

Directive 2008/98/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 November 2008 on waste and repealing certain Directives (Text with EEA relevance)

CHAPTER I

SUBJECT MATTER, SCOPE AND DEFINITIONS

f¹ Article 1

Subject matter and scope

This Directive lays down measures to protect the environment and human health by preventing or reducing the generation of waste, the adverse impacts of the generation and management of waste and by reducing overall impacts of resource use and improving the efficiency of such use, which are crucial for the transition to a circular economy and for guaranteeing the Union's long-term competitiveness.]

Textual Amendments

- F1** Substituted by [Directive \(EU\) 2018/851 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 2018 amending Directive 2008/98/EC on waste \(Text with EEA relevance\)](#).

Article 2

Exclusions from the scope

- 1 The following shall be excluded from the scope of this Directive:
 - a gaseous effluents emitted into the atmosphere;
 - b land (in situ) including unexcavated contaminated soil and buildings permanently connected with land;
 - c uncontaminated soil and other naturally occurring material excavated in the course of construction activities where it is certain that the material will be used for the purposes of construction in its natural state on the site from which it was excavated;
 - d radioactive waste;
 - e decommissioned explosives;
 - f faecal matter, if not covered by paragraph 2(b), straw and other natural non-hazardous agricultural or forestry material used in farming, forestry or for the production of energy from such biomass through processes or methods which do not harm the environment or endanger human health.
- 2 The following shall be excluded from the scope of this Directive to the extent that they are covered by other Community legislation:
 - a waste waters;
 - b animal by-products including processed products covered by Regulation (EC) No 1774/2002, except those which are destined for incineration, landfilling or use in a biogas or composting plant;

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- c carcasses of animals that have died other than by being slaughtered, including animals killed to eradicate epizootic diseases, and that are disposed of in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 1774/2002;
 - d waste resulting from prospecting, extraction, treatment and storage of mineral resources and the working of quarries covered by Directive 2006/21/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 March 2006 on the management of waste from extractive industries⁽¹⁾[^{F1}];
 - [^{F2}e substances that are destined for use as feed materials as defined in point (g) of Article 3(2) of Regulation (EC) No 767/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council⁽²⁾ and that do not consist of or contain animal by-products.]
- 3 Without prejudice to obligations under other relevant Community legislation, sediments relocated inside surface waters for the purpose of managing waters and waterways or of preventing floods or mitigating the effects of floods and droughts or land reclamation shall be excluded from the scope of this Directive if it is proved that the sediments are non-hazardous.
- 4 Specific rules for particular instances, or supplementing those of this Directive, on the management of particular categories of waste, may be laid down by means of individual Directives.

Textual Amendments

- F1** Substituted by [Directive \(EU\) 2018/851 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 2018 amending Directive 2008/98/EC on waste \(Text with EEA relevance\)](#).
- F2** Inserted by [Directive \(EU\) 2018/851 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 2018 amending Directive 2008/98/EC on waste \(Text with EEA relevance\)](#).

Article 3

Definitions

For the purposes of this Directive, the following definitions shall apply:

1. 'waste' means any substance or object which the holder discards or intends or is required to discard;
2. 'hazardous waste' means waste which displays one or more of the hazardous properties listed in Annex III;
- 2a. [^{F2}'non-hazardous waste' means waste which is not covered by point 2;
- 2b. 'municipal waste' means:
 - (a) mixed waste and separately collected waste from households, including paper and cardboard, glass, metals, plastics, bio-waste, wood, textiles, packaging, waste electrical and electronic equipment, waste batteries and accumulators, and bulky waste, including mattresses and furniture;
 - (b) mixed waste and separately collected waste from other sources, where such waste is similar in nature and composition to waste from households;

Municipal waste does not include waste from production, agriculture, forestry, fishing, septic tanks and sewage network and treatment, including sewage sludge, end-of-life vehicles or construction and demolition waste.

This definition is without prejudice to the allocation of responsibilities for waste management between public and private actors;

