



Testing Construction & Demolition Waste

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According to the 2016 EU Construction and Demolition (C&D) Management Waste Protocol, C&D waste makes up about one third of all waste in the EU. Arguably, the proper management of C&D waste and recycled materials—including the correct handling of hazardous waste—can benefit the EU construction and recycling industry and boost demand for C&D recycled materials. Presently, the obstacles to recycling and reusing C&D waste in the EU is the lack of confidence in the quality of C&D recycled materials and the potential health risk for workers using or testing C&D materials. This consequently restricts the demand for C&D recycled materials, which also inhibits the development of C&D waste management and recycling in the EU. To minimize the exposure of laboratory staff to harmful substances, Structural Soils has built a clean room for geotechnical and materials testing at one of its laboratories. The clean room is separated from any other activities in the same building. The cleanroom air is filtered, and negative air pressure is maintained while the room is occupied. Access is restricted to nominated technicians with full-body protective clothing, hoods, gloves and respiratory equipment; for safety, observation windows allow the occupants to be seen. Contaminated soil and aggregate samples are tested according to accredited standard test methods; chemically or biologically contaminated samples may have to be handled differently. Furthermore, materials containing radioactive substances, potentially live munitions and explosives, and animal hides, bones, and skin and hair cannot be tested. After testing, disposal procedures according to current UK regulations are followed.