

Introduction

The purpose of this notice is to share the initial learning from three separate waste mis-consignment events to the Low Level Waste Repository (LLWR), the investigations into which remain ongoing.

Whilst we are confident that these wastes are safely stored during the investigation period, we are concerned about the rising trend in recent mis-consignments to the LLWR site, noting that all three consignors are experienced in consigning LLW in accordance with the terms of the LLWR Waste Acceptance Criteria (WAC)..

In the short-term LLWR has established a task force with the relevant expertise and experience to manage any investigations, liaise with consignors and make the necessary interventions to protect the disposal route and ensure the right courses of action are effectively implemented.

Longer term, LLWR has initiated a project to examine the UK's waste consignment processes. This will include a review against other international practices to identify any potential shortfalls.

Initial Learning

A common theme across all three mis-consignments is that the Waste Consignment Information (WCI) form paperwork did not fully represent the wastes held within the container at the time of shipment, nor that approved by LLWR in advance through the Waste Characterisation (WCH) or Waste Variation (WCV) processes.

The first mis-consignment was identified following verification monitoring undertaken at the LLWR site post receipt. This subsequently resulted in a revised fingerprint being produced by the consignor and led to previously consigned disposal containers becoming non-compliant with the LLWR WAC.

The second mis-consignment was identified following rejection of a container for disposal at LLWR site. Following the rejection, the consignor notified LLWR that a similar non-compliant container had been approved and consigned to LLWR some six months prior. A further submission of a more detailed manifest of the waste consigned revealed a number of WAC non-compliances.

The third mis-consignment was identified through container receipt checks at the LLWR site rail sidings, where a contact dose rate exceeding 5mSv/hr was measured. Further information provided by the consignor revealed a number of other factors that required a more detailed disposability assessment to be undertaken e.g. relating to reactive metals.

Customers are therefore urged to liaise with LLWR regarding any queries they have regarding compliance with the WAC. Furthermore, Customers are also reminded that submission of full and comprehensive waste consignment information and accompanying photographs significantly reduce the risk of any non-compliant items being consigned and disposed at the LLWR.

Further Information and Questions

If you require any further information or have any queries relating to this Customer Notice, please send an e-mail to: customerteam@llwrsite.com or call: 019467 70300.

Distribution List

We have issued this Notice to the following people from your Company's Contact Details Form (Reference: WSC-FOR-CON):

- All nominated representatives

If you need to update these details, please submit a revised Form: <http://llwrsite.com/waste-services/new-customers>