Glossary of terms

absolute entries	hazardous waste regardless of any threshold concentrations
acid/alkali reserve	a measure of the capability of an acid or alkali to maintain its pH
Act	primary legislation produced by Parliament
Agencies	Waste Regulation Authorities comprising the Environment Agency (for England and Wales), the Scottish Environment Protection Agency, and the Environment and Heritage Service for Northern Ireland
anaerobic fate	microbial degradation of substances in the absence of oxygen
Approved Classification and Labelling Guide	Approved Guide to the Classification and Labelling of Dangerous Substances and Dangerous Preparations (5th edition)
bioaccumulation	a process by which chemicals are taken up by organisms from exposure through various routes including contact with contaminated water, sediment, soil and food
bioconcentration	a process by which there is a net accumulation of a chemical within an organism resulting from simultaneous uptake and elimination
biological oxygen demand	the degree of oxygen consumption by microbially mediated oxidation of the contaminant in water (BOD)
boiling point	the temperature at which a liquid substance turns into a gas
carcinogenic	substances or preparations which, if they are inhaled or ingested or if they penetrate the skin, may induce cancer or increase its incidence
chemical	a common term for substances and preparations
classification	identification of the hazard of a chemical by assigning a category of danger and a risk phrase using set criteria
clinical waste	clinical waste as defined in the Controlled Waste Regulations 1992, as amended
corrosive	substances or preparations which may destroy living tissue on contact
Cytotoxic and Cytostatic Medicines	Any medicinal product that possesses one or more of the hazardous properties Toxic (H6), Carcinogenic (H7), Toxic for Reproduction (H10), Mutagenic (H11). This may include drugs from a number of medicinal classes, for example Antineoplastic agents, antivirals, immunosuppressants, a range of hormonal drugs, and others.
dangerous substances	substances classified as dangerous in Directive 67/548/EEC and its subsequent amendments
degradation	breakdown of complex/large components of a substance to simpler/smaller units by physical, chemical and/or biological processes
directive waste	waste as defined in Article 1(a) of Council Directive 75/442/EEC on waste
disease	unhealthy condition of the body or mind, or part thereof, of a type which requires healthcare intervention
EC Directive	The major form of European legislation

EC Regulation	another form of European Statute
EC_{50}	the effective concentration is an endpoint used in short-term toxicity tests determining concentrations associated with sublethal responses (e.g. immobility) in the test population. The EC_{50} is the concentration at which a 50% response is detected
ecotoxic	substances and preparations which present or may present immediate or delayed risks for one or more sectors of the environment
explosive	substances and preparations which may explode under the effect of flame or which are more sensitive to shocks or friction than dinitrobenzene
exposure limits	time-weighted values limiting the exposure to substances for health and safety reasons
flammable	substances and preparations which may become hot and finally catch fire in contact with air at ambient temperature without any application of energy, or solid substances and preparations which may readily catch fire after brief contact with a source of ignition and which continue to burn or to be consumed after removal of the source of ignition, **or** gaseous substances and preparations which are flammable in air at normal pressure, or substances and preparations which, in contact with water or damp air, evolve highly flammable gases in dangerous quantities **or** liquid substances and preparations having a flashpoint equal to or greater than 21°C and less than or equal to 55°C
flashpoint	the temperature of a heated substance at which the vapour/air mixture at its surface ignites on exposure to a flame
harmful	substances and preparations which, if they are inhaled or ingested or if they penetrate the skin, may involve limited health risks
hazard	the inherently dangerous properties of a chemical
IC_{50}	an endpoint in toxicity testing marking the median inhibitory concentration of a substance on a test population
infectious	substances containing viable micro-organisms or their toxins which are known or reliably believed to cause disease in man or other living organisms
in viro	in the living organism
in vitro	a biological process or reaction made to occur outside the body of the organism in an artificial environment is said to be *in vitro* (as against *in viro*)
irritant	non-corrosive substances and preparations which, through immediate, prolonged or repeated contact with the skin or mucous membranes, can cause inflammation
LD_{50} / LC_{50}	LD_{50} marks the endpoint of a toxicity test, and is an empirical measure of the dose associated with a 50% lethal response in the test population; LC_{50} is a concentration in a medium leading to a 50% lethal response
limit value	see 'threshold concentration'
man or other living organisms	Kingdom Animalia (Vertebrates - mammals, reptiles, fish, amphibians, birds; Invertebrates - arthropods, molluscs etc.). Excludes Kingdoms Plantae, Fungi, Protista, Prokaryotae
melting point	the temperature at which a solid turns into a liquid

micro-organism	a microbiological entity, cellular or non-cellular, capable of replication or of transferring genetic material (includes algae, bacteria, fungi, parasites, plasmid, prions, viruses, rickettsia, and genetically modified variants thereof)
mirror entries	hazardous waste only if dangerous substances are present above threshold concentrations
mutagenic	substances and preparations which, if they are inhaled or ingested or if they penetrate the skin, may induce hereditary genetic defects or increase their incidence
occupational exposure	exposure due to nature or location of employment
oxidising	substances and preparations which exhibit highly exothermic reactions when in contact with other substances, particularly flammable substances
pathogen	micro-organisms known or reliably believed to cause disease in man or other living organisms
pH	a measure of acidity or alkalinity described by the negative log of the hydrogen ion concentration in water
physico-chemical properties	the physical and chemical characteristics of a substance
preparation	a mixture of substances
risk	the likelihood of the hazardous properties of a chemical causing harm (to people or to the environment)
risk phrase	a standard phrase giving simple information about the hazards of a chemical in normal use
Safety Data Sheet (SDS)	information sheets supplied by producers or suppliers of chemicals or preparations containing chemicals, which list all relevant risk and safety phrases
safety phrase	a standard phrase giving advice on safety precautions which may be appropriate when using the chemical
substance	a chemical element or one of its compounds, including any impurities
teratogens	substances and preparations which, if they are inhaled or ingested or if they penetrate the skin, may induce non-hereditary congenital malformations or increase their incidence
threshold concentration	concentration of a substance in a waste above which the waste may be classified as hazardous waste
toxic	substances and preparations which, if they are inhaled or ingested or if they penetrate the skin, may involve serious acute or chronic health risks and even death
toxins	microbial substances able to induce host damage
tumorigenic	substances and preparations which, if they are inhaled or ingested or if they penetrate the skin, may cause tumour growths or increase their incidence
viable	alive, able to reproduce

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