
Editorial

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As you know, in the last years the construction sector has generated huge quantities of construction and demolition (C&D) waste worldwide. In particular, Europe has generated around 890 million tonnes of C&D waste per year and specifically Spain generated roughly 47 million tons of C&D waste in 2006, of which only 13.60% was recycled.

Therefore, the management of C&D waste in building works is necessary if we want to reduce the environmental impact generated by our buildings, during all the building life cycle: construction, life and demolition processes.

The aim of this special issue is to point out the serious shortcomings in Europe and, in particular, in Spain regarding the management of C&D waste during construction works.

The first two articles of the special issue: “**European legislation and implementation measures in the management of construction and demolition waste**” and “**Demolition waste management in Spanish legislation**” try to describe the current situation of the C&D waste management. The other articles included in this special issue, suggest a series of measures, from several points of view, which will enable an improvement of the C&D waste management used today by most countries.

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In this sense, the measure proposed in the third article titled “**Approach to the use of global indicators for the assessment of the environmental level of construction products**” is based on a series of indicators which determine the environmental impact produced by some materials and construction elements used in the construction of a building.

Moreover, the article entitled “**Calculation methodology to quantify and classify construction waste**” focuses on preventive measures. This article shows a methodology for the calculation and classification of C&D waste in order to implement preventive actions which will improve the C&D waste management.

In the article “**Legal aspects which implement good practice measures in the management of construction and demolition waste**” researchers of the Polytechnic University of Madrid propose a series of measures mainly based on legislation. Nevertheless, they determine the responsibilities --regarding C&D waste management-- for all the construction agents involved in the design and construction of a building, with the certainty that only with the determination of several responsibilities the management of C&D waste will improve.

Finally, the article entitled “**Management of waste from packaging of construction materials in building construction works**” specifies all these aspects through the analysis of what happens with the management of packaging waste.