



TRACIMAT – Tracing Construction and Demolition Waste Materials

To qualify for upcycling, recycled construction and demolition materials must be of good quality. It is equally important that users of the recycled material must have faith in this quality. These are two reasons why the Flemish Construction Confederation (VCB) together with the Federation of Producers of Recycling Granulates (FPRG), the Belgian Demolition Association (CASO) and the Organisation representing the engineering and consultancy companies (ORI) have founded Tracimat, a non-profit construction and demolition waste (CDW) management organisation.

Recently – end of August – the Flemish Minister of Environment, Nature and Agriculture has officially recognised Tracimat as CDW management organisation.

CDW management organisation?

A construction and demolition waste management organisation like Tracimat will certify the selective demolition, thereby assuring the processing company of the quality of the input construction and demolition waste.

Through an elaborated traceability system Tracimat will monitor and supervise the selective demolition process. The tracing procedure starts with an identification of the materials that will be set free during the deconstruction and demolition of the building, and follows up on what happens with these materials during the selective demolition works. Environmental risks during deconstruction and demolition will consequently be limited, hazardous waste materials will be correctly and – even more important – safely removed, and purer waste streams will emerge.

Based on intermediate inspections at demolition sites and desk control of the discharge certificates/processing documents, Tracimat will check if its traceability system has been correctly applied and deliver necessary documents and certificates.

Why waste management?

To enhance quality of the recycled aggregates a more pure stony fraction is needed at the gate of the producers of recycled aggregates. Hence the necessity to elaborate a traceability system that guarantees the selective collection of the stony waste, traces it from its point of origin down to the gate of the processing company, and as such assures the processing company of the environmental quality of the input (selectively collected) stony waste.

Purer waste streams will not only lead to high-quality recycled aggregates, but will also create a greater upcycling potential. This in turn opens up opportunities for incorporation into more high-quality applications than today's current practice. As the demolition waste comes with a certificate issued by a recognised and independent organisation, this will enhance trust not only in the quality of the waste material, but also in the quality of the demolishing company. It will also boost trust in the recycled product, resulting in improved and more widespread marketing of recycled aggregates.

Feasibility?

Tracimat is legally incorporated into the Flemish environmental regulation (Vlarema) and operates in feedback with the Common Regulation for Recycled Aggregates (ER), allowing it to trace construction and demolition materials down to the crusher. In the ER, which establishes the requirements to be met by crushers and aggregates in Flanders, a significant amendment has been introduced which requires crushers to distinguish between materials with a low environmental risk (LMRP) and materials with a high environmental risk (HMRP) at the time of acceptance. The ER also provides that LMRP streams can be processed more cheaply than HMRP streams. Demolition waste from a selective demolition monitored and certified by Tracimat can be accepted as low environmental risk.



State of play?

As Tracimat has been officially recognised by the Minister, Tracimat can now start applying its traceability and quality management system. The development of the traceability system has been carried out in close collaboration with all stakeholders. In this way, acceptance is ensured from the outset, thereby increasing the chances of success.

The new LMRP/HMRP acceptance policy at the gate of the crusher will be implemented in one year, giving all the involved partners in the chain the opportunity to prepare themselves.

More information: www.tracimat.be

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