



Abu Dhabi Environment, Health and Safety Management System Regulatory Framework (EHSMS)

Code of Practice

AD EHSMS CoP 16 – Waste Management

Version 1.2

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الوكالة البيئية - أبوظبي
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Table of Contents

1.	Aims and Intent.....	3
1.1	Aims.....	3
2.2	Intent.....	3
2.	Application and Implementation.....	4
2.1	Application.....	4
3.	General Requirements.....	4
3.1	Waste Classification.....	4
3.2	Waste Generator.....	5
3.3	Environmental Service Providers.....	6
3.4	Waste Management Facility.....	8
3.5	Government.....	10
3.6	Buffer and Safety Separation Distances.....	11
3.7	Monitoring and Reporting Protocol for Waste.....	11

Code of Practice – Waste Management

1. *Aims and Intent*

1.1 Aims

(a) The aims of the CoP are to:

- (i) drive continuous minimisation of waste generation and improvement in waste management to achieve the best EHS outcome having regard to the social and economic development of the Emirate;
- (ii) ensure waste management issues are addressed through strategic planning;
- (iii) encourage the efficient use of resources in accordance with the principles of ecologically sustainable development;
- (iv) assist in the achievement of the objectives of Law No. (21) of 2005 concerning management of waste in Abu Dhabi Emirate; and
- (v) support national measures to manage waste.

2.2 Intent

(a) The intent of the CoP is that:

- (i) advising waste generators to use the following waste management hierarchy when considering resource management options:
 - (1) avoiding unnecessary resource consumption;
 - (2) recovering resources (including reuse, re-processing, recycling and energy recovery);
 - (3) containment;
 - (4) treatment; and
 - (5) disposal.
- (ii) encouraging government and private sectors to share responsibility for managing and dealing with waste;
- (iii) encouraging government agencies to 'lead by example' and share responsibility for managing and dealing with waste; and
- (iv) achieving integrated waste and resource management planning, programs and service delivery on an Emirate wide basis.

2. Application and Implementation

2.1 Application

- (a) This CoP applies to:
- (i) management of all:
 - (1) hazardous wastes; and
 - (2) non-hazardous wastes;
 - (ii) minimization, generation, storage, handling, packaging, containment, labelling, transfer, transport, recovery, recycling, reuse, treatment and disposal of waste, and the prevention of litter;
 - (iii) all generators of wastes, in the form of liquids and solids, whether they are potentially hazardous or non-hazardous;
 - (iv) waste generated by public and private sectors;
 - (v) permitting of waste management activities, recording and collection of waste data, and use of waste transport manifests; and
 - (vi) prohibiting the throwing, treating, or burning garbage or solid wastes except in places designated for such purposes away from residential, industrial, and agricultural areas and the water environment.
- (b) The CoP does not apply to:
- (i) wastes discharged to atmosphere in the form of gases, vapours, fumes, aerosols, dusts and particulates; and
 - (ii) radioactive wastes which is covered by Federal Law No. 1 of 2002.
- (c) The waste transport requirements in this CoP do not apply in the following cases:
- (i) the transportation of waste in case of an emergency to protect human health, the environment or property;
 - (ii) the transportation of waste for the purpose of waste categorization or in research, but only if this has been approved by the Competent Authority;
 - (iii) the transportation of waste by pipeline; or
 - (iv) the transportation of any residue of a substance in a container, if the container will be refilled with the same type of substance and the substance in the refilled container is intended for use.

3. General Requirements

3.1 Waste Classification

The identification of different waste stream shall be based on:

- (a) The definition of waste stipulated in Abu Dhabi Law No. (21) of 2005; and

- (b) The classification of hazardous substances, hazardous wastes and medical wastes stipulated in Regulation Concerning Handling of Hazardous Substance, Hazardous Wastes and Medical Wastes under Federal Law No. (24) of 1999.

