



Guidance

Hazardous Waste Definitions

In Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) hazardous waste regulations, definitions are essential for ensuring precision and clarity. They serve as the basis for identifying, categorizing, and managing hazardous waste, establishing a common language that regulators, businesses, and environmental professionals. Accurate definitions help facilitate compliance and effective communication, leading to a consistent understanding and application of the regulations. By providing a clear framework, these definitions support the overarching goal of protecting the environment and public health through responsible and informed hazardous waste management practices.

This document does not provide a comprehensive list of RCRA-related definitions and is not tended to replace regulations. For more specific information on individual requirements, consult both federal and state regulatory citations. This summary serves as an overview and does not encompass all aspects of hazardous waste regulation or solid waste law, including, but not limited to, Oregon Revised Statutes Chapter 459 and Oregon Administrative Rules Chapter 340 Division 100.

Acceptable Closed Conveyance System: Refers to equipment or processes designed to prevent the release of hazardous substances to the environment; a system in which waste reclamation operations are literally enclosed, or hard plumbed with pipe, to the unit that generates the waste.

Accumulation: Refers to the gathering or collecting of hazardous waste at a facility prior to its transportation off-site for treatment, storage, or disposal. A generator may accumulate hazardous waste for a short period of time before managing it on-site or shipping it off-site. The waste must be accumulated in either tanks, containers or drip-pads; it may not be accumulated in surface impoundments. Large quantity generators may accumulate waste for up to 90 days before shipping it off-site. Small quantity generators may accumulate waste for up to 180 days before shipping it off-site. If the nearest treatment, storage, disposal, or recycling facility to which waste can be sent is more than 200 miles away, SQGs may accumulate waste for 270 days. Refer to 40 CFR 262.17 for large quantity generator requirements and 40 CFR 262.16 for small quantity generator requirements.

Acute Hazardous Waste: The identification of acute hazardous waste is based on acute toxicity, as defined by toxicity tests outlined in the regulations. Acute hazardous waste has the potential to cause serious harm or death to humans or other living organisms upon exposure to relatively small amounts of the waste. These wastes are subject to stringent quantity standards for accumulation and generation. Federally, acute hazardous

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wastes are on the "P-list" meaning the waste code begins with a "P". Oregon state-only acute hazardous waste code starts with "ORP". Refer to 40 CFR 261.33.

Aisle Space: A concept related to the storage and management of hazardous waste in storage areas, particularly in the context of a hazardous waste facility or storage unit. The owner or operator must maintain aisle space to allow the unobstructed movement of personnel, fire protection equipment, spill control equipment, and decontamination equipment to any area of facility operation in an emergency, *unless* aisle space is not needed for any of these purposes. Refer to 40 CFR 265.35.

Beneficial Use: Returning without processing unused pesticide product, e.g., pesticide equipment rinsing, excess spray mixture, or empty pesticide containers to the economic mainstream as a substitute for raw materials in an industrial process or as a commercial product, e.g., melting a container for scrap metal. Refer to OAR 340-100-0010.

Central Accumulation Area: A designated location within a hazardous waste generator's facility where hazardous waste is temporarily stored before it is shipped off-site for treatment, storage, or disposal. Refer to 40 CFR Part 262 for generators and Part 265 for treatment, storage, and disposal facilities.

Characteristic Hazardous Waste: Waste that exhibits one or more of four specific characteristics defined by RCRA. These characteristics are used to identify waste as hazardous and subject to RCRA's stringent management and disposal requirements. Refer to 40 CFR Subpart C and OAR 340-100-0010.

The four hazardous waste characteristics are listed below with the applicable waste code in parenthesis:

1. Ignitability (D001): A liquid with a flashpoint (the temperature at which a substance gives off enough vapor to ignite when exposed to an open flame, spark, or other ignition source) of 140 degrees Fahrenheit (60 degrees Celsius) or lower, or it is not a liquid but can catch fire easily and sustain combustion. This includes flammable solvents, certain petroleum-based products, and other materials prone to ignition.
2. Corrosivity (D002): Waste is deemed corrosive if it has a pH level less than or equal to 2 or greater than or equal to 12.5, or it can corrode steel at a rate of 0.25 inches per year. Examples include strong acids and bases.
3. Reactivity (D003): Waste is considered reactive if it is unstable, reacts violently with water, is capable of producing toxic gases, or exhibits other dangerous reactions. Examples include explosives, cyanides, and materials that generate toxic gases when exposed to water.
4. Toxicity (D004-D043): Toxic waste is determined based on its toxicity to human health or the environment. RCRA identifies specific toxic substances and sets concentration levels that, if exceeded, classify the waste as hazardous. Numerous hazardous waste codes (D004 through D043) are associated with various toxic compounds like heavy metals, organic chemicals, and pesticides.

