

# Waste TECHNOLOGY

what's new in

AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND



Do your bins have  
the stamp of approval?

only

**SULO**

Technical drawing of the bin showing various specifications and a circular stamp. The stamp contains the text "SULOYEN 840-1" and "2401/110Kg". The drawing also includes the text "SULO" and "SULOYEN".

# Raising a Standard for Australian bins



## DIN/EN certification: what is it?

DIN EN 840 is the European Standard for the manufacture and use of mobile waste containers. This standard was prepared by the technical committee CEN/TC 183 'Waste management' in the secretariat held by DIN (the German Industrial Norm Committee). It specifies the requirements for the dimensions and design, the performance criteria and testing, and health and safety requirements of the container.

In order to obtain this certification Sulo MGB Australia was required to send mobile garbage bins (MGBs) made in its Australian manufacturing plant to an authorised testing facility, SKZ, located in Europe. It was here that over an extended period of time the bins were put through the ultimate series of tests. Survival rate at these facilities is exceptionally low, however Sulo emerged as the only Australian manufacturer of MGBs now carrying the DIN certification. While this achievement shows that Sulo Australia is on par with majors in Europe, Sulo felt that Australia should have its own bin standard.

## Australian Standards: where are they?

Australia is one of the few countries where MGBs are present that does not have a national standard.

For standards to be created within an industry a proposal must first be made to Standards Australia. In this case Sulo took the initiative and approached Standards Australia, which then contacted various key players within the waste industry. The industry spoke out in agreement with Sulo and a committee was formed. This committee comprises individuals representing not only those who manufacture the MGBs but also those who use and own them.

Members of the new committee PL47 include representatives for the Waste Contractors and Recyclers Association of NSW, Plastics and Chemicals Industries Association, Eco Recycle Victoria, Waste Management Association of Australia, NSW Department of Environment and Conservation, and other local government associations.

## The actual standards

The Australian Standards being developed will aim to provide the waste industry with consistent guidelines for the dimensions, design, performance and safety of mobile waste containers up to 1700 L. This applies to both plastic and metal mobile waste containers and also to the compatibility of the collection lifting device. A standardised

colour code system for the use of waste containers is also an aim of the committee.

The Australian standards are going to be a mix between the EN and the German RAL standards, which is a quality mark. In doing this the current standards will also ensure that quality is maintained throughout the production process, stipulated in the testing procedures.

According to the committee chairman, the key features of the standard are:

- Standardisation of dimension and design for all mobile waste containers up to 1700 L in size;
- Formalisation of testing methods and protocols for waste containers that are sold in Australia, covering containers that are also imported for sale in Australia;
- Health, safety and environmental standards for waste bins; and
- Co-ordination of a colour code system to distinguish the particular use of a waste container.

## Public and environmental benefits

By establishing a colour coding system for the collection of public waste, the industry will be able to band together and further educate the public. It is hoped to reduce the amount of contamination of recycled material. With a uniform system, Australians, whether they are at home or on holiday, will easily identify the containers and their appropriate uses, thereby increasing the overall volume of recycled materials collected and reducing the wastage and contamination levels.

Being independently certified, Australian Standards (to be released for public comment later this year) will create an unbiased guarantee of consistent quality for the purchased product and its use to all customers. ☐

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