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Street Works UK Protocol Versus SoilDri SEM Method

Navigating the Future of Waste Classification in Utility Works

Street Works Waste Classification - What it Means...

A significant regulatory shift is happening for the utilities sectors. From **1 October 2025**, the **Street Works UK (SWUK) Material Classification Protocol will replace Environment Agency Regulatory Position Statements (RPS) 298 and 299**, both of which expire on 30 September 2025. The protocol introduces a more structured and risk adverse approach to **waste classification**, particularly for **unplanned utility excavations**.

Key Components of the SWUK Material Classification Protocol

- **Waste Segregation:** Materials such as asphalt, soils, and aggregates must be separated at source. Hazardous and non-hazardous materials must be clearly distinguished and managed accordingly.
- **Risk-Based Assessment:** Each individual excavation site requires **desktop and site-specific assessments** to identify hazards (e.g., coal tar, hydrocarbons, asbestos) before removal.
- **Mandatory Sampling and Testing:** At least **1% of all 2023 excavation volumes** must be laboratory-tested to support and validate risk assessments.
- **Material Identification and Quarantine:** Materials are required to be quarantined separately based on their classification as hazardous or non-hazardous to ensure no cross-contamination occurs before disposal.
- **Quarterly Reporting:** Utilities must report classification data to SWUK quarterly and upload evidence to the **GOV.UK Street Manager** platform.
- **Regulatory Oversight:** The Environment Agency will monitor consistency between field assessments and lab results. Any 2 quarters which are not adhered to / any discrepncies found will result in increased testing to 3% or removal from the protocol onto waste management 3 (WM3).

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SoilDri SEM and Why is it the Right Choice for the New SWUK Protocol

SoilDri SEM is a specialised formulated drying agent designed for producing a **surround to apparatus and trench backfill** from its original excavated arisings, applied directly on-site, it **improves** the **moisture content** of the subsoils for **optimal compaction** without altering the material's physical properties thanks to its **non-binding formula** offering a simple solution of **Dig, Mix, Backfill.**

How SoilDri SEM Aligns with SWUK Regulations

By improving the moisture content of excavated arisings, it prevents the need for disposal, transforming what would usually be deemed a waste into a durable, high-quality, and sustainable **material suitable for reuse**. This process aligns with the core principles of the waste hierarchy and is fully **compliant with the EA-approved 2025** edition of the **Street Works UK Protocol** whilst meeting the requirements of **SROH 2020** edition for **S4 Surround to Apparatus and S5 Backfill Classification** under the Highway Authority and Utilities Committee Specification **(HAUC)**.

- **No Waste**
- **Compliant**
- **No Testing**
- **Cost Effective**
- **No Delays**
- **Carbon Efficient**

The ability to treat moisture-laden soil on-site and immediately reuse it has removed one of the major inefficiencies in utility excavation. This approach delivers a **faster, more cost-effective**, and **environmentally responsible** alternative to traditional disposal and import methods.

Beyond operational and financial advantages, **SoilDri SEM complies** to full regulatory compliance with minimal administrative burdens. By prioritising on-site reuse over landfill disposal, it upholds the principles of the **Waste Hierarchy (Prevent and Reuse)** reducing environmental impact, cutting project delays, and supporting **long-term sustainability** objectives. **SoilDri SEM isn't the future — it's the now.**