

Hazardous Waste Management

The following is a brief on the subject of Hazardous Waste Management. For more detailed information, see the "[Compliance Guideline](#) for Hazardous Wastes and Materials".

Laws and Regulations

Hazardous Waste laws and regulations are contained in [California Health and Safety Code](#) (HSC), Division 20, Chapter 6.5, and [California Code of Regulations](#) (22 CCR), Title 22, Division 4.5, Chapter 11.

Generator Management Standards

Below are common requirements for businesses managing waste:

1. **Waste Determination:** The generator is responsible for determining whether or not waste is hazardous. Waste determinations can be done by applying professional knowledge about the waste and the processes that generate it or by having the waste tested by a State of California Certified Laboratory (see www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/ls/elap/).

Documentation should be maintained onsite and made available during inspections.

2. **EPA Identification Number:** Hazardous waste generators must have an identification number, except for businesses that generate only photo developer (silver waste) less than or equal to 100 kg per month.

RCRA waste generators who need a federal number should contact the [US EPA](#) at 415-495-8895.

Non-RCRA waste generators who need a State number should contact [DTSC](#) at 800-618-6942.

3. **Disposal:** Hazardous wastes must be legally transported and manifested by a [DTSC](#) registered hazardous waste hauler to a permitted Treatment Storage Disposal Facility (TSDF). It is illegal to dispose of waste in the trash, sewer, ground, storm drain, or any other unauthorized location.
4. **Treatment:** Hazardous waste generators may be authorized by the Department to treat their own waste onsite (see [Tiered Permitting](#)) .

5. **Container Storage:** Proper hazardous waste storage in containers includes:

- Complete hazardous waste labels
- Storage in closed containers that are in good condition and compatible with the waste
- Documented weekly container inspections to verify compliance

6. **Tank Storage:** Proper hazardous waste storage in tanks includes:

- Complete hazardous waste labels
- Closed tanks (or open tanks with two feet minimum of freeboard space) which are in good condition and compatible with the waste
- Tanks designed to hold hazardous waste and not collapse or leak
- Most tanks and tank systems must have secondary containment that is certified by a Professional Engineer (PE) registered in California. Secondary containment can include a liner, vault, or double-walled tank. Appurtenances must be contained.
- Documented daily tank inspections to verify compliance.

7. Storage Time: Storage time limits for hazardous waste depend on the business' generator status. Generators are classified by the amount of hazardous waste generated per month. Permits, or a variance from DTSC, are required for exceeding storage time limits; the Department may also grant a time- extension variance for California-only regulated hazardous wastes (e.g. waste oil and waste coolant).

- **Large Quantity Generators (LQG)**

- generate at least 1,000 kg (2,200 lbs) per month, or
- generate at least 1 kg (2.2 lbs) of *acutely or extremely hazardous waste* per month

Maximum storage time is 90 days.

- **Small Quantity Generators (SQG)**

- generate 100 to 1,000 kg (220 - 2,200 lbs) per month
- may not store greater than 1 kg of *acutely or extremely hazardous waste* for over 90 days.
- no more than 6,000 kg (13,200 lbs) of hazardous waste may be stored onsite at any time

Maximum storage time is 180 days; the maximum is 270 days if the Treatment Storage Disposal Facility (TSDF) is 200 or more miles from the generator's facility.

- **Conditionally Exempt Small Quantity Generators (CESQG)**

- generate no more than 100 kg (220 lbs) per month

Maximum storage time may not exceed 90 days after accumulation of 100 kilograms (220 lbs) or 1 kilogram (2.2 pounds) of *acute or extremely hazardous waste*.

- **Satellite Storage, LQG and SQG:** As long as the total amount of each waste stream present at each satellite accumulation point does not exceed

- 55 gallons in a container, or
- 1 quart of *acutely or extremely hazardous waste* in a container

Maximum storage time is up to one year.

