

Recycled Gypsum Ordinance

Simplified outcome-oriented impact assessment

Submitting body: BMK (Federal Ministry for Climate Protection, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology)
Project type: Regulation
Current fiscal year: 2024
Entry into force/
effective date: 2024

Preamble

Analysis of the problem

Gypsum is a construction material that is becoming increasingly rare, as primary resources are limited and FGD gypsum (flue gas desulphurisation gypsum) from coal and lignite power plants is no longer available due to their successive shutdown. Gypsum waste particularly accumulates in the form of plasterboard waste, but also as calcium sulphate screed waste (in the form of anhydrite) during the dismantling of building structures.

According to the 2023 Federal Waste Management Plan, almost all gypsum is currently sent to landfill; in 2019, about 49 000 tonnes of waste of the type SN 31438 'Gypsum' was deposited in landfill sites, and about 4 000 tonnes was transferred to treatment plants for mineral building residues. The potential is estimated to be greater (approximately 100 000 tonnes), as gypsum waste from the construction sector is currently also being disposed of in mixed construction waste skips under other types of waste (e.g. SN 31409 or SN 91206). In the plasterboard industry, about 30-40 % of the stone raw materials used can be substituted by recycled gypsum (in the form of dihydrate). Recycled gypsum from gypsum waste that is currently sent to landfill could be fully recovered in Austrian plasterboard plants.

Those affected include building contractors and producers, collectors and handlers of gypsum waste as well as treatment plants for gypsum waste.

Objective(s)

Gypsum waste, primarily plasterboard waste, is well suited to being reused to produce new plasterboard after appropriate treatment (closed-loop recycling). The recirculation of such waste also leads to the conservation of natural resources and landfill space, and to improvements in the effect of waste disposal at landfill sites and in the quality of recycled construction materials due to the reduction in sulphate content, while ensuring at the same time that the high demand for gypsum can be met.

Contents

The proposed legislation consists mainly of the following measure(s):

In order to promote the circular economy, this Ordinance intends to introduce a separation obligation on the construction site, inter alia, for plasterboard. This fulfils the measures to promote selective demolition that are required for gypsum (see Article 11 of Directive 2008/98/EC on waste).

Where specific quality, treatment and quality assurance requirements are met, it should be possible for the owner of the gypsum waste to declare end-of-waste status for the intended use (production of plasterboard in the construction sector). These criteria are designed to ensure a high level of environmental protection and meet the requirements for subsequent uses.

Contribution to outcome objective or measure in the federal budget

The proposed legislation contributes to the outcome objective 'Sustainable use of resources, increasing the circular economy, decoupling the share of waste to be disposed of from economic growth' in subsection 43 Climate, Environment and Energy.

The current measure does not have any financial impact on the Federal Government, provinces, municipalities or social insurance agencies.

Relationship with European Union legislation

The project aims to implement the 5-step waste hierarchy of the Waste Directive, Directive 2008/98/EC.

Data protection impact assessment pursuant to Article 35, EU General Data Protection Regulation

The intended data processing mainly concerns non-natural persons (companies collecting or treating waste). There is therefore no significant risk to the rights and freedoms of the data subjects.

This impact assessment was prepared with version 5.12 of the WFA tool (hash ID: 1556065250).