

Waste Management Guidelines

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1 Definitions

Basel Convention (BC)	The Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal is a multilateral agreement governing exports and imports of primarily hazardous waste for recovery and disposal.
Bayan system	An online single window/one-stop service from the Royal Oman Police (ROP) Directorate General of Customs intended to facilitate a seamless, convenient, and rapid clearance of goods for trading communities and various stakeholders.
Client	Any investor who is planning to own a source, or area of work, or will be responsible for its operation or management within SOHAR Port and Freezone area.
Competent Authority	The organization that has the legally delegated authority, capacity, or power to extend approval, rejection, enforcement, and legal action in regard to environmental management within SOHAR Port and Freezone. In this context, the Competent Authorities are the Environment Authority (EA) and the Public Authority for Special Economic Zones & Free Zones (OPAZ). SIPC's Environmental Affairs unit acts as a focal point of the Competent Authorities to SOHAR tenants.
Consignment Note	A document listing the category and quantity of hazardous waste by the relevant order issued by the EA.
Engineered landfill	An engineered pit, in which layers of solid waste are placed, compacted, and covered for final disposal. It is designed specifically to lessen environmental pollution and health risks. The bottom of the pit is lined with hard-packed clay soil and/or plastic to prevent chemicals and germs from contaminating groundwater and seepage of waste. It is also covered to prevent insects from breeding. These engineered landfills consist of a collection and treatment system, groundwater monitoring and gas extraction equipment among other features.
Environmental permit	The approval issued by the concerned Competent Authority including the permission given to the owner to practice a certain activity after ensuring its environmental integrity.
Waste Generator	Any investor within SFZ who generate waste.
Hazardous waste	Waste arising from commercial, industrial, agricultural or any other activities, which due to its nature, composition, quantity, or any other reason is hazardous or potentially toxic to human health, plants or animals, air, soil, water or any other components. This type of waste can cause health hazards to the public and to the working environments
Manifest	A shipping document that tracks hazardous waste from the point of generation to final treatment and disposal.

Municipal solid waste	Waste generated from domestic activities such as households, restaurants, and hotels that is similar in nature and composition.
One Stop Shop (OSS)	A dedicated unit within the commercial department to help the Freezone tenants to get the necessary approvals to start their projects.
receiver	The entity coordinated with others to receive waste for treatment or disposal.
Recycling	The selective, controlled and beneficial separation of specific components of hazardous waste at or after the point of its generation.
Solid Non-Hazardous waste	Any solid material or semi solid which does not have any danger to the environment or to the human health, if it is dealt with in a safe scientific way, they are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Household waste - Solid materials or semi-solid discarded or produced from residential, commercial, industrial, agriculture and other activities. - Construction and demolition debris - Metal scrap including discarded motor vehicles - Dewatered sludge from domestic, industrial, or agriculture waste-water treatment always providing that such sludge contains no toxic constituents in concentrations over those acceptable within the terms of the wastewater regulations. - Slag and ashes from incineration processes always provided that these materials have an available toxic content within the criteria applied to the characterization of dewatered sludge from waste-water treatment.
SPF Rules and Regulations	These SOHAR Port and Freezone Rules and Regulations.
Tenant	Any investor who is the owner of a source, area of work, or responsible for its operation or management within SOHAR Port and Freezone area.
Transporter	A person who has been licensed by the ministry of transport hazardous waste.
vector	A carrier that is capable of transmitting a pathogen from one organism to another including, but not limited to, flies and other insects, rodents, birds, and vermin.
Industrial waste	Waste generated from domestic activities such as households, restaurants, and hotels are similar in nature and composition.
Construction and demolition waste	The waste that is generated whenever any construction/demolition activity takes place, such as, building roads, bridges, fly over, subways, remodeling, etc. It consists mostly of inert and non-biodegradable materials such as concrete, plaster, metal, wood, plastics, etc.

