



Processing of Universal Waste Aerosol Cans

Effective January 1, 2002, with the implementation of SB 1158, hazardous waste aerosol are managed as universal waste, provided that certain conditions are met under Health and Safety Code (HSC), Section 25201.16.

The aerosol can puncturing and draining provisions of SB 1158 *do not* apply to commercial universal waste handlers such as offsite hazardous waste facilities, hazardous waste transporters, or transfer facilities. Homeowners and small generators of non-empty aerosol cans are not allowed to dispose of cans as solid waste (i.e., put them in the trash).

Hazardous Waste Aerosol Cans

Aerosol cans are not hazardous waste when they have been emptied of contents, but *non-empty* aerosol cans may be hazardous wastes. Non-empty aerosol cans are commonly discarded when the spray mechanism is damaged or clogged and no longer working, the propellant has been exhausted or the product is no longer needed.

A non-empty aerosol can is a hazardous waste if the propellant or product has any of the following characteristics:

- Ignitability (can readily catch fire)
- Corrosivity (acidic or alkaline)
- Reactivity (can explode)
- Toxicity (poisonous)

Management Requirements for Processing Universal Waste Aerosol Cans

Aerosol can processing means the puncturing, draining, or crushing of aerosol cans. All processors of universal waste aerosol cans must comply with the requirements of HSC Section 25201.16

Notification Requirements:

- A universal waste handler that processes universal waste aerosol cans shall submit a notification in person or by certified mail, with return receipt requested, to local CUPA or authorized agency prior to the initiation of this activity.
- Any change in operation, which necessitates modifying any of the information in a handler's most current notification submittal, shall be amended and submitted within 30 days of the change.

Containment Requirements:

- Accumulate and transport universal waste aerosol cans in containers that are structurally sound, compatible with the contents of the can and show no evidence of leaks, spills or damage that would cause leaks.
- Keep the accumulation containers closed except when waste is being added or removed.
- Place accumulation containers in a location with sufficient ventilation.
- Place containers of processed cans and the unit used to process aerosol cans above a non-earthen floor that is free of cracks or gaps and is sufficiently impervious and bermed to contain leaks and spills.
- Keep containers of flammable waste a safe distance from heat and open flames.
- Place aerosol cans in containers that are designed, built and maintained to withstand pressures reasonably expected during storage and transportation.

- Label containers of universal waste cans with one of the following phrases: “Universal Waste Aerosol Cans,” “Waste Aerosol Cans” or “Used Aerosol Cans.”
- Segregate incompatible materials in separate containers.
- Sort cans by type and compatibility of contents.

Handling Requirements:

- Manage the universal waste aerosol cans to prevent fire, explosion, and unauthorized releases to the environment.
- Place the unit used to process aerosol cans above a non-earthen floor that is free of cracks or gaps and is sufficiently impervious and bermed to contain leaks and spills.
- Develop and implement a written operating procedure for safely processing universal waste aerosol cans and handling emergencies.
- Provide a spill cleanup kit and promptly clean up any spills or leaks of the contents of universal waste aerosol cans.
- Promptly transfer the contents of the drained aerosol cans from the processing device to appropriate containers that meet specified requirements.
- Process the universal waste cans in a well-ventilated area.
- Train employees on the procedure for sorting and processing aerosol cans and handling emergencies.

Residual Management Requirements:

- Any hazardous waste generated from processing the universal waste aerosol cans shall be managed in accordance with the requirements of Chapter 12 of Division 4.5 of Title 22 of the California Code of Regulations.

Note: This fact sheet is intended for informational purposes only and may not encompass all the laws and regulations to this topic. More details may be found at Cal/EPA Department of Toxic Substance Control: www.dtsc.ca.gov. If further information is needed, call the County of Los Angeles CUPA at (323) 890-4045, or your local district office.

References

- [California Health and Safety Code 25201.16](#)
- [DTSC-SB1158 Designates Aerosol Cans as “Universal Waste”](#)
- *Information on the standards for universal waste management (non-processing) can be found in Chapter 23 of Division 4.5 of Title 22 of the California Code of Regulations*