

Thank you for your enquiry relating to our website entry re the classification of incinerator bottom ash dated 27 Oct 2006. This relates to work being carried out by the ESA testing the eco-toxicity of Incinerator Bottom Ash. The Environment Agency has been working with the Environmental Services Association (ESA) to ensure the correct sampling and characterisation of Incinerator Bottom Ash (IBA).

The implementation of the 8th edition of the 'approved supply list' (ASL) potentially affects the classification of IBA and other wastes. As you will know from our web site IBA has historically been classified as 'non-hazardous'. The composition of IBA has not changed but ASL 8 has affected the classification of certain of its constituents, in particular zinc in various chemical forms. In order to establish whether the classification of IBA needs to be reviewed we agreed with ESA that it's Members operating energy from waste plants would carry out some direct testing of IBA. Until the testing programme is complete we have agreed that IBA will be regarded as non-hazardous.

In answer to your specific questions:

Q1) Out of 96 historic samples, which were re-assessed, we believe that 12 samples would not meet the H14 eco-toxicity criteria.

Q2) These 12 samples were from the following incinerators:

- Wolverhampton
- SELCHP
- Edmonton
- Coventry
- Kirklees
- Billingham
- Dudley

Q3) Where the IBA was not classified as hazardous waste it could be handled as non-hazardous waste and if landfilled will need to be sent to a site for non-hazardous waste.

Q4) We are not involved in collection of Landfill Tax and so we do not hold records on the rate of tax paid on individual loads of waste.

Q5) Wastes acceptable at non-hazardous landfills are decided on the basis of site-specific risk assessments. There are no specific numerical limits for non-hazardous landfills, in contrast to the WAC limits that apply to hazardous waste sites.