2 Abbreviations

be'ah	:	Oman Environmental Service Holding Company
CDA	:	Civil Defense and Ambulance Authority
EA	:	Environment Authority
EPR	:	Environmental performance report
NOL	:	No objection letter
OPAZ	:	Public Authority for Special Economic Zones & Free Zones
ROP Customs	:	Royal Oman Police Customs
SOHAR	:	SOHAR Port and Freezone company
MSDS	:	Material safety data sheet
SPF	:	SOHAR Port and Freezone
UNEP	:	United Nations Environment Program
SIPC	:	SOHAR Industrial Port Company
SPFA	:	SOHAR Port and Freezone Authority
C&D Waste	:	Construction and demolition waste
SDS	:	Safety Data Sheets
CN	:	Consignment note

3 Introduction

3.1 About SOHAR Port and Freezone

SOHAR Port and Freezone (SOHAR) is a deep-sea Port and Freezone in the Sultanate of Oman, managed by SOHAR Industrial Port Company (SIPC). It is one of the world’s fastest-growing ports and Freezone developments and lies at the center of global trade routes between Asia and Europe. SOHAR built six industrial clusters for heavy industries, light industries, textile, food, petrochemical, metal, and Circular economy cluster. Consequently, SOHAR is playing a significant role in Oman’s economic growth.

The port was originally built around three industrial clusters for metals, petrochemicals, and logistics. Equipped with deep water jetties capable of handling the world’s largest ships, SOHAR has leading global partners that operate its container, dry bulk, liquid, gas, and general cargo terminals.

3.2 SOHAR’s Strategic House



We execute our strategy using the above house model in SOHAR Port and Freezone. This house was developed in line with Oman Vision 2040 and SOHAR vision 2040. In the house, we focused on sustainable development as one of our strategic goals is to “Be a frontrunner in sustainable development” and “Sustainability” is one of our focus areas in implementing our strategy. The promotion of a Circular Economy in the area is one of the main objectives of the Sustainability Program.

3.3 Guideline’s Objective

This document aims to guide SOHAR Port and Freezone’s tenant for better waste management through detailed guidelines to satisfy the legal requirements of all relative stakeholders. It standardizes safe and responsible practices for the storage, transport, treatment, and disposal of waste.

3.4 Guideline Amendment

This guideline may be altered or amended by SOHAR Port and Freezone Authority (SPFA) when considered necessary or given proper or improved implementation, pursuant to the terms of the property right agreements and the most relevant version, including all the guidelines referred to, shall be always applicable.

3.5 Waste Management in SOHAR Port and Freezone

Waste is generally generated with life continuity and related proportionally with human activities such as agricultural, industrial, residential, institutional, municipal, commercial, mining, recreational, and other sectors¹. This extremely increasing waste generation becomes potential trouble in the local environment and industrial sectors as well (associated risks and space occupation). Because of the rapidly growing issue, this has become one of the most pressing concerns for renters, and SOHAR is responsible for environmental control in the region.

Proper environmental management is considered as one of the main important elements for sustainable industrial development. Hence, SOHAR's vision is to create and maintain a healthy, safe, secure, and environmentally friendly setting for the industries, its employees, visitors, the surrounding population, and nature.

Saving the environment and human health from the detrimental effects of mismanaged waste can be achieved through the effective implantation of waste management programs. Thus, SOHAR Port and Freezone are presently taking various initiatives to manage the waste streams generated by the industries in the Port and Freezone. A circular Economy vision was developed and, as a result, a waste recycling cluster has been created in Freezone phase 5 with 280 Hectares to host recycling industries in a controlled and monitored working environment.

¹ [Introductory Chapter: Introduction to Hazardous Waste Management | IntechOpen](#)

4 Legal Framework

4.1 National Legal Framework of the Sultanate of Oman

The recommendations and provisions in this guideline are based on the national legal framework of the Sultanate of Oman. This framework pertains to practices involving the management of waste, namely:

1. Royal Degree No. 114/2001: Law on Conservation of the Environment and Prevention of Pollution.
2. Ministerial decisions No. 17/1993: Regulations for The Management Solid Non-Hazardous Waste
3. Ministerial decisions No. 18/1993: Regulations for The Management of Hazardous Waste
4. Ministerial decisions No. 15/2021: Regulations for The Export of Waste
5. Ministerial Decision No. 10/2017 amending some provisions of the Hazardous Waste Management Regulation

4.2 SPF Rules and Regulations

The recommendations and provisions in this guideline have also taken into account the SOHAR port and free zone rules and regulations ('R&R'), that apply to all legal entities and natural persons entering or using the SOHAR Port and Freezone for any purpose or reason whatsoever, and to all vehicles, objects and other terms of personal property in the SOHAR Port and Freezone.

