

Appendix 4

IAEA categories of radioactive waste 1

Waste Type	Definition
Low level waste	Contains enough radioactive material to require action for the protection of people, but not so much that it requires shielding during handling, storage or transportation.
Intermediate level waste, short-lived	Waste which requires shielding, but needs little or no provision for heat dissipation and contains low concentrations of long-lived <u>radionuclides</u> (less than 4000 <u>Becquerel</u> /gram of <u>alpha-emitters</u>). The radionuclides generally have a half-life of less than thirty years
Intermediate level waste, long-lived	Waste that requires shielding, but needs little or no provision for heat dissipation. The radionuclides generally have a half life of more than thirty years.
High level waste	Waste which contains large concentrations of both short- and long-lived radionuclides and is sufficiently radioactive to require both shielding and cooling. The waste generates more than 2 <u>kilowatts</u> of heat per cubic metre.

1 From DEST website:
http://www.radioactivewaste.gov.au/australia_and_radiation/amounts_of_radioactive_waste_in_australia.htm

