

AS/NZS 3831:1998

AS/NZS 3831

Australian/New Zealand Standard™

**Waste management—
Glossary of terms**

STANDARDS AUSTRALIA

STANDARDS NEW ZEALAND



Documents

Document Sharing Hub

AS/NZS 3831:1998

This Joint Australian/New Zealand Standard was prepared by Joint Technical Committee EV/6, Waste Management Terms and Definitions. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 12 June 1998 and on behalf of the Council of Standards New Zealand on 25 June 1998. It was published on 5 September 1998.

The following interests are represented on Committee EV/6:

Australian and New Zealand Environment and Conservation Council
 Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry
 Australian Chamber of Manufactures
 Australian Competition and Consumer Commission
 Australian Conservation Foundation
 Beverage Industry Environment Council
 Consumers Federation of Australia
 Griffith University, Waste Management Research Unit
 Grocery Manufacturers of Australia
 Metal Trades Industry Association of Australia
 Nature Conservation Council of New South Wales
 New Zealand Chemical Industry Council
 Packaging Council of Australia
 Plastics and Chemicals Industries Association
 Waste Contractors and Recyclers Association of N.S.W.
 Waste Management Association of Australia

Review of Standards. To keep abreast of progress in industry, Joint Australian/New Zealand Standards are subject to periodic review and are kept up to date by the issue of amendments or new editions as necessary. It is important therefore that Standards users ensure that they are in possession of the latest edition, and any amendments thereto.

Full details of all Joint Standards and related publications will be found in the Standards Australia and Standards New Zealand Catalogue of Publications; this information is supplemented each month by the magazines 'The Australian Standard' and 'Standards New Zealand', which subscribing members receive, and which give details of new publications, new editions and amendments, and of withdrawn Standards.

Suggestions for improvements to Joint Standards, addressed to the head office of either Standards Australia or Standards New Zealand, are welcomed. Notification of any inaccuracy or ambiguity found in a Joint Australian/New Zealand Standard should be made without delay in order that the matter may be investigated and appropriate action taken.

AS/NZS 3831:1998

Australian/New Zealand Standard™

**Waste management—
Glossary of terms**

First published as AS/NZS 3831:1998.

Published jointly by:

Standards Australia
1 The Crescent,
Homebush NSW 2140 Australia

Standards New Zealand
Level 10, Radio New Zealand House,
155 The Terrace,
Wellington 6001 New Zealand

PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by the Joint Standards Australia/Standards New Zealand Committee EV/6, Waste Management Terms and Definitions following a request by Friends of the Earth (Sydney).

The objective of the Standard is to provide both industry and the community with a glossary of terms related to waste management in order to promote consistency in the use and understanding of such terms.

The terms covered by this glossary cover a range of aspects of waste management from collection, sorting and disposal to recycling and waste minimization schemes. All play a role in waste management although environmental priorities have meant that the community has concentrated on recycling and waste minimization.

While Standards Australia had previously published glossaries of recycling terminology for specific product groups (AS 4082, *Recycled paper—Glossary of terms* and AS 1886, *Glossary of terms relating to plastics*), it was recognized that a document which gave generic definitions for common waste management terms, in particular recycling terms, would be of assistance when there was no specific product group under discussion. It is anticipated this glossary will also promote consistency between glossaries for specific products by providing preferred terms for use.

© Copyright – STANDARDS AUSTRALIA/STANDARDS NEW ZEALAND

Users of Standards are reminded that copyright subsists in all Standards Australia and Standards New Zealand publications and software. Except where the Copyright Act allows and except where provided for below no publications or software produced by Standards Australia or Standards New Zealand may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system in any form or transmitted by any means without prior permission in writing from Standards Australia or Standards New Zealand. Permission may be conditional on an appropriate royalty payment. Australian requests for permission and information on commercial software royalties should be directed to the head office of Standards Australia. New Zealand requests should be directed to Standards New Zealand.

Up to 10 percent of the technical content pages of a Standard may be copied for use exclusively in-house by purchasers of the Standard without payment of a royalty or advice to Standards Australia or Standards New Zealand.

Inclusion of copyright material in computer software programs is also permitted without royalty payment provided such programs are used exclusively in-house by the creators of the programs.

Care should be taken to ensure that material used is from the current edition of the Standard and that it is updated whenever the Standard is amended or revised. The number and date of the Standard should therefore be clearly identified.

The use of material in print form or in computer software programs to be used commercially, with or without payment, or in commercial contracts is subject to the payment of a royalty. This policy may be varied by Standards Australia or Standards New Zealand at any time.

FOREWORD

There is growing recognition that the word 'waste' requires redefining. There is increasing discussion about solid waste as a resource, the approach taken within this Standard has been to define waste as that which ends up in a municipal landfill designed and built as a disposal facility.

The term 'waste stream' is then defined as the material flow from point of use to the point of disposal. Implicit in this definition is the ability to recover secondary resources from the waste stream.

The complementary step then is to have all other definitions which contain the word 'waste' e.g. waste collection, seen as a single entity rather than including the word 'waste' as a descriptive adjective. Waste management, for example, then implies management of the waste stream so that it encompasses the recovery of secondary resources.

In developing this Standard for Australian and New Zealand purposes, a number of differing definitions were proposed for terms that are legislated in various States or in New Zealand and on occasion differing authorities. The task of the Committee was very difficult given these circumstances. Any relevant ISO terms were adopted to avoid creating international differences and extend the usefulness of the definitions.

It is hoped that the various states, territories and authorities will adopt the terms and definitions in this Standard for any future purposes which should then assist in achieving the aim of creating consistency across all relevant bodies and authorities. Until this is accomplished, reference should be made to Australian and New Zealand regulations and subordinate legislation as these definitions may take precedence in relation to the interpretation of definitions in this Standard.