Closed-Loop Recycling System: A recycling process where materials are collected, recycled, and then used to manufacture new products in a continuous, cyclical manner. A closed-loop recycling system might involve the recycling and reuse of hazardous waste or hazardous secondary materials within an industrial process without the generation of additional hazardous waste. Refer to 40 CFR 261.4(a)(8).

Compliance Inspection: A type of environmental inspection conducted to ensure that facilities that generate, treat, store, or dispose of hazardous waste are following the regulations set forth in RCRA. The purpose of

these inspections is to protect human health and the environment from the potential dangers of hazardous waste. During a RCRA compliance inspection, inspectors may review records, inspect operations, take samples, and assess compliance with the hazardous waste regulatory program. They check for proper waste characterization, on-site management practices, record keeping, and whether the facility is in compliance with its permit conditions. Inspectors may be from the EPA, DEQ, or both. If violations are found, the facility is required to correct them and could face penalties.

Contained: Stored in a container, tank or containment building in compliance with the generator standards of 40 CFR 262, or at a permitted transfer, storage, disposal facility, or TSDF. Refer to OAR 340-100-0010.

Corrective Action: The process required to clean up or remediate releases of hazardous waste or hazardous constituents into the environment from solid waste management units at a RCRA-regulated facility. Corrective Actions are subject to oversight by the EPA or DEQ. Facilities that treat, store, or dispose of hazardous waste must investigate and clean up any releases of hazardous waste or constituents into the soil, groundwater, surface water, and air. The process is designed to ensure that these facilities address and mitigate the risks associated with releases of hazardous substances, thereby protecting human health and the environment. Refer to 40 CFR 264.100.

Designated Facility: The permitted hazardous waste treatment, storage, disposal or recycling facility designated on a manifest by the generator. The facility must meet one of the following criteria:

- Received a permit or interim status in accordance with 40 CFR 270 & 124;
- Received a permit or interim status from an authorized state in accordance with 40 CFR 271;
- Regulated under 40 CFR 261.6(c)(2); or
- Regulated under Subpart F of 40 CFR 270.

Refer to 40 CFR 260.10 "Designated facility".

Disposal: The discharge, deposit, injection, dumping, spilling, leaking, or placing of any hazardous waste or hazardous substance into or on any land or water so that the hazardous waste, or hazardous substance or any constituent thereof, may enter the environment or be emitted into the air or discharged into any waters of the state as defined in Oregon Revised Statute 468.700. Refer to 40 CFR 260.10 "Disposal" and OAR 340-100-0010.

e-Manifest: Part of the EPA's initiative to modernize the tracking and management of hazardous waste shipments. It is an electronic system designed to replace the traditional paper-based tracking forms, known as the Uniform Hazardous Waste Manifest, which accompanies hazardous waste shipped from one location to another. The e-Manifest system aims to improve the efficiency, transparency, and accuracy of hazardous waste tracking by providing a centralized platform for electronic submission, management, and access to manifest data. Refer to 40 CFR 265.71.

Elementary Neutralization Unit: Equipment used to neutralize wastes categorized as hazardous only because they are corrosive. This equipment can be a tank, tank system, container, transport vehicle, or vessel. Refer to 40 CFR 260.10 which defines "Elementary neutralization unit".

Empty Container: Also called "RCRA empty," a container from which:

- All the contents have been removed that can be removed using the practices commonly employed to remove materials from that type of container; and

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- No more than one inch of residue remains on the bottom of the container; or
- No more than three percent of the total capacity of the container remains in the container if the container is less than or equal to 110 gallons in size; or
- No more than 0.3% of the total capacity of the container remains in the container or inner liner if the container is greater than 110 gallons in size; or
- If the material is a compressed gas, the pressure in the container is atmospheric.

Refer to 40 CFR 261.7 and OAR 340-100-0010.

Episodic Event: A situation where a hazardous waste generator temporarily exceeds its usual category of hazardous waste generation due to an unusual event. RCRA provides for VSQGs and SQGs to manage these unusual increases in waste generation without changing their generator category. These regulations are designed to accommodate planned events, such as cleanouts or maintenance, and unplanned events, such as production upsets or accidents. Refer to 40 CFR 262 Subpart L and OAR 340-102-0230.

