

Fact sheet



Definition

Recovered railway ballast is free draining coarse natural aggregate of high strength and a minimum particle size of 9.5 mm.

Waste Classification

Recovered railway ballast is classified as General Solid Waste (non-putrescible).

Beneficial re-use

Recovered railway ballast can be beneficially re-used off-site for building and maintaining railway infrastructure or for road making activities.

Recovered railway ballast may be sent off-site to a place that can legally accept this material for reuse or reprocessing. Off-site reuse must be undertaken in compliance with all conditions of the EPA's [Recovered railway ballast order 2014](#) and [Recovered railway ballast exemption 2014](#).

Prior to supplying recovered railway ballast off-site, the processor must certify that the material complies with the relevant conditions of the Recovered railway ballast order and provide the off-site consumer with:

- A written statement of compliance, certifying that the recovered railway ballast complies with the conditions of the Recovered railway ballast order.
- Copies of all test results (see below).
- A copy of the Recovered railway ballast exemption, or a link to the EPA website where the Recovered railway ballast exemption can be found.
- A copy of the Recovered railway ballast order, or a link to the EPA website where the Recovered railway ballast order can be found.

The generator must keep a written record of the quantity of recovered railway ballast supplied, and the name and address of each person to whom the processor supplied the recovered railway ballast. Records must be kept for six years.

Receiving recovered railway ballast from an off-site source requires that you ensure the recovered railway ballast complies with the relevant conditions of the Recovered railway ballast exemption and:

- Meets all chemical and other material requirements as per the Recovered railway ballast order.
- Is only applied to land for building or maintaining railway infrastructure or for road making activities.
- Is applied to land within a reasonable period of time after its receipt.

A consumer must keep records of the quantity of recovered railway ballast received and the supplier's name and address. These records must be kept for six years.

Important information

Sydney Trains operates a ballast recycling facility at the Chullora Rail Yards. This facility is licensed to accept railway ballast, concrete and soil (rail ballast spoil) derived from rail track maintenance activities which is classified as general solid waste (non-putrescible). This facility processes ballast spoil to produce various products including recovered railway ballast. When onsite processing of ballast spoil cannot be undertaken, materials should be sent to Sydney Trains ballast recycling facility, where possible.

Testing requirements

Recovered railway ballast must be sampled, tested and contain contaminant levels less than the criteria listed in the Recovered railway ballast order before the material is transported to the receiving site. Sample collection and testing methodology is detailed in the Recovered railway ballast order. Note there are different sampling requirements for recovered railway ballast generated as part of a continuous process and recovered railway ballast that is not.

Written records of all test reports must be kept for a period of six years.

Transporting requirements

It is a Transport requirement that records must be kept for a period of six years and include as a minimum:

- [Notice under section 143](#)
- amount of recovered railway ballast generated, stored, treated or disposed of
- amount of recovered railway ballast transported
- name of transporter and transporter's vehicle registration number
- date of transportation
- name and location of facility that is receiving the recovered railway ballast.

Disposal requirements

Transport for NSW has a target of 100% beneficial re-use of recovered railway ballast.

Every effort must be made to re-use recovered railway ballast on- or off-site before considering disposal. If disposal is the only option, justification of disposal must be documented and the material taken to a licenced waste facility.

Contact and further information

Internal: [Environment and Sustainability Management Framework - Waste](#)

All users: environmentandsustainability@transport.nsw.gov.au