

Scientific Services information sheet

Analytical Services – Waste Acceptance Criteria (WAC)

The Waste Acceptance Criteria (WAC) stipulates the minimum testing requirements that have to be determined before waste can be accepted at a landfill site. The Waste Acceptance Criteria came into force in July 2005 and is mandatory for all waste going to landfill. There are three different acceptance criteria depending on the nature of the waste.

- Inert Waste
- Non-Hazardous waste
- Hazardous waste

The tests are carried out at 2 different solid to liquid ratios. Firstly leaching at 2:1 ratio and then re-leaching at an 8:1 ratio. The leachates are then analysed and the results combined to produce a cumulative 10:1, as specified by the Environment Agency.

The leachates are analysed for the following components:

Metals	Arsenic, Barium, Cadmium, Chromium, Copper, Mercury, Molybdenum, Nickel, Lead, Antimony, Selenium, Zinc
Anions	Chloride, Fluoride, Sulphate
Phenol	
Dissolved Organic Carbon	

The waste itself requires the following testing:

Total Organic Carbon
Loss on ignition
BTEX, PCB, PAH
Mineral oil, pH

The landfill operator should be consulted before commencing any analysis and can only accept waste that meets the Waste Acceptance Criteria for that site.

For further information and expert assistance please call us on 0870 320 4567 or email enquiry-nwss@nwl.co.uk



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