4.3 Basel Convention

The Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal is a multilateral agreement negotiated under the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) beginning in 1988. The negotiators of the Convention wanted to promote environmentally sound management of exported and imported waste, especially in developing countries.

The provisions of the Convention revolve around the reduction of hazardous waste generation and the promotion of the environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes, the restriction of transboundary movements of hazardous wastes, and the application of a regulatory system for permissible movements of hazardous waste.

The Basel Convention establishes standards for the transboundary movement of hazardous waste, solid waste, and municipal incinerator ash, including notice to and written confirmation from the receiving country prior to export.

5 Industrial Waste Management

5.1 General Introduction

The management of industrial hazardous and nonhazardous waste is a process that includes the storage collection, transportation, treatment, disposal, recycling, and monitoring of waste disposal. Industrial waste can cause potential harm to human health and the environment (soil, air, and water) when it is not properly managed. It is therefore important to take necessary steps in managing the waste. Given this, the management of industrial wastes in an environmentally friendly is economically viable. to ensure the best environmental management in an industrial area

This section of the guidelines will discuss industrial waste management considering storage, recycling, and waste disposal.

5.2 Storage of Industrial Waste

Storing industrial hazardous and non-hazardous waste is to be managed in an environmentally sound manner by considering at least the following:

- Waste shall be segregated, labeled, and stored based on the type of waste.
- Quantity of waste should not exceed the capacity of the storage area specified in the warehouse permit.
- waste generator must check the storage period for waste based on the size and type of waste generated.
- All waste must be disposed of within 6 months of accumulation to control any safety risks.
- Material Safety Data Sheets/Safety Data Sheets (MSDS/SDS) must be accurate and maintained in a designated place in the storage area.
- Minimum amount of recyclable industrial waste should be stored and should send to the recycling facilities.

5.2.1 Storage of Industrial Non-hazardous Waste

The minimum requirements for storing non-hazardous industrial waste on-site are as follows:

- Control the dust in the open working area by spraying water to minimize the dust.
- Mixing hazardous waste with non-hazardous waste is NOT allowed in any case.
- The waste should be segregated and labeled on site.
- Waste generator should have the waste management plan and should be available at any time upon request by EA.
- The waste generator should have the database of all stored industrial non-hazardous waste and should be available upon request from the EA.

5.2.2 Storage of Industrial Hazardous Waste

there are specific requirements and mitigation measures that should be considered for the storage of industrial hazardous waste.

Temporary on-site waste storage facilities including open waste piles and ponds or lagoons. New waste piles must be carefully constructed over an impervious base and must comply with regulatory requirements in MD18/93 on hazardous waste management. The piles must be protected from wind dispersion or erosion. If leachate is generated, monitoring and control systems must be provided. Here are some requirements to keep in mind for storing hazardous waste:

- **Floor requirements**

- Impermeable floor lined with concrete or any other impermeable material which is suitable for storing hazardous waste.
- The floor should handle the weight of the hazardous waste and can carry a load of vehicle movement without causing any damage to the basement.
- The floor should not be eroded over time and inspections must be included in the maintenance plan.
- The floor should be smooth, easy to clean, and not absorb liquids (consider a chemical-resistant coating)
- The floor material should not ignite sparks with friction.

- **Area requirements**

- The area should have a collection system and slope if necessary to contain any spills or leakages which is separated from the stormwater collection system.
- The area should not be too low which could lead to stormwater collection from the surrounding areas.
- If the area is closed, a proper ventilation system should be provided.
- If the stored hazardous waste gets affected by weather conditions, a proper fire-resisting shelter should be provided.
- Proper signing showing the properties of the stored hazardous waste should be provided.
- Proper safety and firefighting equipment should be provided as per the civil defense requirements.
- Communication system to the main office or the responsible persons in case of any emergencies.
- Waste generator shall do the necessary action to lower the chances of mixing the stormwater with any other type of waste or contaminants.
- The MSDS of all stored hazardous waste should be available.
- The storage area of hazardous waste should be always clean.
- A spill Kit should be available in the waste storage.

