

Standards for managing construction waste in NSW

The NSW Government is introducing new Standards for managing construction waste.

When do the Standards start?

The *Standards for Managing Construction Waste in NSW* start on **15 May 2019**.

Why are the Standards being introduced?

The Standards are being introduced to:

- minimise the risk of harm to human health and the environment from asbestos and other contaminants found in construction waste
- ensure operators of construction waste facilities implement appropriate processes and procedures to manage these risks
- improve industry and community confidence in the quality of resources recovered from construction and demolition waste.

Who has to comply with the Standards?

The Standards apply to all construction and demolition waste facilities.

Construction and demolition waste facilities are waste facilities with an environment protection licence for waste storage, waste processing or resource recovery, if the facility is in the:

- metropolitan levy area and it receives 6,000 tonnes or more of construction waste in any 12-month period or
- regional levy area, and it receives 6,000 tonnes or more of construction waste in any 12-month period from the metropolitan levy area.

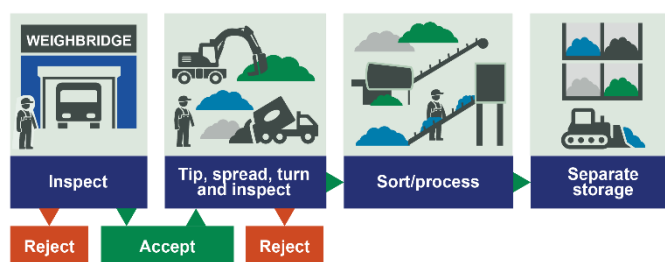
What are the main requirements of the Standards?

The Standards require construction and demolition waste facilities to:

- implement a two-stage inspection process to ensure asbestos waste and other unpermitted wastes do not enter the facility
- implement sorting and waste storage requirements to improve the quality of recovered resources and avoid cross-contamination of materials
- ensure construction waste is only transported from the facility if it has been handled in accordance with the Standards on-site
- ensure that all staff managing, supervising or undertaking tasks required by the Standards have been appropriately trained.

Please refer to the Standards for further details of specific requirements.

Figure 1: Construction waste flow diagram



What is construction waste?

Construction waste is waste that results from the construction, demolition, repair or alteration of buildings or infrastructure. It is also the material resulting from the processing of this waste.

This is further defined in Part 8A of the Protection of the Environment Operations (Waste) Regulation 2014.

Do the Standards apply to all loads of waste received at a construction and demolition waste facility?

- The Standards only apply to loads of construction waste.
- The Standards do not apply to loads of commercial and industrial waste or municipal solid waste if they do not contain construction waste.
- There are some exceptions that apply to requirements of particular parts of the Standards e.g. construction waste that complies with a resource recovery order. Refer to the Standards for further details.

What happens if I don't comply?

Compliance with the Standards is a compulsory licence condition for all construction and demolition waste facilities. Failure to comply with the Standards is a breach of section 64 of the

Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997 and attracts penalty notices of \$15,000 and court-imposed penalties of up to \$1,000,000 for corporations.

Further information

The changes and definitions of key terms contained in Part 8A of the Protection of the Environment Operations (Waste) Regulation (from 15 May 2019) can be found with the Standards and answers to Frequently Asked Questions on the [EPA website](#)¹.

If you are unsure if your facility is a construction and demolition waste facility or have any questions, please contact your (EPA) Operations Officer or the EPA Waste Strategy and Policy Team on:

wastestrategy.innovation@epa.nsw.gov.au.

NSW Environment Protection Authority

Email: info@epa.nsw.gov.au

Website: www.epa.nsw.gov.au

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¹ www.epa.nsw.gov.au/your-environment/waste/industrial-waste/construction-demolition/construction-and-demolition-waste