

Meeting the challenge of Proper Management of Hazardous Waste



*Why dilution contradicts
proper hazardous waste
management*

EURITS, what's in a name?

Hazardous waste contains hazardous components & contaminants

Who is Eurits?

- The European Union for the Responsible Incineration & Treatment of Special waste
- An association of hazardous waste management companies across the EU
- Together, these companies are responsible for over 90% of the hazardous waste incineration in the EU

Main activities

- Make sure hazardous waste is handled, managed and treated very specifically and in a correct manner:
- Avoid any dispersion of hazards or contaminants into the environment
- Ensure that public health is protected
- Clarify safe treatment of hazardous waste requires specialist handling and facilities

Key role

- The EU's leading voice on hazardous waste
- +20 years experience in raising awareness of the need for the proper management of hazardous waste
- Consistent promotion of best sustainable environmental practice

Why dilution contradicts proper waste management – Q&A

What is dilution?

Dilution is the mixing of a waste with one (or more) other materials or wastes with the aim of lowering the concentration of one (or more) components present in the waste without chemical transformation, in order to allow the diluted waste to be sent to a treatment or recycling method which is not allowed for the non-diluted waste. In contradiction to dilution “decontamination” means any operation consisting of removing or treating the unwanted hazardous components or pollutants from a waste in a way that the pollutants should be destroyed or irreversibly transformed. **Dilution is illegal under the Waste Framework Directive.**

Why do hazardous properties have to be treated differently?

There has to be confidence from manufacturers and consumers that the material and the life cycles are clean. It is essential that hazardous components and contaminants or toxic substances are removed from the material and life cycles to preserve value in the materials and to protect human health and the environment. To avoid toxicity or ecotoxicity with or without accumulation or bioaccumulation a separate treatment of hazardous waste in specialised plants is crucial.

Why dilution of hazardous waste is no solution?

The only clear way to avoid the above mentioned effects of toxicity or accumulation is the effective transformation or destruction of the hazardous components that defined a hazardous waste. The best way to ensure this is the use of a technology – for example high temperature hazardous waste incineration - which is able to destroy all undiluted hazardous components and contaminants completely. Additionally a direct and separate acceptance of the non pre-treated and undiluted hazardous waste should be obligatory and guarantees the highest level of transparency. By comparison the mixing and dilution of hazardous waste never fulfils the above mentioned conditions. **Dilution is no solution.**

Are there any technologies which enable the circular economy without contaminating product or resource cycles, limit environmental impact and which also help to avoid dilution?

High temperature hazardous waste incineration plants are able to destroy hazardous materials with high efficiency. Furthermore HWI plants operate with a great variety of feeding systems which open up acceptance possibilities for the different types of hazardous wastes. For example the possibilities for the feeding systems include:

- via lances for cold and hot liquids
- bunker and cranes for solids
- conveyor belts or closed shredding units for drums
- specific feeding lines for gases

Contact info

For more information on any of the points in this paper please contact the Eurits Secretariat:

T +44 20 72 22 12 65 | admin@eurits.org | www.eurits.org