

Assignment to an AVV¹ entry according to the characteristics of fibres

The artificial mineral fibres (AMF) mainly include mineral wool insulation products (glass wool, rock wool) and the textile glass or ceramic fibres. AMF possesses similar technical characteristics as asbestos and may also release respirable fibres. Depending on the composition of these fibres they are non-carcinogenic or carcinogenic in different degrees. Recognising this, the composition of AMF wastes is crucial for the correct assignment of the waste code.

Carcinogenic AMF had been produced in Germany until the year 1996. In practice they are called “old” mineral wool insulation products. Since 1996 non-carcinogenic and also carcinogenic AMF had been manufactured in Germany.

The manufacturing, placing on the market and using of carcinogenic mineral fibres is prohibited in Germany since 1. June 2000. So called “new” mineral fibres are acquired after this reference day and are assumed to be non-carcinogenic. Only these mineral wools are marked with an RAL² quality label.

It follows that all AMF without RAL quality label and also those bought before 1. June 2000 have to be classified as carcinogen, if the contrary isn't proven. Consequently they are hazardous waste and have to be assigned to the AVV entry **17 06 03*** (Other insulation materials consisting of or containing dangerous substances).

“New” AMF, which are to be considered as non-carcinogenic (AMF produced later than 1. June 2000, AMF with RAL quality label) should be assigned to the AVV entry **17 06 04** (Insulation materials other than those mentioned in 17 06 01 and 17 06 03) as non-hazardous waste.

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)

² RAL: the German institute of quality assurance and labelling