- 2c. ‘construction and demolition waste’ means waste generated by construction and demolition activities;]
3. ‘waste oils’ means any mineral or synthetic lubrication or industrial oils which have become unfit for the use for which they were originally intended, such as used combustion engine oils and gearbox oils, lubricating oils, oils for turbines and hydraulic oils;
4. [F1‘bio-waste’ means biodegradable garden and park waste, food and kitchen waste from households, offices, restaurants, wholesale, canteens, caterers and retail premises and comparable waste from food processing plants;]
- 4a. [F2‘food waste’ means all food as defined in Article 2 of Regulation (EC) No 178/2002 of the European Parliament and of the Council⁽⁹⁾ that has become waste;]
5. ‘waste producer’ means anyone whose activities produce waste (original waste producer) or anyone who carries out pre-processing, mixing or other operations resulting in a change in the nature or composition of this waste;
6. ‘waste holder’ means the waste producer or the natural or legal person who is in possession of the waste;
7. ‘dealer’ means any undertaking which acts in the role of principal to purchase and subsequently sell waste, including such dealers who do not take physical possession of the waste;
8. ‘broker’ means any undertaking arranging the recovery or disposal of waste on behalf of others, including such brokers who do not take physical possession of the waste;
9. [F1‘waste management’ means the collection, transport, recovery (including sorting), and disposal of waste, including the supervision of such operations and the after-care of disposal sites, and including actions taken as a dealer or broker;]
10. ‘collection’ means the gathering of waste, including the preliminary sorting and preliminary storage of waste for the purposes of transport to a waste treatment facility;
11. ‘separate collection’ means the collection where a waste stream is kept separately by type and nature so as to facilitate a specific treatment;
12. ‘prevention’ means measures taken before a substance, material or product has become waste, that reduce:
- (a) the quantity of waste, including through the re-use of products or the extension of the life span of products;
 - (b) the adverse impacts of the generated waste on the environment and human health; or
 - (c) [F1the content of hazardous substances in materials and products;]
13. ‘re-use’ means any operation by which products or components that are not waste are used again for the same purpose for which they were conceived;
14. ‘treatment’ means recovery or disposal operations, including preparation prior to recovery or disposal;

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15. ‘recovery’ means any operation the principal result of which is waste serving a useful purpose by replacing other materials which would otherwise have been used to fulfil a particular function, or waste being prepared to fulfil that function, in the plant or in the wider economy. Annex II sets out a non-exhaustive list of recovery operations;
- 15a. ‘^{F2}material recovery’ means any recovery operation, other than energy recovery and the reprocessing into materials that are to be used as fuels or other means to generate energy. It includes, *inter alia*, preparing for re-use, recycling and backfilling;]
16. ‘preparing for re-use’ means checking, cleaning or repairing recovery operations, by which products or components of products that have become waste are prepared so that they can be re-used without any other pre-processing;
17. ‘recycling’ means any recovery operation by which waste materials are reprocessed into products, materials or substances whether for the original or other purposes. It includes the reprocessing of organic material but does not include energy recovery and the reprocessing into materials that are to be used as fuels or for backfilling operations;
- 17a. [^{F2}‘backfilling’ means any recovery operation where suitable non-hazardous waste is used for purposes of reclamation in excavated areas or for engineering purposes in landscaping. Waste used for backfilling must substitute non-waste materials, be suitable for the aforementioned purposes, and be limited to the amount strictly necessary to achieve those purposes;]
18. ‘regeneration of waste oils’ means any recycling operation whereby base oils can be produced by refining waste oils, in particular by removing the contaminants, the oxidation products and the additives contained in such oils;
19. ‘disposal’ means any operation which is not recovery even where the operation has as a secondary consequence the reclamation of substances or energy. Annex I sets out a non-exhaustive list of disposal operations;
20. ‘best available techniques’ means best available techniques as defined in Article 2(11) of Directive 96/61/EC^{F1};
21. [^{F2}‘extended producer responsibility scheme’ means a set of measures taken by Member States to ensure that producers of products bear financial responsibility or financial and organisational responsibility for the management of the waste stage of a product’s life cycle.]

Textual Amendments

- F1** Substituted by [Directive \(EU\) 2018/851 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 2018 amending Directive 2008/98/EC on waste \(Text with EEA relevance\)](#).
- F2** Inserted by [Directive \(EU\) 2018/851 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 2018 amending Directive 2008/98/EC on waste \(Text with EEA relevance\)](#).

Article 4

Waste hierarchy

- 1 The following waste hierarchy shall apply as a priority order in waste prevention and management legislation and policy:
- a prevention;

- b preparing for re-use;
- c recycling;
- d other recovery, e.g. energy recovery; and
- e disposal.

2 When applying the waste hierarchy referred to in paragraph 1, Member States shall take measures to encourage the options that deliver the best overall environmental outcome. This may require specific waste streams departing from the hierarchy where this is justified by life-cycle thinking on the overall impacts of the generation and management of such waste.

Member States shall ensure that the development of waste legislation and policy is a fully transparent process, observing existing national rules about the consultation and involvement of citizens and stakeholders.