3.2 Waste Generator

- (a) All effort shall be dedicated towards minimising waste generation at the source, by preventing the generation of waste.
- (b) The generator of waste shall:
 - (i) classify the waste according to the Abu Dhabi Emirate and Federal Waste Classification System;
 - (ii) shall segregate non-hazardous waste to be recycled into appropriate recycling bins (glass, metal, plastics, paper, and cardboard);
 - (iii) ensure all wastes are stored on site correctly to minimise adverse impact to environment and human health;
 - (iv) ensure that incompatible wastes are not mixed;
 - (v) ensure that the Environmental Service Provider has a valid permit from the Competent Authority and/or Sector Regulatory Authorities; and
 - (vi) ensure that the waste management facility is permitted to receive the classified waste.
- (c) The waste generator remains the 'owner' of the waste and is thus responsible for the correct handling of the waste in accordance with this CoP until it reaches the waste management facility.
- (d) The waste generator is required to keep receipts or certificates from the final destination of the waste for a period of at least 3 years.
- (e) If the waste management facility rejects the waste, the waste generator shall identify another suitable location for transportation of that waste.
- (f) If another location cannot be found, then the generator shall accept the rejected waste and find a way to manage that waste in keeping with the requirements of this CoP.
- (g) The Competent Authority and/or Sector Regulatory Authorities can exempt certain generators of waste from some of these provisions.
- (h) The generator of waste is required to keep records or logs of waste produced, generation process, and amounts generated and transported to the waste treatment/storage facility.
- (i) Generators of industrial wastes shall determine the:
 - (i) potentially hazardous properties of their waste, and
 - (ii) constituents of the waste that give rise to those potentially hazardous properties.

- (j) The generator of hazardous wastes shall:
 - (i) have a valid permit from the Competent Authority and/or Sector Regulatory Authorities.
 - (ii) responsible for classifying the waste;
 - (iii) determine the:
 - (1) potentially hazardous properties of their waste, and
 - (2) constituents of the waste that give rise to those potentially hazardous properties;
 - (iv) ensure hazardous waste is stored and managed according to the identified hazards to minimise risk to human health and the environment; and
 - (v) complete relevant sections of the Manifest for Transporting Toxic and Hazardous Wastes.

3.3 Environmental Service Providers

- (a) The Environmental Service Provider (waste collector / transporter) shall have a valid permit from the Competent Authority and/or Sector Regulatory Authorities in order to transport waste in Emirate of Abu Dhabi.
- (b) Handling of hazardous substances, hazardous wastes and medical wastes is prohibited without licensing from the authorities stipulated Regulation Concerning Handling of Hazardous Substance, Hazardous Wastes and Medical Wastes under Federal Law No. (24) of 1999.
- (c) The Environmental Service Provider (waste collector / transporter) shall comply with the following requirements:
 - (i) any vehicle used to transport waste shall be constructed and maintained so as to prevent spillage of the waste;
 - (ii) any container used to transport the waste shall be secured safely on the vehicle used to transport the waste;
 - (iii) any vehicle used by the person to transport waste shall be covered when loaded;
 - (iv) incompatible wastes shall not be mixed or transported together on any vehicle used by the person to transport waste; and
 - (v) any material segregated for recycling shall

