Acceptance of recycled materials

EU Circular Talks
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About FIR

• We represent the recycling industries of Construction & Demolition Waste and of Incinerator Bottom Ash

• Our members: national recycling associations and individual recycling companies

• Our aim is to achieve high quality recycling in Europe (and globally)

• Representation of SW, GER, NL, BEL, FR, ES, IT, IE, CH and Mexico
Current status of recycling of C&DW

• No reliable statistics
• Only high quality recycling in some 4-5 Member States
• Several Member States catching up
• Recovery in many instances means: backfilling (acknowledged by EEA)
• Illegal dumping not unusual
• All issues discussed in frequent technical meetings of FIR
This is achievable in all Member States

- Recycling of inert C&DW is not expensive
- Recycled aggregates are comparable to primary aggregates
- It is environmentally safe: leaching is negligible
Requirements for recycling

Input

Recycling

Sales

No illegal tipping
Landfill ban
Selective demolition

⇒ Proper and consistent legislation

Recycling plants
Waste acceptance
Technical standards
Quality Assurance

⇒ Producers must guarantee good quality

Recognition of good quality
Product, not waste
Prescribed use by authorities

⇒ Green Public Procurement
About acceptance of recycled aggregates

• In a few MS good acceptance, due to integral framework of legislation, protocols, standards etc. for all steps, including for instance appropriate quality control, Quality Assurance and national framework for environmental testing

• And: willingness of public authorities

• Where recycling is developing:
  • The framework is not complete
  • Case by case decision, instead of national rules
  • Unfamiliarity, suspect material
  • Waste not allowed to be used
How to proceed

• Member States just to get on with it
  • Recycled aggregates are safe, there is no reason for doubt
  • Start using, perform pilots, convince yourself and prescribe

• End of waste criteria for recycled aggregates are prerequisite in many cases

• Accept the fact that zero asbestos is impossible (and there are ways to well manage it)

• Use existing experience
Required at EU level

• Set a target for inert C&DW
• Develop EU end-of-waste criteria for recycled aggregates
• Ban landfilling of C&DW
• Acceptance on EU level concerning asbestos
• Recycled content (Ecodesign directive): include criteria for recycled aggregates and IBA aggregates
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