



# BOARD REPORT

**TO:** Chair and Directors

**File No:** 5360 01

**SUBJECT:** Asbestos Containing Material Disposal Guidelines Update

**DESCRIPTION:** Report from Ben Van Nostrand, Team Leader, Environmental Health Services dated August 30, 2018. Asbestos Containing Material Disposal Guidelines Update.

**RECOMMENDATION #1:** THAT: the report be received for information this 20<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2018.

**SHORT SUMMARY:**

At the May 2018 Board meeting, staff provided an overview of the changes to the gypsum (drywall) recycling and management program at CSR D refuse disposal sites. Since this time, staff has worked to manage existing stockpiles of drywall at landfill sites and to produce guideline documents to ensure the risks associated with asbestos containing materials are safely managed at all CSR D refuse disposal sites. The purpose of this report is to provide an update to the Board on waste drywall management.

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<b>VOTING:</b>	Unweighted Corporate <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	LGA Part 14 (Unweighted) <input type="checkbox"/>	Weighted Corporate <input type="checkbox"/>	Stakeholder (Weighted) <input type="checkbox"/>
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**BACKGROUND:**

**Disposal of Existing Stockpiles of Drywall**

The CSR D began recycling drywall in 2010 by encouraging residents and contractors to separate both new construction as well as demolition drywall from other waste and to deposit it in a marshalling area at a refuse disposal facility for recycling. In 2013, the CSR D partnered with the North Okanagan and Okanagan-Similkameen Regional District to send drywall to a composting facility in Alberta.

In October 2017, the CSR D was informed by the composting facility in Alberta that, due to uncertainties related to the potential for drywall (post 1990) to contain asbestos, they would no longer be able to accept it at their facility. This resulted in landfills in the southern interior being left with large stockpiles of drywall (potentially containing asbestos) that required appropriate handling and disposal. CSR D landfills as well as the Scotch Creek Transfer Station had large stockpiles of drywall. CSR D staff worked with counterparts from neighbouring regional districts, consultants and with Work Safe BC to develop guideline documents to ensure the general public, CSR D contractors and staff are protected when disposing of the stockpiles. At the time of writing this report all CSR D stockpiles of drywall have either been appropriately landfilled or are in the final process of being removed.

**Asbestos Containing Materials**

Demolition and renovation materials including ceiling and other textured drywall, drywall mud and tape, floor tile and attic insulation manufactured through to the late 1980s has been determined to likely contain asbestos. Asbestos was added to these materials to make it more noise absorbent, to improve fire resistant capabilities and to make it stronger. Depositing waste asbestos in a landfill is authorized by the

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Ministry of Environment, provided that the waste asbestos is immediately buried with a minimum of 0.5 metres of cover material (deep burial). Waste asbestos is required to be confined during handling, storage and transportation to the receiving facility.

The challenge in managing demolition and renovation materials, which may contain asbestos, is that residents may not know they are handling and disposing of asbestos. The goal of the newly developed asbestos containing material guideline document is to:

- provide education on the risks associated with asbestos and materials that may contain asbestos;
- ensure that materials that could potentially contain asbestos are properly and safely disposed of;
- protect CSRD workers and contractors working at receiving facilities; and
- to dispose of materials in a safe and environmentally responsible manner.

CSRD staff will continue to explore recycling options for new construction drywall, as landfilling drywall has negative environmental impacts such as the production of hydrogen sulphide gas, which is toxic to humans and can be lethal at higher concentrations. Staff will begin reviewing drywall recycling options, in conjunction with the bylaw and tipping fee, and will potentially advance amendments in 2019 to reflect program changes. In the meantime, staff will ensure that CSRD workers, contractors and customers of CSRD refuse disposal facilities are educated on the changes in the way in which these demolition and renovation materials are managed and accepted at CSRD facilities.

**POLICY:**

The proposed changes are consistent with current solid waste management bylaws and practices.

**FINANCIAL:**

No negative impact to the solid waste budget.

**KEY ISSUES/CONCEPTS:**

Changes to drywall recycling programs led CSRD staff to conduct a review of the risks associated with asbestos containing materials and develop guidelines to protect residents, contractors and staff from exposure to those risks.

**IMPLEMENTATION:**

CSRD staff has already started to educate workers and site contractors on the risks associated with asbestos. Furthermore, guideline documents have been distributed to all CSRD refuse disposal facilities and are being implemented on an ongoing basis. Changes to the tipping fee bylaw will be brought forward in early 2019, along with new options for drywall recycling programs generated by the construction industry.

**LIST NAME OF REPORT(S) / DOCUMENT(S) AVAILABLE FROM STAFF:**

N/A