8. Emergency Procedures: To prevent, mitigate, and abate emergencies, the following procedures and equipment need to be provided:

- Maintenance of storage areas to prevent spills, fires, or other releases.
- Handling wastes to avoid ruptures and leaks of containers and tanks.
- Separation of incompatible wastes
- Storage of ignitable and reactive wastes 15 meters or 50 feet from the property line (LQG only)
- Maintenance of aisle space for movement of personnel and response equipment

Emergency response equipment may include:

- internal and external communication equipment (phones, radios, and/or alarm systems)
- fire control equipment (fire extinguishers, sprinklers systems etc.)
- a water supply with adequate volume and pressure for fire suppression
- spill control equipment (absorbents, empty containers etc.)
- decontamination equipment (safety showers, eye washes etc.)
- Personal Protective Equipment (respirators, protective clothing, gloves, boots, safety glasses etc.)
- first aid.

All communications and alarm systems, where required, must be tested and maintained as necessary to ensure proper operation, including:

- fire protection equipment
- spill control equipment
- decontamination equipment

All hazardous waste handling personnel must have immediate access to an internal alarm or emergency communications equipment.

9. Contingency Plans: Contingency plans are required for storage of a hazardous waste stream (at any one time) of:

- at least 55 gallons, or
- 500 lbs

Employees require access and training in the plan. For more information, see Forms.

In the event of emergency, the contingency plan is implemented by:

- Calling the Fire Department.
- Containing and cleaning up small spills and releases if possible.
- Contacting a private cleanup contractor to contain and cleanup large spills and releases
- Notifying the State of California OES at (800)852-7550 and the National Response Center at (800)424-8802 if there is a significant release such as a fire, explosion, or spill that could threaten human health or the environment.

10. Hazardous Waste Management Training: Hazardous waste training requirements depend on the size and type of generator.

- **LQG**

All personnel at the facility involved in the management (i.e. generation, transfer, shipment, etc.) of hazardous waste must receive classroom instruction or on-the-job training in the proper management of hazardous waste. It is recommended that these personnel receive the Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response Standard (HAZWOPER) training. For more information, go to <http://www.osha.gov/html/faq-hazwoper.html>.

- **SQG**

All employees must be thoroughly familiar with proper waste handling and emergency procedures relevant to their responsibilities during normal facility operations and emergencies.

Additionally, all hazardous materials handlers must develop and implement a training program

(see Hazardous Materials Disclosure Program).

11. Waste Minimization: All generators pledge on manifests to reduce hazardous waste generation.

Methods to reduce waste include:

- inventory control
- good housekeeping practices
- material substitution
- onsite recycling and reuse
- product design changes

LQG, CA, and PBR treaters that routinely generate greater than 12,000 kg (26,400 lbs or 3,165 gallons) of hazardous waste per year, including prior to any onsite treatment, are subject to SB (Senate Bill) 14.

These businesses must prepare the following:

- A Source Reduction Plan
- A Hazardous Waste Management Performance Report
- A Summary Progress Report

Copies of these documents must be kept at the business.

12. Excluded Recyclable Materials: The details of the excluded recyclable materials law are found in HSC Sections 25143.2, 25143.9, and 25143.10. Additional details can also be found in the US EPA's discussion on sham recycling (January 4, 1985, Federal Register, Volume 50, Number 3, Page 638).

These requirements apply to the following:

- Substances excluded from hazardous waste classification or hazardous waste management standards
- Activities involving the management of hazardous materials or hazardous wastes exempt from the definition of hazardous waste treatment

The following storage and handling requirements must be met:

- The business must submit a contingency plan and report the material as a hazardous material to the Department.
- The material must be stored and handled in accordance with standards for hazardous waste and all local ordinances and codes governing storage and handling of hazardous material.
- Containers or tanks must be labeled like hazardous wastes with the words "Excluded Recyclable Material" on the label.

Any person who manages a recyclable material under a claim that the material qualifies as an excluded or exempted recyclable material pursuant to HSC 25143.2 must maintain and provide to the Department, upon request, the following:

- The name, street, mailing address, and telephone number of the owner or operator of any facility that manages the material.

- Adequate records to demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Department that there is a known market or disposition for the material and that the requirements of any exemption or exclusion pursuant to HSC 25143.2 are met.
- Other information related to the management of the material requested by the Department.

Any person who recycles more than 100 kg (220 lbs) per month of recyclable material under a claim that the material qualifies for exclusion or exemption from hazardous waste requirements pursuant to HSC 25143.2 must complete and submit a biennial Recyclable Materials Report to the Department.

