

Heron Island Research Station (HIRS)

Definitions

1. Definitions

1.1 Air Quality

1.1.1 CFC

CFC means a chlorofluorocarbon and includes all isomers of a chlorofluorocarbon.

1.1.2 Sensitive Receptor

A sensitive receptor is a fixed location such as a house, building, other premises or open area where health or property is affected emissions that increase the concentration of the emitted parameter above background levels.

1.1.3 Time Weighted Average (TWA)

Time Weighted Average is the average concentration of a chemical observed over a period of 8 hours which represents the typical exposure over a working day.

1.2 Noise

1.2.1 Concert

Under Schedule 2 of the *Environmental Protection (Noise) Policy 1997*, “concert” means “a public performance or other public event from which music (whether recorded or performed live) is a significant source of noise.

1.2.2 Day Period

Under Schedule 5 of the *Environmental Protection (Noise) Policy 1997*, day time means “6am to 6pm”.

1.2.3 Environmental Noise

Environmental Noise is defined as an unwanted sound.

1.2.4 Evening Period

Under Schedule 5 of the *Environmental Protection (Noise) Policy 1997*, evening period means “6pm to 10pm”.

1.2.5 Background Level

Under Schedule 5 of the *Environmental Protection (Noise) Policy 1997* background level means “for a specified time interval, in relation to an investigation of a noise, means the A-weighted sound pressure level that is equalled or exceeded for 90% of that part of the interval in which the investigated noise is absent”.

1.3 Wastes

1.3.1 Waste

Under Section 13 of the Environmental Protection Act, 1994 **waste** is defined as “any gas, liquid, solid or energy (or a combination of wastes) that is surplus to, or unwanted from, any industrial, commercial, domestic or other activity, whether or not of value.”

1.3.2 General Waste Stream

It is the stream that contains wastes of domestic characteristics which are solid and inert in nature, and may contain dead uncontaminated animals.

1.3.3 Chemical Waste

Any waste of a chemical nature that has the potential to pose a chemical threat to health, safety and/or the environment, or is chemically hazardous.

1.3.4 Radioactive Wastes

For the purposes of this document, radioactive wastes are defined as wastes which, because of their radioactive content, may require specific management arrangements.

1.3.5 Pathological Waste

Pathological Waste refers to waste of a viral, infectious or contaminated nature. Pathological substances are substances that act as a source, host or carrier of disease. This includes tissue samples, blood samples, faeces, and contaminated equipment such as containers, bags or surgical equipment.

1.3.6 Clinical Waste

Clinical Waste refers to any samples (eg. Tissue, venom, blood, serum, and swabs) that have been in contact with, or used in experiments with a pathological substance and includes pathological waste.

1.3.7 Disposable Equipment

Disposable Equipment refers to any equipment used in conjunction with pathological substances. A short list of these include: rubber gloves, disposable plastic bottles, filter papers, teats, syringes and some surgical equipment.

1.3.8 Sharps

Sharps refers to objects or devices having a sharp point or protuberance capable of cutting or piercing the skin. They include, but are not limited to, hypodermic needles, scalpels, broken ampoules and any broken glassware.

1.3.9 Pharmaceuticals

Pharmaceuticals refers to drugs used for the prevention, diagnosis, care or alleviation of a disease, ailment, injury or defect in human or animal.

1.3.10 Recycling

Recycling refers to capturing materials from the post-consumer waste stream to be used as secondary source material.

1.3.11 Contamination of Recycling Streams

Contamination of recycling streams occurs when unwanted material is disposed of with the recyclable material. Contaminated material is not suitable for reprocessing and must be separated from the recyclable stream.

1.3.12 Co-mingled Recycling Stream

It is a stream that contains several recycling waste materials such as:

- Aluminium (tins and cans);
- Glass; and
- Plastics (PET milk bottles and HDPE soft drink bottles).

1.3.13 Cardboard

Thin, stiff pasteboard generally used as packaging material.

1.4 Water

1.4.1 Waters

Under Section 4 of the *Environmental Protection Act, 1994*, **waters** means “Queensland waters”.

1.4.2 Waste Water

Under the Guidelines for Sewerage Systems - Acceptance of Trade Waste, 1994, **domestic wastewater** is defined as “the water borne waste derived from human origin comprising faecal matter, urine and liquid household waste from closet pans, sinks, baths, basins and similar fixtures designed for use in private dwellings”.

1.4.3 Trade Waste and Sewage

Under Schedule I b.2 of the *Sewerage and Water Supply Act 1949-1982*, the following definitions are given:

- **Trade waste** is defined as “The wastes from any industry, business, trade or manufacturing premises, other than domestic sewage.”; and
- **Sewage** is defined as “ The used water supply of the community: the term includes faecal matter, urine, household slops, and polluted waters.”.

1.4.4 Background Levels

The background level of a parameter of interest is defined as the concentration of that parameter would be observed if no activity which caused contamination (to any extent) had occurred. For example, the background level of COD of wastewater is equal to the concentration of COD in the tap water supplied by the council.

1.4.5 Non-point Source

A non-point source is a source of waste that is not directly regulated, is not mandated, and no permit can be held for its release. Examples of non-point sources of waste include:

- Urban runoff from unsewered urban areas;
- Unconfined pastures of animals;
- Runoff from range land; and
- Wet and dry atmospheric fallout over a water surface.