

Site Waste Management Plans

Guidance Note

The introduction of Site Waste Management Plans and the impact on the delivery of Projects under PPC2000

1. Background

Site Waste Management Plans are due to become a legal requirement for all construction projects from April 2008. In order to meet this deadline the Project Teams need to be aware of the requirements and ensure that the paperwork is in place for projects commencing on Site after April 2008.

Whilst the Plans will add a further raft of paperwork to the Project they provide a real opportunity to review, assess and hopefully reduce the amount of waste produced. A frightening statistic is that on average 13% of materials delivered to Site end up in a skip. If the Plans assist in reducing this level of waste there is the opportunity to reduce costs.

2. Impact on procedures and documentation

Documentation

It is suggested that the following minor changes are made to the documentation:

- A Special Term is included in the Project Partnering Agreement stating that, in addition to the items listed in clause 14 of the contract, the submission of an acceptable Site Waste Management Plan is a condition precedent to commencing on Site
- The standard form of the Commencement Agreement is amended so that the appendices include the Site Waste Management Plan.

Procedures

Site Waste Management Plans are new to the Constructors as well as the rest of the Project Team. It is suggested that:

- For the first few Projects to be caught by the new legislation, the Constructor is asked to provide the format of the Plan at an early stage. This will enable the Client Representative to review the proposed content and confirm that this is in line with expectations.
- The Site Waste Management Plans produced for the first project are reviewed so that best practice can be identified and shared.

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3. Site Waste Management Plans – further information

What are Site Waste Management Plans?

Powers were included in the Clean Neighbourhood and Environment Act 2005 for regulations requiring a Site Waste Management plan (SWMP) for works involving construction or demolition waste. Following the voluntary code of practice launched by DTI in 2004, Defra has developed proposals for compulsory site waste management plans in England (consultation is on-going in Wales).

Construction waste is a big problem. The UK produces around 400 million tonnes of waste annually, of which about 72 million tonnes comes from construction sites. On average, 13% of all materials delivered to a construction site end in a skip without ever being used. With the average value of material waste at around £1200 per skip load, construction waste is not only harmful to the environment, but is a financial issue.

The aim of a SWMP is to help reduce the amount of waste produced on construction sites and reduce waste crime such as fly tipping. A SWMP aims to complete this task by providing a structured process for waste delivery and disposal throughout a construction project.

In brief, an SWMP should identify:

- The different types of waste that will be produced by the project
- Who will be responsible for resource management
- How the waste will be managed – recycled, reused or reduced?
- How the quantity of waste will be measured
- Which contractors will be used to ensure the waste is correctly recycled or disposed of in a responsible and legal manner.
- Note any changes in design that seek to minimise waste

When will SWMP's come into effect?

From April 2008 the Government intends to make SWMP's a legal requirement in England for any construction projects of sufficient size and value. Basic information is required for projects over £250k, with additional information required for larger projects over £500k in value.

Who will be affected?

Site waste management plans will affect:

- Anyone planning a construction project costing more than £250k
- Suppliers to the industry
- Environmental regulators such as local authorities and the Environment Agency

Once regulations are introduced, it will become the responsibility of the Principal Contractor for a project to nominate a suitable person to draw up and implement the SWMP. Each construction project will require its own SWMP.

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What benefits can come from a SWMP?

From a financial point of view, a SWMP can increase profits through better resource management. It can also be an invaluable tool to show the Project Team where both environmental and cost savings are being made.

Further benefits that come from tracking construction waste include:

- Helping your business avoid prosecution by ensuring all waste is disposed of in the correct and legal way
- Any queries from environmental regulators or the local council regarding site waste can be answered simply and quickly saving time
- Once complete an SWMP will show how resources have been used and become a valuable source of information for future projects

Need to know more?

There are a number of useful Sites on the Internet. These include:

DEFRA (www.defra.gov.uk)

NetRegs (www.netregs.gov.uk) [includes a free guide and checklist]

Department of Trade and Industry - www.dti.gov.uk

CIRIA - www.ciria.org.uk

The National Industrial Symbiosis Programme (NISP) – www.nisp.org.uk

The Carbon Trust – www.carbon-trust.com

The Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) have developed workshop materials to help companies implement SWMP's. To find out more visit www.wrap.org.uk.

A number of FREE SWMP events are to be held by Envirowise across England, starting in January 2008. To find out more visit www.envirowise.gov.uk.