13. Empty Containers: Each empty container larger than 5 gallons that previously held a hazardous material must be labeled "Empty" with the date it was emptied. Within one year of being emptied, containers must be managed by either of the following:

- shipping for recycling
- reconditioning
- reclamation of its scrap value
- managed on-site in such a manner

14. Used Oil Filters: Used oil filters must be managed like other hazardous wastes unless all of the following requirements are met:

- The filters must be drained of free-flowing used oil
- The drained filters must be stored in closed containers that are in good condition
- Containers must be labeled as "DRAINED USED OIL FILTERS" and marked with the initial date of filter accumulation
- Filters in amounts less than one ton must not be accumulated or stored on site longer than one year (180 days for amounts equal to or greater than one ton)
- Filters must be transported to a smelter or other scrap metal processor for recycling, or to a storage or consolidation facility that later transfers them to such a recycler

15. Spent Lead Acid Batteries: Spent lead acid batteries, including car and truck batteries, must be managed like other hazardous wastes unless all of the following requirements are met:

- Batteries must be legally disposed to an authorized facility. It is illegal to dispose batteries to the trash, ground, water, or street
- Battery acid or electrolyte shall not be removed from the battery
- Undamaged batteries should be stored upright on a covered pallet over a non-reactive, curbed, and sealed surface such as coated concrete or asphalt, and care should be taken to prevent the terminals from short-circuiting
- "Damaged batteries" are batteries that are cracked, broken, or missing one or more caps. These batteries must be stored and transported in non-reactive, structurally secure, closed containers such as polyethylene buckets or drums. The closed containers must be labeled and dated
- Businesses who store one ton or less of batteries at any one location must dispose of the batteries within one year
- Businesses who store more than one of ton of batteries at any one location must dispose of the batteries within 180 days
- A bill of lading or hazardous waste manifest shall be used to record shipments of spent lead acid batteries

16. Universal Wastes: Universal wastes must not be disposed of in the trash; these include:

- electronic wastes (computers and TVs)
- fluorescent light fixtures

- automotive switches

For up-to-date universal waste standards, visit the web site of DTSC and download our [Universal Waste](#) fact sheet.

17. Contaminated Textiles: Shop towels, uniforms, gloves, and linens which have become soiled with hazardous waste during commercial or industrial use are exempt from management as hazardous waste if all of the following requirements are met:

- They are made reusable by laundering at a commercial laundry
- They are not subject to federal regulation as hazardous wastes
- They are not used to clean up or control a spill
- No hazardous waste has been added after the textiles' original use
- No free liquids are released during transportation or storage of the textiles

18. Record Keeping: Various documents must be maintained by generators and available upon inspection.

The following documents must be kept for a minimum of 3 years:

- Uniform Hazardous waste manifests (the transporter and facility copies).
- Consolidated Hazardous waste manifests for used oil, used coolant, used parts solvent, waste paint, waste ink, waste dry cleaning solvents, and other eligible wastes.
- Exception reports for manifests.
- Land Disposal Restriction (LDR) notices for manifests.
- Waste determinations, waste analyses, and waste profiles.
- Bills of lading or receipts for empty containers, used rags and uniform services, used oil filters, recyclable latex paint, and spent lead acid batteries.
- Receipts for universal wastes including fluorescent light tubes, thermostats, electronic and computer waste, and automotive switches.
- Bills of lading or invoices for management of excluded recyclable materials (this includes materials exchanges).
- Documentation for weekly inspections for container and daily inspections for tanks.

Other documents that must be kept include:

- Training program and records of employee training
- Contingency Plan including any amendments.
- Excluded Recyclable Materials Reports (see [Forms](#))
- Biennial reports (only LQG)
- SB 14 Source Reduction Plans and Progress Reports (only LQG, CA, and PBR Facilities)

Hazardous Waste Management Links

DTSC: www.dtsc.ca.gov

US EPA Region 9: www.epa.gov/region09

Compliance School: www.compliance.org

State Law: www.leginfo.ca.gov/calaw.html

State Regulations: www.calregs.com

Unidocs: www.unidocs.org

Cal CUPA Forum: <http://www.calcupa.net/>