

Flash Point Tests in the Waste & Recycling Industry

The management and disposal of waste materials is internationally regulated, with downstream legislation that includes laws protecting the environment, consumers and workers. There are significant consequences surrounding the correct classification of waste materials, the industry has a 'duty of care' regarding associated risks of managing waste materials with significant financial and legal penalties if these are not followed.

Waste regulations and controls include the following:

- US Environmental Protection Agency Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA)
- EU CLP Regulation 1272/2008 - Classification, Labelling and Packaging (CLP) of substances
- EU Directive 2008/98/EX - properties of waste which render it hazardous
- EU Directive 96/61/EC - Industrial Pollution & Prevention Control Directive
- EU Directive 2008/98/EC - waste oils

A waste is considered hazardous if it exhibits one or more of the following characteristics:

- Flammability
- Corrosivity
- Reactivity
- Toxicity



Setaflash - the preferred test method

The Setaflash instrument requires just 2ml of sample which enables the target temperature to be reached quickly, typically within 1-2 minutes. An ignitor is then applied to check for a flash. Many traditional flash point tests require a much larger volume of sample (typically 70-80ml) and also take 30 minutes or longer to perform, so most operators opt for the Setaflash Small Scale Closed Cup test - ASTM D3828 which is fully specified for flash point testing of waste.

The Setaflash test is called up in most waste regulations to determine a waste material's flammability and if it should be classified as hazardous. The Setaflash instrument is a simple and cost effective test that can be undertaken on-site with minimum operator skill. Results assist those responsible for handling waste to report flash point values as required under waste regulations.

Further information about Setaflash small scale flash point testing can be found at www.stanhope-seta.co.uk/small-scale-flashpoint-testing.asp or by scanning the QR code below.

