



Technical information

Disposal of fabric expansion joints

RAL-GZ 719

TI-019

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1. Legal situation

The legal situation is uniform throughout Europe and is governed by the EU Directive on Waste 2008/98/EC.

According to this, fabric expansion joints are also "commercial municipal waste", regardless of their components. These can be: carrier fabric, elastomers, thermoplastics (see also RAL-GZ 719, 2.1.1 and 3.1.1).

This "commercial municipal waste" should be recycled where possible.

The EU Directive on Waste is implemented in Germany by closed substance cycle waste Management Act, specifically regulated by the Industrial Waste Ordinance, implemented in practice through the enforcement aid Industrial Waste Ordinance (LAGA Notice 34).

2. What to do with the no longer used fabric expansion joints?

If the fabric expansion joint is no longer needed, it is by definition waste. The owner is responsible for disposal.

It must be collected separately, i.e. separate the steel and fabric material parts and, if necessary, the insulating materials, document this and commission a suitable disposal company. A further separation is not advisable, possibly harmful to health due to contamination as a result of any special application conditions.

3. Fabric expansion joints with PTFE components as waste

PTFE is not hazardous waste in the sense of the European Waste List, as long as the soft-material compensator has not been contaminated with hazardous substances in its application.

Decisive for the disposal:

- Recycling is currently not practicable due to the lack of suitable recycling facilities.
- Transfer to an incineration plant is permissible, but by definition, at a calorific value of well below 6,000 kJ/kg, this does not represent energy recovery, but only thermal recovery. Incineration is only permissible in plants with a combustion temperature of more than 800°C with appropriate filter systems.

Dumping is permissible and meaningful.

**Edited by the Quality Committee of the Quality Association
for Fabric Expansion Joints**