- (vi) not be mixed with other wastes during transportation;
 - (vii) the waste is being taken to a permitted waste management facility;
 - (viii) keeping a record of the waste consignment number and the Waste Transfer Note for a period of at least 4 years; and
 - (ix) having insurance to protect the environment from incidents or spills. This shall include coverage for any clean up costs that may be incurred.
- (d) The Environmental Service Provider (waste collector/ transporter) for hazardous wastes shall ensure the following:
- (i) having a valid permit from the Competent Authority and/or Sector Regulatory Authorities;
 - (ii) wastes received are stored correctly and are handled correctly during transportation;
 - (iii) the hazardous waste received is the same waste and same quantity as classified according to Manifest for Transporting Toxic and Hazardous Wastes (information provided by waste generator);
 - (iv) relevant sections of the Manifest for Transporting Toxic and Hazardous Wastes are completed accurately;
 - (v) a copy of the Manifest for Transporting Toxic and Hazardous Wastes shall be carried in the vehicle with the load at all times;
 - (vi) the waste being transported shall not be removed from the vehicle, unless:
 - (1) the receiver of the waste management facility has received a copy of the Manifest for Transporting Toxic and Hazardous Wastes and has consented for the waste to be removed; and
 - (2) the waste is being directly transferred to another vehicle, the transfer is recorded on the Manifest for Transporting Toxic and Hazardous Wastes and the updated Manifest is given to the transporter operating the other vehicle.
 - (vii) if the hazardous waste management facility rejects the waste, the Environmental Service Provider (waste collector / transporter) shall:
 - (1) obtain the Manifest for transporting Toxic and Hazardous Waste for the waste endorsed by the receiver stating the reasons for the rejection;
 - (2) forward the Manifest of the rejected wastes, including reasons for rejection to the waste generator;
 - (3) transport the waste to an alternative waste management facility as identified by the waste generator; and
 - (4) if another suitable waste management facility is not identified by the waste generator, the waste transporter shall transport the waste back to the waste generator.
 - (viii) having emergency management measures in place in case of an accidental spill or incident;
 - (ix) having insurance to protect the environment from incidents or spills. This shall include coverage for any clean up costs that may be incurred.

- (x) transportation vehicles meet necessary requirements for the identified hazards; and
- (xi) the waste is being taken to a waste management facility permitted to receive hazardous wastes.

3.4 Waste Management Facility

- (a) A waste management facility includes:
 - (i) a waste transfer station;
 - (ii) landfill;
 - (iii) reuse and recycling facility;
 - (iv) materials recovery facility;
 - (v) storage facility;
 - (vi) treatment facility;
 - (vii) incinerator; and
 - (viii) energy recovery facility.
- (b) All waste management facilities shall have a valid permit issued by the Competent Authority and/or Sector Regulatory Authorities in order to operate.
- (c) All waste management facilities shall ensure compliance with the emission standards stipulated in Federal Law, Local Law and AD EHSMS.
- (e) Handling of hazardous substances, hazardous wastes and medical wastes is prohibited without licensing from the authorities stipulated in Regulation Concerning Handling of Hazardous Substance, Hazardous Wastes and Medical Wastes under Federal Law No. (24) of 1999.
- (d) All waste management facilities shall ensure compliance with the CoP's issued under *AD EHSMS Regulatory Framework*, these CoP's cover management of air, noise level, water, land, hazardous substances and occupational health and safety management.
- (e) Wastes taken to a waste management facility become the property of the service operator, unless specific contract clauses to the contrary are in place, therefore they are able to profit from sales made from the reuse, reprocessing or recycling of waste.
- (f) Sites permitted by the Competent Authority and/or Sector Regulatory Authorities to store, recycle, treat, and/or dispose industrial wastes and/or hazardous waste shall keep records of where the wastes received originated from, and the nature, composition, form and quantity of those wastes.
- (g) For Waste Management Facilities dealing with hazardous wastes:
 - (i) within 3 working days of receiving the waste, notify the Competent Authority and/or Sector Regulatory Authorities in writing, if the waste is

