

Assignment to an AVV¹ entry according to the content of artificial mineral fibres

Several types of automotive catalytic converters may be distinguished. The catalytically active platinum group metals are dispersed on a metallic or ceramic support (monolith); in practice metallic supports are rarely used.

Ceramic monoliths are very fragile, for this reason they are imbedded in a mat of artificial mineral fibres. From these mats particles may arise, which are classified as carcinogenic.

Therefore not dismantled automotive catalytic converters based on ceramic monolith are classified as hazardous waste to AVV entry 16 08 07* (spent catalysts contaminated with dangerous substances).

On the other hand, automotive catalytic converters with metallic monoliths may be classified to AVV entry 16 08 01 (spent catalysts containing gold, silver, rhenium, rhodium, palladium, iridium or platinum (except 16 08 07)).

In most cases discarded automotive catalyst converters were not divided into metallic or ceramic monolith fractions at the point of origin.

Because of the fact, that ceramic monoliths are most commonly used, it may be assumed, they will present the major proportion.

For precautionary reasons these mixtures of converters are classified to AVV entry 16 08 07*.

Note: In very rare cases ceramic monoliths are protected by metallic fabric (e. g. Inconel®). This type of catalyst converters should be classified to AVV entry 16 08 01.

¹ Abbr. for "Abfallverzeichnis-Verordnung", translated: German Waste Catalogue Ordinance. Entries and designations of the AVV comply with those of the European list of wastes (Decision 2000/532/EC)