

Bad Practice

Fluorescent Tubes

Ensure correct disposal

A recent audit by our hazardous waste collector revealed that the fluorescent tube containers were contaminated with other waste including cardboard sleeves, plastic bags, and general debris. These were also a health and safety issue because the containers were overloaded, and some of the tubes were broken. We have also had incorrect disposal of fluorescent tubes on site.

This photo illustrates irresponsible disposal of construction waste. Fortunately this skip was intercepted before it was removed. The skip shows bad waste management and terrible environmental consideration. The cables should be recycled in a metals only waste bin. The fluorescent light tubes should be separated and put into fluorescent tube cases for hazardous waste disposal.

The Issue

The contamination by the other waste streams results in the containers being rejected by the processor. This can then result in a fine for our company. Contaminated and over loaded containers can also be issued with a non-conformance note by the waste carrier resulting in the containers being left on site.

Corrective Action

The fluorescent tubes were removed from the skip immediately. The components were separated and tubes placed in designated area.

An environment bulletin was issued and the issue was briefed to site operatives who would be directly involved with fluorescent tube disposal.