- without a waste consignment number or a Manifest for Transporting Toxic and Hazardous Wastes;
- (ii) within 3 working days of accepting or rejecting waste, notify the Competent Authority and/or Sector Regulatory Authorities in writing if the Manifest for Transporting Toxic and Hazardous Wastes is considered inaccurate (specifying the reason why the Manifest is considered to be inaccurate);
 - (iii) shall complete relevant part of Manifest for Transporting Toxic and Hazardous Wastes;
 - (iv) shall forward a completed copy of the Manifest for Transporting Toxic and Hazardous Wastes to the waste generator within 14 days of accepting or rejecting the waste;
 - (v) if waste is to be immobilized at the facility, the hazardous waste management facility shall ensure that the permit includes this; and
 - (vi) the hazardous waste management facility shall ensure that all requirements of waste immobilization are met and that the waste generator has demonstrated the suitability of the waste to immobilization.
- (h) For waste management facilities dealing with mixed waste (non-hazardous):
- (i) mixed solid waste shall be sorted at Transfer / Sorting Stations into the following components:
 - (1) food organic waste: consists of organic putrescible waste, such as vegetable and food wastes;
 - (2) garden organic waste: consists of organic waste from gardening and maintenance of parks, that can be composted with other wastes to produce a soil improver;
 - (3) recyclable wastes: consists of glass, metals (e.g. aluminium, steel, copper), plastics, paper, cardboard, etc; and
 - (4) non-compostable wastes: consists of wastes that cannot be composted or recycled.
 - (i) sites permitted by the Competent Authority and/or Sector Regulatory Authorities to manage or dispose of mixed solid wastes shall have:
 - (1) a suitable buffer distance between them and sensitive land uses to avoid potential impacts on amenity; and
 - (2) suitable fencing around the boundary of the site to prevent unauthorised access of people, livestock and wildlife.
 - (i) landfill sites permitted by the Competent Authority and/or Sector Regulatory Authorities to manage or dispose of mixed solid wastes shall have:
 - (1) cells constructed at a rate that allows for the proper and immediate disposal of wastes received;
 - (2) regular covering of wastes deposited in cells with clean fill, or other material, approved by the Competent Authority and/or Sector Regulatory Authorities for that purpose; and
 - (3) programs for the management and control of:

- vermin;
- wind borne litter;
- dusts;
- leachate; and
- landfill gas.

3.5 Government

- (a) The role of the relevant government department in managing waste is to establish the strategic direction and plan for the management of various types of waste (e.g. hazardous and non-hazardous) in the Emirate and to ensure sufficient capability and capacity to manage current and future waste management needs.
- (b) The Competent Authority and/or Sector Regulatory Authorities shall work with other relevant departments to ensure waste management facilities are established in Abu Dhabi Emirate to facilitate the management of various types of wastes with minimal harm to the environment and human health.
- (c) The Competent Authority and/or Sector Regulatory Authorities shall:
 - (i) establish a permit system to permit waste generators, waste transporters and waste management facilities; and
 - (ii) establish a waste data collection system and where possible ensure this is based on electronic systems.
- (d) The Competent Authority and/or Sector Regulatory Authorities is responsible for monitoring the generation, transport and management of hazardous waste through the Manifest for Transporting Toxic and Hazardous Wastes.
- (e) Each municipality shall keep records of the total quantities various types of wastes generated, recovered and disposed by Abu Dhabi Emirate.
- (f) The Competent Authority and/or Sector Regulatory Authorities shall work with the private and government sectors and the community to facilitate resource recovery in Abu Dhabi Emirate.
- (g) The Municipalities of Abu Dhabi Emirate shall organize regular programmes on household chemical collection schemes whereby residents from different areas may dispose of potentially hazardous household chemicals and materials such as paints, solvents, oils, expired pharmaceuticals, and pesticides.
- (h) All government departments are required to develop and implement a Waste Reduction and Management Plan in accordance with this Code of Practice.

3.6 Buffer and Safety Separation Distances

- (a) The Competent Authority and/or Sector Regulatory Authorities shall provide guidance on buffer distances to manage impacts from waste management facilities, reduce risks to public health and safety, and to land uses that are sensitive to the potential impacts of those hazards and risks.

3.7 Monitoring and Reporting Protocol for Waste

- (a) The processes set out in this section shall be used for measuring and reporting on waste from various sources to determine:
 - (i) whether the waste management practices of this CoP are being met; or
 - (ii) the extent of the difference between the waste generated and the EHS objectives.
- (b) The Competent Authority and/or Sector Regulatory Authorities shall establish monitoring procedures, and commence assessment and reporting.
- (c) To enable assessment of compliance with this CoP, the Competent Authority and/or Sector Regulatory Authorities may require monitoring of the air, water and noise quality for the environment where wastes generated, handled and disposed of as part of the permit approval process.
- (d) The Competent Authority and/or Sector Regulatory Authorities shall prepare a monitoring plan to monitor the quantity of generation, recycling and disposal of various types of wastes.
- (e) The *AD EHSMS CoP 09 – Monitoring and Reporting* provides further information on monitoring and reporting requirements.

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