- **Labeling requirement**

Ensure all waste containers are accurately labeled and dated as soon as waste accumulation begins. Labeling should include the type of waste, its hazard class, and any other prevalent details that may be needed. Failure to properly label hazardous waste containers is one of the most commonly cited violations for material storage.

- **Maintaining Spills and Leaks**

There should be no visible signs of spillage or contamination, whether the waste is being stored on the floor or in a cabinet. This applies to both storage containers and secondary storage containers.

Containers must be always capped to prevent spills or evaporation, which is not a legal means of disposal. The waste generator must immediately clean up any spilled materials in waste storage areas, but keep in mind that liquid and solid hazardous waste cannot be poured down the drain or put in the trash.

The waste generator should have a database of all stored hazardous waste and should be available upon request from the EA. All hazardous waste stored on-site should be reported in each EPR as per SOHAR Environmental Performance Reporting Guideline². waste generator shall obtain a waste management license from EA to store the waste onsite after the storage area is approved by CDAA. Below are the contact details to obtain the license from EA:

- Email: said.alfazari@ea.gov.om, Phone number: 26641805
- Email: suliemman.albulushi@ea.gov.om, Phone number: 26641868

5.2.3 Obtain CDAA Hazardous Waste Storage license

Civil Defense and Ambulance Authority is the authority to permit any hazardous Waste Storage area. The license will be issued after a site inspection by the CDAA team. The license application will consider the security and safety of hazardous waste storage places which will be submitted at the initial stage of the project. The application should clarify the type of materials, the storage location, the quantities to be stored, and the preventive precautions that will be provided during the implementation of the project.

The following is a list of documents to be submitted to Civil Defense and Ambulance Authority to obtain a hazardous waste storage license:

1. A copy of the ID card of the owner of the plot of land (for private establishments) issued by the Royal Oman Police.
2. copy of the valid commercial registration issued by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
3. copy of the ownership of the land and the croquet or proof thereof issued by the Ministry of Housing.
4. Copies of environmental licenses for waste to be stored issued by the Environment Authority.
5. Hazardous waste information, its properties, and how dangerous they are.
6. The contingency plan shows how to deal with waste in emergencies with the need to submit the MSDS material safety data sheet.
7. submit (3) copies of the project plans at a scale of at least 100:1 indicating the storage location and protective equipment related to the project with the placement of notes of the General Authority for Civil Defense and Ambulance on the plans.
8. All statements must be written in Arabic and English.
9. Any modifications or additions to the sites whose plans are approved must be approved by the Authority before being implemented.
10. A letter from the SOHAR Port and Freezone addressed to the Civil Defense and Ambulance Authority confirming their approval of the request.

² Refer to SOHAR Environmental Performance Guideline:
<https://soharportandfreezone.om/PDF/Environmental%20Performance%20Reporting%20Guidelines%20-%20Public.pdf>

5.3 Recycling of Industrial Waste

Waste recycling is recommended to turn waste into valuable products to minimize the amount of landfilled waste. There are three ways of recycling industrial waste for operating companies in SOHAR which are:

- Recycling within the SOHAR Freezone area.
- Recycling outside SOHAR Freezone; and
- Recycling outside Oman.

Each option of recycling mentioned above has different procedures and approvals to be obtained as the following:

5.3.1 Recycling within the SOHAR Freezone area

Some companies can take the waste or by-products of other tenants as raw materials for their process. Sending the waste within Freezone tenants for recycling purposes does not need any requirements and it is free of charge. The waste generator shall directly contact and coordinate with the waste receiver within the area to send the waste/by-products to them. SOHAR does support the waste synergy concept and shall be approached in case additional support is needed in this regard.

5.3.2 Recycling outside SOHAR Freezone

A waste generator who intends to recycle the waste in the local facilities within Oman should get the following approvals:

- Consignment note from EA if the waste is hazardous and NOL from EA if the waste is non-hazardous. Below is the contact detail to get the CN and NOL for both hazardous and non-hazardous waste:
 - o Email: said.alfazari@ea.gov.om, Phone number: 26641805
 - o Email: suliaman.albulushi@ea.gov.om, Phone number: 26641868
- Customs approval through the bayan system to obtain custom declaration. Taxes will be applicable after the assessment process by customs depending on the type of waste exported from the Freezone to the local markets.