Member States shall take into account the general environmental protection principles of precaution and sustainability, technical feasibility and economic viability, protection of resources as well as the overall environmental, human health, economic and social impacts, in accordance with Articles 1 and 13.

[^{F23} Member States shall make use of economic instruments and other measures to provide incentives for the application of the waste hierarchy, such as those indicated in Annex IVa or other appropriate instruments and measures.]

Textual Amendments

- F2** Inserted by [Directive \(EU\) 2018/851 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 2018 amending Directive 2008/98/EC on waste \(Text with EEA relevance\)](#).

Article 5

By-products

[^{F11} Member States shall take appropriate measures to ensure that a substance or object resulting from a production process the primary aim of which is not the production of that substance or object is considered not to be waste, but to be a by-product if the following conditions are met:]

- a further use of the substance or object is certain;
- b the substance or object can be used directly without any further processing other than normal industrial practice;
- c the substance or object is produced as an integral part of a production process; and
- d further use is lawful, i.e. the substance or object fulfils all relevant product, environmental and health protection requirements for the specific use and will not lead to overall adverse environmental or human health impacts.

[^{F12} The Commission may adopt implementing acts in order to establish detailed criteria on the uniform application of the conditions laid down in paragraph 1 to specific substances or objects.

Those detailed criteria shall ensure a high level of protection of the environment and human health and facilitate the prudent and rational utilisation of natural resources.

Those implementing acts shall be adopted in accordance with the examination procedure referred to in Article 39(2). When adopting those implementing acts, the Commission

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shall take as a starting point the most stringent and environmentally protective of any criteria adopted by Member States in accordance with paragraph 3 of this Article and shall prioritise replicable practices of industrial symbiosis in the development of the detailed criteria.]

[^{F23} Where criteria have not been set at Union level under paragraph 2, Member States may establish detailed criteria on the application of the conditions laid down in paragraph 1 to specific substances or objects.

Member States shall notify the Commission of those detailed criteria in accordance with Directive (EU) 2015/1535 of the European Parliament and of the Council⁽⁴⁾ where so required by that Directive.]

Textual Amendments

- F1** Substituted by [Directive \(EU\) 2018/851 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 2018 amending Directive 2008/98/EC on waste \(Text with EEA relevance\)](#).
- F2** Inserted by [Directive \(EU\) 2018/851 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 2018 amending Directive 2008/98/EC on waste \(Text with EEA relevance\)](#).

Article 6

End-of-waste status

[^{F11} Member States shall take appropriate measures to ensure that waste which has undergone a recycling or other recovery operation is considered to have ceased to be waste if it complies with the following conditions:

- a the substance or object is to be used for specific purposes;]
- b a market or demand exists for such a substance or object;
- c the substance or object fulfils the technical requirements for the specific purposes and meets the existing legislation and standards applicable to products; and
- d the use of the substance or object will not lead to overall adverse environmental or human health impacts.

[^{F3}]

[^{F12} The Commission shall monitor the development of national end-of-waste criteria in Member States, and assess the need to develop Union-wide criteria on this basis. To that end, and where appropriate, the Commission shall adopt implementing acts in order to establish detailed criteria on the uniform application of the conditions laid down in paragraph 1 to certain types of waste.

Those detailed criteria shall ensure a high level of protection of the environment and human health and facilitate the prudent and rational utilisation of natural resources. They shall include:

- a permissible waste input material for the recovery operation;
- b allowed treatment processes and techniques;
- c quality criteria for end-of-waste materials resulting from the recovery operation in line with the applicable product standards, including limit values for pollutants where necessary;

- d requirements for management systems to demonstrate compliance with the end-of-waste criteria, including for quality control and self-monitoring, and accreditation, where appropriate; and
- e a requirement for a statement of conformity.

Those implementing acts shall be adopted in accordance with the examination procedure referred to in Article 39(2).

When adopting those implementing acts, the Commission shall take account of the relevant criteria established by Member States in accordance with paragraph 3 and shall take as a starting point the most stringent and environmentally protective of those criteria.

3 Where criteria have not been set at Union level under paragraph 2, Member States may establish detailed criteria on the application of the conditions laid down in paragraph 1 to certain types of waste. Those detailed criteria shall take into account any possible adverse environmental and human health impacts of the substance or object and shall satisfy the requirements laid down in points (a) to (e) of paragraph 2.

Member States shall notify the Commission of those criteria in accordance with Directive (EU) 2015/1535 where so required by that Directive.

