LLW Repository Ltd

Customer Team

LLWR-CN-2011-12 Waste Events at Treatment Facilities – Nov 2011

Introduction

This Customer Notice is issued to inform you of learning identified from recent Waste Events at Treatment Facilities. We have identified a common need for Customers to be aware of the waste acceptance criteria specific to the treatment facility being used and the need for waste to be adequately characterised.

Learning from Experience

A number of Waste Event Reports have been issued to customers recently as a result of issues raised at treatment facilities in respect to consignments failing to meet the requirements of the facility operator. These are not isolated to a specific aspect of the waste but cover, characterisation of the waste, inclusion of prohibited items and incorrect radionuclide fingerprinting of the waste.

With the introduction of the waste hierarchy and the diversion of material for treatment it is becoming more important that the characterisation of material is for the particular consignment rather than the application of the generic lifetime wastestream fingerprint

Therefore in order to meet the acceptance criteria for specific treatment companies the consigning customer should be mindful of the following.

Radionuclide content:
Where consignments are being sent for treatment (including VLLW disposal) then the radionuclide composition of that consignment should be appropriately assessed and relevant to the consignment. It may not be appropriate to apply a lifetime fingerprint.

Prohibited items:
It is of paramount importance that items specified as prohibited in the waste acceptance criteria of the treatment facility being used are strictly adhered to. Customers are requested to appraise any consignments destined for treatment for the inclusion of prohibited items. In particular items within the consignment should be assessed for the potential to contain prohibited items, free liquids and hazardous items and liquids. A recent incident regarding free liquids is included in the accompanying STUDSVIK safety share.

Waste Characterisation:
Traditionally as with radionuclide content waste has been characterised over the lifetime of the wastestream. The customer should assess whether this is appropriate for waste destined for treatment as again the consignment lifetime details may not be indicative of actual content.

Further Information and Questions

If you would like any more information or have any questions regarding this Customer Notice, then please either send an e-mail to: customerteam@llwrsite.com or contact your Primary Point of Contact.

Distribution List
We have distributed this Customer Notice to the following people, as nominated in your Company's Customer Contact Details Form (Reference: WSC-FOR-CON):

- Customer Representatives
- Contract Management Representatives
- Waste Management Representatives
- Waste Assurance Representatives

If you need to update contact details, please submit a revised Contact Details Form: http://www.llwrsite.com/customers/customer-forms

Studsvik

SAFETY SHARE

Free Flowing liquids within the Metal re-cycling process

An incident recently occurred at the Studsvik Metal Recycling Facility when an item that had been delivered for treatment was being cut using a Plasma Arc cutting Torch.

A quantity of oil was released from a submersible pump which ignited and caused a flashback that reached a height of 3 metres.

Luckily no one was injured.

There was no release of activity and the incident was classed as a near miss with a high potential to cause injury.

The purpose of this Safety Share is to highlight the hazards that Free Flowing Liquids present in the Metal recycling process (in both downsizing within the MRF and in Smelting at the Swedish plant) and to spread the learning to consigners of metal waste to the MRF.

Free Flowing Liquids are not permissible within the MRF Waste Acceptance Criteria and should not be despatched by consignors.

The recent incident within the MRF highlights the consequences of Flammable Free Flowing Liquid within the process.

MARCOULE INCIDENT

Investigations into the recent incident at the Marcoule plant in France indicates that Free Flowing Liquid contained within a recycled object may have been the cause of molten metal being expelled from a Smelter resulting in the death of a worker.