Licensed landfill | Disposal to licensed landfill. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> EPA Transport certificate system must be used. Vehicles must hold EPA permit (unless exemption issued). |

Generators of contaminated soils may wish to submit a classification application to EPA for approval, where it can be demonstrated that a different category from that outlined above is appropriate for a particular contaminant or group of contaminants in soil. For example, a contaminant that is intrinsically immobilised (without treatment) may display a low hazard because of the very low leachable concentration, despite a relatively high total concentration. Applications will need to provide justification as to why the proposed management will achieve the best environmental outcome. Further analytical testing may also be required. The Industrial Waste Resource Guidelines (IWRG) Classifications - for Disposal provides further information on the requirements for a classification.

FURTHER INFORMATION

- Australian Standard 4439.2 – 1997, *Wastes, sediments and contaminated soils. Part 2: Preparation of leachates – Zero headspace procedure*
- Australian Standard 4439.3 – 1997, *Wastes, sediments and contaminated soils. Part 3: Preparation of leachates – Bottle leaching procedure*
- Australian Standard 4482.1 – 2005, *Guide to sampling and investigation of potentially contaminated soil. Part 1: Non-volatile and semi-volatile compounds*