



**Environmental  
Protection  
Agency**

Ken McKoon  
(07) 3227 8925  
Sokerol  
206915

16 July 1999

Mr Alf Haines  
Managing Director  
Sokerol (Australia.) Pty Ltd  
PO Box 171  
Tin Can Bay QLD 4580

Dear Mr Haines

**RE: Disposal of spent Absorbent Product**

I refer to our meeting of Tuesday 13 July 1999 seeking advice regarding the above.

I understand that your enquiry predominantly relates to the disposal of amounts of up to 10 kg of spent Sokerol which has been used to absorb minor spillages of oil. It is appreciated that most instances of cleanup will accommodate spills of hydrocarbons (eg sump oil, crude oil, diesel) or putrescible organic liquids (eg syrup solutions, vegetable oils).

It is not possible to give a generalised statement of how and where to dispose of the Sokerol product in all circumstances, but the option below is available where the product has been utilised to absorb hydrocarbons or putrescible organic liquids.

This office considers that the proposed method of disposal to licensed landfill constitutes a minimal risk to the environment. Therefore, it is reasonable for smaller quantities (up to 100 kg or approximately 0.10 cubic metres total) of Sokerol containing hydrocarbons or putrescible organic liquids to be disposed of to licensed general waste landfills provided that the spent absorbent does not exhibit free liquids. Any person proposing to dispose of amounts of this order should contact the landfill operator to confirm the acceptability of the waste at the landfill.

Amounts larger than 100 kg or approximately 0.10 of a cubic metre, should be dealt with through an appropriately licensed regulated waste treatment company.

Smaller amounts (up to 25 kg or approximately 3 domestic buckets) may be disposed of to industrial bins. The Environmental Protection Agency considers these disposal options as appropriate and practical where organic putrescible liquids or hydrocarbons have been absorbed.

Disposal of used absorbent material is dependent on the nature and volume of chemicals that have been absorbed. If the absorbent material has been utilised to contain pesticides, solvents or other unknown liquids, any quantity will need to be disposed of to an appropriately licensed facility.

If you have any queries regarding the above, please contact Mr Ken McKeon on 32278925.

Yours sincerely



Murray Vincent  
A/Manager (Partnerships and Projects)



DEPARTMENT of  
PRIMARY INDUSTRIES,  
WATER and ENVIRONMENT  
**ENVIRONMENT, PLANNING  
& SCIENTIFIC SERVICES DIVISION**

RECEIVED		
FISHER STEWART		
DATE:	12-6-01	
PROJECT No:		
PROJECT NAME:		
APPROVAL DATE:		DATE:
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Inquiries : Malcolm Cummins  
Phone : (03) 62 336599  
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Email : [malcolm.cummins@dpiwa.tas.gov.au](mailto:malcolm.cummins@dpiwa.tas.gov.au)  
Our Ref : (035759:wm/ind w/sok liq ad)  
Your Ref :

12 June, 2001

Mr David Charles-Edwards  
Director  
Sci-Plan Pty. Ltd.  
PO Box 297  
FORTITUDE VALLEY QLD 4006

Attention: Judy Else

Dear Mr Charles-Edwards

**USED SOKEROL ABSORBENT DISPOSAL**

I refer to your letter, dated 15 May 2001, advising of the physical and chemical properties of your product, Sokerol, and your request for guidance from this Division regarding the disposal of used product.

Hydrocarbon contaminated wastes are classified as "controlled" waste under the *Environmental Management and Pollution Control (Waste Management) Regulations, 2000*, and as such must be disposed of at a facility approved to accept that waste, as defined under the Regulations. Also, as an overriding principle this Division seeks where possible to identify alternative management options to landfill for controlled wastes. However, at present there is no alternative to landfill disposal for used Sokerol product.