5.3.3 Recycling outside the country.

A waste generator that intends to recycle the waste outside Oman should get the following approvals:

- EA approval by obtaining Basel convention from EA (Department of waste management) through the EA website³
- Customs approval through the bayan system to obtain custom declaration. Taxes will not be applicable for Freezone tenants.

³ Environment Authority website:
<https://eservices.ea.gov.om/eservices/Common/ITALogin.aspx?lng=ar>

5.4 Disposal of Industrial Waste

Disposal of industrial waste (hazardous and non-hazardous) shall be done through be'ah which mainly consists of the following procedures:

1. Waste generator shall submit their waste disposal request to be'ah⁴ and shall include the following:
 - Company name, location, and working field (company profile).
 - Annual waste forecast if available in excel.
 - List of waste in stock along with quantities & packaging method.
 - Location of waste.
 - Photos showing the waste inside the packaging.
 - Brief description of how the waste has been generated.
 - Waste related documents (MSDS, lab test, etc.).
 - All the above shall be sent to iw@beah.om.
2. Waste Generator shall register on the online manifest system⁵ and submit their manifest electronically through the website.
3. Be'ah will review the waste generator waste through the submitted online manifest.
4. There will be a certain type of packaging for the waste which will be shared with the Waste Generator through the manifest process.
5. The approved Hazardous waste transporter should be assigned by the waste generator from the online manifest system. After getting the approved hazardous waste transporter, the waste generator shall contact EA to obtain CN from EA if the waste is hazardous and NOL from EA if the waste is non-hazardous. Below is the contact detail to get the CN and NOL for both hazardous and non-hazardous waste:
 - o Email: said.alfazari@ea.gov.om, Phone number: 26641805
 - o Email: suliman.albulushi@ea.gov.om, Phone number: 26641868
6. The Waste Generator should agree with the b'eah treatment facility on the date of shipping and plan with the hazardous waste transporter. The tenant (Waste Generator) shall provide the transporter with all original documents to carry them throughout the transportation.
7. Once the waste is received by be'ah, the shipment will be checked & verified with all documents submitted, after validation the weight is taken, and the waste goes for disposal/treatment an invoice will be sent to the waste generator along with the completed/closed manifest and the weighing report.

⁴ Request email to be send to: iw@beah.om

⁵ Be'ah website to fill the manifest: <https://www.beah.om/HWM/Manifest-Services/?lang=en-us>

6 Municipal Waste Management

6.1 General Introduction

Municipal solid waste includes any waste that causes no harm to human or environmental health when it does not mix with any other hazardous materials. It is produced by any individuals and households as they go about their lives. This can be from a business or household producer and can include general household waste like food or bathroom rubbish, given this, management of municipal wastes including their disposal in an environmentally friendly and economically viable way is very important. Hence, this section will discuss municipal solid waste management considering storage and disposal.

6.2 Storage of Municipal Waste

All municipal solid wastes shall be stored in such a manner that they do not constitute a fire, health, or safety hazard or provide food for vectors and shall be contained or bundled so as not to result in spillage. All municipal solid waste containing food wastes shall be securely stored in covered or closed containers which are nonabsorbent, leakproof, durable, easily cleanable (if reusable), and designed for safe handling. In addition, Containers shall be maintained in a clean condition so that they do not constitute a nuisance, and to retard the harborage, feeding, and breeding of vectors. When serviced, storage containers should be emptied of all municipal solid waste.

Although storing municipal solid waste does not need a license, all municipal solid waste should be reported in each EPR as per SOHAR EPR guidelines.

The waste generators should follow the minimum requirements for storing municipal solid waste on-site as follows:

- Mixing hazardous waste with municipal non-hazardous waste is NOT allowed in any case.
- All municipal solid waste should be segregated and labeled.
- The quantity of recyclable non-hazardous municipal waste stored on-site should be minimal.
- Storage facilities or bins shall have an 'easy-to-operate design for handling, transfer, and transportation of waste.
- Municipal solid waste storage containers shall be properly maintained to inhibit the harborage of vectors and to minimize odors.
- Areas around municipal solid waste storage containers shall be properly maintained to prevent hazards to health and the environment.
- Bins for storage of bio-degradable wastes shall be painted green, those for storage of recyclable wastes shall be painted white and those for storage of other wastes shall be painted black.