4 Where criteria have not been set at either Union or national level under paragraph 2 or 3, respectively, a Member State may decide on a case-by-case basis, or take appropriate measures to verify, that certain waste has ceased to be waste on the basis of the conditions laid down in paragraph 1 and, where necessary, reflecting the requirements laid down in points (a) to (e) of paragraph 2, and taking into account limit values for pollutants and any possible adverse environmental and human health impacts. Such case-by-case decisions are not required to be notified to the Commission in accordance with Directive (EU) 2015/1535.

Member States may make information about case-by-case decisions and about the results of verification by competent authorities publicly available by electronic means.]

[^{F25} The natural or legal person who:

- a uses, for the first time, a material that has ceased to be waste and that has not been placed on the market; or
- b places a material on the market for the first time after it has ceased to be waste,

shall ensure that the material meets relevant requirements under the applicable chemical and product related legislation. The conditions laid down in paragraph 1 have to be met before the legislation on chemicals and products applies to the material that has ceased to be waste.]

Textual Amendments

- F1** Substituted by [Directive \(EU\) 2018/851 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 2018 amending Directive 2008/98/EC on waste \(Text with EEA relevance\)](#).
- F2** Inserted by [Directive \(EU\) 2018/851 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 2018 amending Directive 2008/98/EC on waste \(Text with EEA relevance\)](#).
- F3** Deleted by [Directive \(EU\) 2018/851 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 2018 amending Directive 2008/98/EC on waste \(Text with EEA relevance\)](#).

Article 7

List of waste

[^{F1}1. The Commission is empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 38a in order to supplement this Directive by establishing, and reviewing in accordance with paragraphs 2 and 3 of this Article, a list of waste. The list of waste shall include hazardous waste and shall take into account the origin and composition of the waste and, where necessary, the limit values of concentration of hazardous substances. The list of waste shall be binding as regards determination of the waste which is to be considered as hazardous waste. The inclusion of a substance or object in the list shall not mean that it is waste in all circumstances. A substance or object shall be considered to be waste only where the definition in point (1) of Article 3 is met.]

[^{F1}2 A Member State may consider waste as hazardous waste where, even though it does not appear as such on the list of waste, it displays one or more of the properties listed in Annex III. The Member State shall notify the Commission of any such cases without delay and provide the Commission with all relevant information. In the light of notifications received, the list shall be reviewed in order to decide on its adaptation.]

3 Where a Member State has evidence to show that specific waste that appears on the list as hazardous waste does not display any of the properties listed in Annex III, it may consider that waste as non-hazardous waste. The Member State shall notify the Commission of any such cases without delay and shall provide the Commission with the necessary evidence. In the light of notifications received, the list shall be reviewed in order to decide on its adaptation.

4 The reclassification of hazardous waste as non-hazardous waste may not be achieved by diluting or mixing the waste with the aim of lowering the initial concentrations of hazardous substances to a level below the thresholds for defining waste as hazardous.

[^{F3}5

6 Member States may consider waste as non-hazardous waste in accordance with the list of waste referred to in paragraph 1.

7 The Commission shall ensure that the list of waste and any review of this list adhere, as appropriate, to principles of clarity, comprehensibility and accessibility for users, particularly small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

Textual Amendments

- F1** Substituted by [Directive \(EU\) 2018/851 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 2018 amending Directive 2008/98/EC on waste \(Text with EEA relevance\).](#)
- F3** Deleted by [Directive \(EU\) 2018/851 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 2018 amending Directive 2008/98/EC on waste \(Text with EEA relevance\).](#)

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- (1) [OJ L 102, 11.4.2006, p. 15.](#)
- (2) [^{F2}Regulation (EC) No 767/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 July 2009 on the placing on the market and use of feed, amending European Parliament and Council Regulation (EC) No 1831/2003 and repealing Council Directive 79/373/EEC, Commission Directive 80/511/EEC, Council Directives 82/471/EEC, 83/228/EEC, 93/74/EEC, 93/113/EC and 96/25/EC and Commission Decision 2004/217/EC ([OJ L 229, 1.9.2009, p. 1.](#))]
- (3) [^{F2}Regulation (EC) No 178/2002 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 January 2002 laying down the general principles and requirements of food law, establishing the European Food Safety Authority and laying down procedures in matters of food safety ([OJ L 31, 1.2.2002, p. 1.](#))]
- (4) [^{F2}Directive (EU) 2015/1535 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 September 2015 laying down a procedure for the provision of information in the field of technical regulations and of rules on Information Society services ([OJ L 241, 17.9.2015, p. 1.](#))]

Textual Amendments

- F2** Inserted by [Directive \(EU\) 2018/851 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 2018 amending Directive 2008/98/EC on waste \(Text with EEA relevance\).](#)