Performing audits of waste management

EUROSAI Waste seminar, 3-4 May 2011
Background

• Waste is a problem in all countries
• a growing problem due to increased consumption
• The Waste Guide was developed by a Norwegian team in 2002-2003
• Adopted by INTOSAI WGEA
• WGEA recommended SAIs to consider auditing waste management
• The guide is hopefully a useful starting point
The guide: Towards Auditing Waste Management

- Background orientation on waste
- International agreements on waste
- National waste management systems
- How to determine focus for your waste audits
- Audits of waste management
- Appendices
Waste website

- How to audit waste issues
- Environmental audit reports on waste
- International agreements on waste
- International organizations and websites on waste
- Examples of national governments waste management
What is waste?

• A product or a substance that is no longer suited for its intended use
  • Important to address

• Three main types
  • Solid waste (non-hazardous)
  • Hazardous waste
  • Radioactive waste
Problems caused by waste

- Environmental
  - Soil
  - Air
  - Water
  - Toxic components, radioactive and oil pollution
- Public health
Audit criteria/policy measures

• Most countries have a national waste policy
• Often based on legislation
  • National
  • EU directives and regulations
    • General
    • For different waste types and waste operation
• Producer responsibility
• Economic incentives
International agreements – Audit criteria

• Solid waste
  • London Convention: Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter
  • MARPOL convention on the Prevention of Pollution from Ships
  • OECD decision on the transboundary movement of waste destined for recovery operations
International agreements – Audit criteria

• Hazardous waste
  • The Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal
    • Minimize generation
    • Dispose them close to the source
    • Control management of waste
    • Reduce the movement of hazardous waste
International agreements – Audit criteria

- Radioactive waste
  - Convention on Nuclear Safety
International agreements – Audit criteria

- Problems caused by waste
  - UNFCCC and its Kyoto Protocol for greenhouse gases
  - Persistent Organic Pollutants and heavy metals: Stockholm and Long Range Transboundary Air Pollution Convention
- OSPAR Convention
A four step approach

• Step 1 – Identify environmental and health risk scenarios
• Step 2 – Map out the actors and their responsibility
• Step 3 – Take account of the waste stream
• Step 4 – Consider audit topics and choose focus
Step 1 Identify Environmental and Health Risk Scenarios

- Assess the risk of possible damage from waste
- Determine the probability of damage from waste
- Assess the Economic Risks
Step 2 Map out the Actors and their Responsibilities

- Legislative body
- Ministries and national authorities
- Subordinated agencies
- Regional, provincial and local level government
- Waste generators –producers
- Transporters
- Other waste operators
Step 3 – Take account of the Waste stream

- Prevention
  - Generation
    - Collection
      - Transport
        - Treatment Disposal
          - Reuse
          - Recycle
          - Recover
          - Illegal dumping
            - Contaminated sites
Step 4 Consider audit topics

- Topic 1 – Existence of waste policy
- Topic 2 – Development of policy instruments in the waste policy
- Topic 3 – Risk management of waste
- Topic 4 – Quality of the implementation process
- Topic 5 – Quality of the performance of the waste management system
- Topic 6 – Compliance with national law and regulations in the waste policy
- Topic 7 – Compliance with international obligations
- Topic 8 – Monitoring the waste policy
- Topic 9 – Management of waste by governmental bodies
Three dimensions for choosing an audit area

- Prevention
  - Generation
  - Recycle Reuse Recover
  - Collection
  - Transport Export
  - Treatment Disposal
  - Contaminated sites

- Other government activities
- Monitoring
- Compliance with international law
- Compliance with national law

- Solid Waste
- Hazardous Waste
- Radioactive Waste

- Existence of policy
- Compliance with policy
- Illegal dumping
- Risk management
- Implementation of systems
- Performance of systems
Good luck!

Auditing Waste Issues