Persimmon | Health, Safety & Environment Department

Resource Management Standards

Contents

1. Introduction

The purpose of these resource management standards is to provide the framework for the management of materials, supporting resource efficiency and control of waste from our sites and offices.

Everyone has a role to play in ensuring we operate in an efficient manner; whether it be through the design of our buildings or how we manage/ store materials on site.

2. Definitions

Materials are products and surplus materials, including offcuts that may be used as originally intended, if stored carefully with clear housekeeping discipline and in a form that would allow them to be used, without change i.e. noggin box.

Waste is “any substance or object that the holder discards, intends to discard, or is required to discard”, often as a result of poor storage, over order or misuse, rendering them waste.

3. Planning of construction site activities

Throughout the construction process the project team should seek to use materials that have a low environmental impact. Specifically, project teams should, where appropriate, consider the use of:

- Low environmental impact materials
- Local materials and products, wherever practicable
- Timber from sustainable sources (i.e., approved by the Forestry Stewardship Council (FSC) or Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC)
- Reprocessed and recycled components and materials (e.g., recycled aggregates)
- Durable materials and products
- Building materials that can be recovered, reused and / or recycled.

Additionally, we should avoid the excessive over ordering of construction related materials to avoid unnecessary waste being generated.

Furthermore, where office equipment is to be procured for use during construction activities, we should ensure that the most energy and water efficient equipment, within commercial restrictions, is procured.

4. Resource efficiency

4.1 Timber

Timber is a renewable material; we must ensure that the timber delivered to site has been sourced from legally managed forests. In addition, preference is for timber to be supplied from FSC or PEFC certified forests, providing both legal and sustainable assurance of the timber's origin. Chain of Custody information will be required.

4. Resource efficiency

4.2 Energy

Carbon is a basic metric (measured as Equivalent Carbon or CO^2e) for the efficient use of energy, whether in the materials we use in construction (embodied carbon or energy) or in the energy used (operational carbon or energy) to deliver the building services.

Carbon emissions and air quality procedures are addressed in the Pollution Prevention Standard; energy is a primary resource for operational performance, with onsite generation or diesel use in excavation and demolition plant being principle demands in the site's operational carbon footprint.

We must prioritise an early grid connection over generators; helping to avoid nuisance and mitigate risk of pollution, as well as gain significant carbon savings. Where sites require temporary power from generators, the Commercial Department should prioritise procurement of hybrid generators (with battery packs), where cost effective to do so.

We must ensure we monitor energy use from our own operations and those of our supply chain to measure operational performance.

4. Resource efficiency

4.3 Water

Water is a valuable natural resource to habitats and life. Conserving and protecting water use in construction through efficient use of this natural resource is an important role we can play in our sector to preventing wastage of this essential resource.

We must ensure that appropriate water efficiency measures are employed to minimise water consumption, where practicable. Such measures should include:

- Optimising work practices that use large quantities of water e.g., effectively planning cleaning schedules and dust suppression activities
- Using technologies and work practices that conserve water e.g., use of efficient fittings and appliances and rainwater collection systems
- Adopting good housekeeping measures e.g., reporting and fixing of leaks. All water using plant and equipment (including domestic appliances in staff kitchens and common rooms) should be maintained to assure the efficient use of water.

5. Materials management and resource efficiency

We must ensure that all construction related materials are handled and stored to prevent:

- Damage
- Degradation of material quality characteristics
- Contamination of the material and / or the external environment
- Excessively long on-site storage periods
- Loss through theft and vandalism.

Refer to EMS standards – Waste Management

6. Monitoring

The Site Manager is responsible for reviewing working practices and ensuring that materials and resources are used as efficiently as possible, via both daily and weekly site checks i.e. checking for leaks, good housekeeping practices etc.

The Group HS&E Advisor will support teams via regular site HS&E inspections.

7. Further Reading

Refer to:
EMS guidance – Recycled Aggregate Purchasing & Use (England & Wales)
EMS guidance – Incinerator Bottom Ash Aggregate (England)
EMS guidance – Incinerator Bottom Ash Aggregate (Scotland)
EMS guidance – Waste Storage & Segregation
EMS guidance – Reusing Excavation Materials
EMS guidance – Environment Guide Getting Your Site Right