



## C & D Waste Management Protocol

The European Union reissued its 'EU Construction and Demolition Waste Management Protocol' in August 2024. It also contains new guidelines for 'pre-demolition and pre-renovation audits', i.e. investigations prior to demolition or renovation.

The paper emphasises the importance of this largest waste stream in Europe. A separate management system is therefore required for construction waste, which has a significant impact on the environment, economy and society.

Specific reference is made to six processes:

### *1. identification of waste streams through preceding audits (before demolition or renovation)*

The aim here is to record potential qualitatively and quantitatively, recognise hazardous substances and determine waste streams. Special reference is made to the fact that both planning studies and inspections as well as sampling are necessary. Specially trained auditors are considered important.

### *2. selective dismantling*

Selective dismantling should provide for the recovery of materials, the removal of hazardous substances and the separation of reusable or recyclable substances. A demolition plan should be used for this purpose.

### *3. waste logistics*

The aim is to minimise transport distances, avoid dust and other environmental risks.

### *4. waste treatment*

Specific reference is made to the waste hierarchy, which is to be adhered to. Particular attention is paid to on-site or off-site reuse.

### *5. quality management*

Quality is to be ensured at all stages (audits, dismantling, logistics, waste treatment). This includes monitoring, documentation, certification, product status and end-of-waste criteria.

### *6. political environment*

The protocol contains recommendations for authorities to develop appropriate strategies, regulations and mechanisms for binding compliance.



The 90-page paper begins by pointing out that reuse and preparation for recycling are not sufficiently implemented in the member states. The document contains examples and best practice cases from various European countries in the following areas:

- Identification of construction waste through prerequisite audits
- Selective deconstruction
- Separation of raw materials at source incl. collection of raw materials
- Preparation for reuse and recycling
- Waste logistics
- Waste processing
- Quality management
- Framework legal requirements

It should be noted that advance audits for deconstruction and renovation have now been introduced in many countries. These form the basis for qualitative and quantitative statements on construction waste.

One chapter is dedicated to renovation, which is recommended as a better solution in many cases. The digital building book is intended to provide assistance in this regard.

Another chapter is dedicated to audits. Throughout Europe, these audits are typically carried out by the building owner.

The aim of the audits is to

- Identify and localise hazardous waste.
- to create an inventory of non-hazardous waste.
- Identify building components and materials for reuse and recycling.
- To collect information for the owner or authority regarding the value of demolition materials and their demolition materials and their footprint.

Austria is cited as an example of best practice, where ÖNORM B 3151 prescribes such audits above a certain size.

The requirements for the auditor are defined in terms of qualifications and training/continuing education. With regard to independence, neutrality and independence are required, in particular from the executing or demolition company.

In a further chapter, selective demolition is explained in detail. This should begin with a demolition plan, which should be process orientated. The Austrian standard, ÖNORM B 3151, is also mentioned as a leading example with regard to the list of contaminants.



With regard to waste logistics, particular attention is paid to short distances for the transport of construction waste.

With regard to waste treatment, reference is made to on-site and reuse on other construction sites. Preparation for reuse must be massively strengthened and a market for these products must be established. Sweden, which offers a database for used products, is cited as an example of this.

The final chapter deals with framework conditions. It is recommended that appropriate harmonised European standards or EADs be initiated for the reuse of materials in accordance with the Construction Products Regulation. The limitation of landfilling or a ban on landfilling are powerful instruments for strengthening the market for recycled products. In addition, economic instruments such as taxes (landfill taxes, incineration taxes), deposit charges and detailed producer responsibilities are cited. The necessity of public tenders for the use of recycled construction materials and the reuse of construction elements is also discussed.

The EU C&D Waste Management Protocol can be downloaded free of charge from the Internet at:  
[EU Construction & Demolition Waste Management Protocol including guidelines for pre-demolition and pre-renovation audits of construction works - Publications Office of the EU \(europa.eu\)](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/tgm/table.do?tab=table&init=1&language=en&code=sdg12.3.1&plugin=1).

Further language versions are expected to be available by the end of the year.