6.3 Disposal of Municipal Waste

The waste generator can dispose of municipal solid waste by sending it to be'ah municipal waste landfill. The waste generator can assign a transporter company to transport the municipal solid waste to be'ah municipal waste landfill and NOL shall be obtained from EA, below are the contact details to obtain the NOL:

- Email: said.alfazari@ea.gov.om, Phone number: 26641805
- Email: suliaman.albulushi@ea.gov.om, Phone number: 26641868

Taxes are not applicable for this type of waste.

7 Construction and Demolition Waste Management

7.1 General introduction

Construction and Demolition (C&D) waste is generated when new building and civil-engineering structures are built and when existing buildings and civil-engineering structures are renovated or demolished (including demolition activities). Civil-engineering structures include public works projects, such as streets and highways, bridges, utility plants, piers, and dams. C&D waste often contains bulky, heavy materials such as:

- Concrete
- Wood (from buildings)
- Asphalt (from roads and roofing shingles)
- Gypsum (the main component of drywall)
- Metals
- Bricks
- Glass
- Unwanted soil
- Plastics
- furniture
- Salvaged building components (doors, windows, and plumbing fixtures)
- Trees, stumps, earth, and rock from clearing sites

Therefore, this section will discuss C&D waste management considering storage, recycling, and disposal.

7.2 Storage of C&D Waste

These wastes are best stored at the source, i.e., at the point of generation. If they are scattered around or thrown on the road, they not only obstruct traffic but also add to the workload of the waste generator itself. The waste generator should stick to the following measures:

- All construction/demolition waste should be stored within the site itself.
- Attempts should be made to keep the waste segregated into different heaps as far as possible to facilitate their further collection and reuse.
- Material, which can be reused at the same site for construction, leveling, making road/pavement, etc. should also be kept in separate heaps from those, which are to be sold or landfilled.
- A waste generator can arrange with a local body or a private company to provide an appropriate number of containers that may be parked at the site to collect the materials on it.

7.3 Recycling C&D Waste

Many building components can be recycled where markets exist. The use of these materials depends on their separation and condition of the material. A majority of these materials are durable and therefore, have a high potential for reuse. Construction and demolition waste can be used in the following manner:

- Asphalt, concrete is often recycled into aggregate or new asphalt and concrete products.
- Wood can be recycled into engineered wood products like furniture, as well as mulch, compost, and other products.
- Plastics, broken glass, and Metals including steel, copper, and brass are also valuable commodities to recycle.
- Reuse (at the site) bricks, stone slabs, timber, conduits, piping railings, etc. to the extent possible and depending upon their condition.
- Unwanted soil can be sent for filling up low-lying areas, in this case, the waste generator should communicate SIPC⁶ before disposing of the unwanted soil outside SOHAR Freezone.

If the waste generator intends to export the C&D waste outside Oman for recycling purposes; an export permit should be obtained from EA and the material will be exempt from customs taxes if the recycling facility does not exist in the local market.

The priority is for local recycling facilities and the waste generator should obtain an export permit to send the waste outside Freezone. The waste material will not be exempt from customs taxes if it goes to the local market and should obtain custom declaration through the bayan system.

7.4 Disposal of C&D Waste

Waste generators shall dispose of their construction and demolition waste at the be'ah C&D waste landfill. Close coordination between the waste generator and be'ah is essential to dispose of the material. Be'ah can accept the C&D waste after the assessment of waste. The assessment is conducted when the waste reaches the be'ah site. If the waste is mixed with any other hazardous material; be'ah will not accept the waste. Therefore, the waste generator should do the segregation all types of C&D waste before disposing of it in the be'ah C&D waste landfill. Taxes are not applicable for this type of waste.

The waste generator should get a waste exit permit which is called a no objection letter (NOL) from EA to dispose of C&D waste to be'ah C&D waste landfill through the below contact details:

- Email: said.alfazari@ea.gov.om, Phone number: 26641805
- Email: sulيمان.albulushi@ea.gov.om, Phone number: 26641868

⁶ Send email to environment@soharportandfreezone.com or oss@soharportandfreezone.com

