



Technical information

Disposal of fabric expansion joints

RAL-GZ 719

TI-019

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1. Legal status

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

According to this, fabric expansion joints are "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.

2. What to do with the discarded fabric expansion joints?

Once a fabric expansion joint is discarded, the owner is responsible for disposing the material.

Waste material 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 List of Waste, 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.
- Therefore, dumping is permissible and meaningful.

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