As petroleum hydrocarbon generally biodegrades relatively easily and in the absence of any suitably approved alternative to landfill, this Division considers it appropriate to give a general approval for the disposal, by an individual or company, of small quantities of used Sokerol product to general landfill providing:

- amounts disposed of do not exceed 100kg per annum;
- the used product does not exhibit any free liquid, (i.e. the waste is not beyond its absorption limit);
- the exact nature and properties of the liquid absorbed or contaminant within the liquid is known to the Sokerol product user; and
- with the exception of used motor vehicle oil and non-contaminated petroleum hydrocarbon liquids, the liquid absorbed must contain less than the maximum concentration and the elutriable fraction of any contaminant shown in column

GENERAL ENQUIRIES (Statewide): Telephone: 1300 368 550

Internet: <http://www.dpiwa.tas.gov.au>

2 of the attached Table, from the Draft Tasmanian Landfill Code of Practice, 1996, column 2, or any other contaminant that would classify the liquid as a "controlled" waste.

Larger quantities of used Sokerol product or quantities of product that fail to meet the above criteria will require transport for disposal by an controlled waste transporter holding a current and valid Waste Transport Business Environment Protection Notice for this waste. In accordance with the Regulations, the receipt, storage, disposal, treatment, incineration or use for energy recovery, of the waste product must be as approved by the Director of Environmental Management, therefore any quantities of used Sokerol product above 100kg per annum will require approval for disposal.

If you have any further queries regarding this matter please contact my officer, Malcolm Cummins on (03) 62 336599.

Yours sincerely



Mr Warren Jones

**DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT**

Table 2: Maximum concentration of contaminants allowed in soil to be disposed of as Fill Material or Hazardous Waste

Column 1 Maximum Concentrations of Contaminants Allowed in Soil to be Disposed of as Fill Material <sup>(1)</sup>		Column 2 Maximum Contaminant Concentrations and Elutriable Fractions Allowed in Soil to be Disposed of as Hazardous Waste <sup>(2)</sup>		
Contaminant	Maximum Concentration (total) mg/kg dry weight	Contaminant	Elutriable Fraction (pH 5.0 extract) mg/L	Maximum Concentration (total) mg/kg dry weight
Antimony	20	Artenia	5.0	300
Barium	3	Cadmium	0.5	50
Bismuth	50	Chromium	5.0	2500
Boron	60	Copper	10	1000
Bromine *	50	Cobalt	-	500
Calcium	300	Lead	5.0	3000
Chlorine	1	Mercury	0.1	20
Chromium *	40	Molybdenum	-	400
Cobalt	60	Nickel	-	1000
Copper	50	Tin	-	500
Cyanide	-	Selenium	1.0	100
Dibutyltin	200	Zinc	50	5000
Dichloromethane *	50	Cyanide	10	500
Dibutyltin *	400	Fluoride	150	4500
Dibutyltin *	1	Phenols	-	10
Monocyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons	1	Monocyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons	-	70
Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons	5	Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons	-	200
Total Petroleum Hydrocarbons (C6 to C9)	100	Total Petroleum Hydrocarbon (C6 to C9)	-	1000
Total Petroleum Hydrocarbon (>C9)	1000	Total Petroleum Hydrocarbons (>C9)	-	10000
Organochlorine Compounds	-	Organochlorine Compounds	-	10

**Note:**

**Column 1**

(1) Adopted from Table 2: Environmental Soil Quality Guidelines, Australian and New Zealand Environment and Conservation Council & National Health and Medical Research Council, 'Australian and New Zealand Guidelines for the Assessment and Management of Contaminated Sites, January 1992'.

For those contaminants which have no ANZECC and NH&MRC Environmental Investigation Level, identified by an asterisk (\*), the Dutch B level is utilised.

**Column 2**

(2) Adopted from Table 2: Maximum Contaminant Concentrations and Elutriable Fractions Allowed in Soil to be Disposed of as Low Level Contaminated Soil, Victorian Environment Protection Authority Information Bulletin, 'Publication 448 - Classification of Wastes, September 1995'.

For information on contaminants not listed above, please contact Environment Tasmania on (03) 6233 6366.