Exclusion: A specific type of waste or a waste management practice that is not regulated under RCRA hazardous waste regulations, i.e., excluded from RCRA. Refer to 40 CFR 261.4 and OAR 340-101-0004.

Exemption: A regulatory provision that allows certain wastes or waste management activities to be excused from some or all the requirements typically imposed by RCRA regulations. Exemptions are designed to reduce the regulatory burden in situations where the potential risk to human health and the environment is deemed low or compliance with standard RCRA requirements is deemed unnecessary or impractical.

Facility: For reporting purposes, facility refers to hazardous waste generators, RCRA treatment, storage and disposal facilities, and designated recycling facilities. A facility may consist of several treatment, storage, or disposal operational units, that is, one or more landfills, surface impoundments, or combinations of them. Refer to 40 CFR 260.10 "Facility".

Generator: A person who, by ownership, management, or control, is responsible for causing or allowing the creation of hazardous waste to be caused. Refer to 40 CFR 260.10 "Generator" and OAR 340-100-0010

Hazardous Secondary Material (HSM): A secondary material, e.g., spent material, by-product, or sludge, that, when discarded, would be identified as hazardous waste under 40 CFR part 261. Refer to 40 CFR 260.10 "Hazardous secondary material".

Hazardous Waste: A waste solid, liquid, or compressed gas that possesses at least one of four characteristics: ignitibility, corrosivity, reactivity, or toxicity, or that appears on federal or state lists of hazardous wastes. Refer to 40 CFR Part 261 and OAR 340-101-0033 and 340-102-0011.

Hazardous Waste Code: A four-character code identifying wastes defined as hazardous, or a five-character code identifying wastes defined as Oregon state-only hazardous waste.

Below are the main sections within 40 CFR Part 261 that pertain to federal waste codes:

- Subpart B - Identification and Listing of Hazardous Waste (§261.10 - §261.11):

This section provides the procedures for identifying and listing hazardous wastes. It includes the criteria for listing wastes and the process for delisting certain wastes. Waste codes associated with newly identified or listed wastes can be found here.

- **Subpart C - Characteristics of Hazardous Waste (§261.20 - §261.24):**
This section outlines the criteria that determine whether a waste exhibits hazardous characteristics, such as ignitability, corrosivity, reactivity, and toxicity. Specific waste codes related to these characteristics are listed here.
- **Subpart D - Lists of Hazardous Wastes (§261.30 - §261.35):**
This section contains lists of specific wastes that are considered hazardous. The lists include the F-list (wastes from common manufacturing processes), the K-list (source-specific wastes), and the P-list and U-list (discarded commercial chemical products). The waste codes associated with these lists are defined in this subpart.

Hazardous Waste Determination: A crucial process under RCRA that involves identifying whether a waste material is classified as a hazardous waste. This determination is essential for ensuring proper waste management practices, protecting human health, and preserving the environment by ensuring that hazardous wastes are appropriately identified, managed, and disposed of. Generators of waste are responsible for accurately determining if their waste is hazardous and must document their determinations. Refer to 40 CFR 262.11.

Hazardous Waste Pharmaceutical: Waste pharmaceuticals that are hazardous because they are listed or characteristic. Examples of hazardous waste pharmaceuticals include arsenic trioxide, mercury, epinephrine, nitroglycerin, warfarin, cyclophosphamide and chloroform. Refer to 40 CFR 266 Subpart P.

Hazardous Waste Transporter: An entity or individual involved in transporting hazardous waste from its point of generation to a designated treatment, storage, or disposal facility. Refer to 40 CFR Part 263 for standards applicable to hazardous waste transporters.

Healthcare Facility: As defined by RCRA, these include entities that are legally authorized to provide a wide range of medical services encompassing preventive, diagnostic, therapeutic, rehabilitative, maintenance, or palliative care and counseling, services, assessments, or procedures for both human and animal health. Facilities that distribute, sell, or dispense pharmaceuticals also fall under this definition. Examples include, but are not limited to, hospitals, psychiatric hospitals, ambulatory surgical centers, health clinics, physicians' offices, optical and dental providers, chiropractors, long-term care facilities, pharmacies, veterinary clinics, and veterinary hospitals. These facilities are subject to 40 CFR 266 Subpart P.

Household Hazardous Waste: Wastes generated by normal household activities, e.g., routine house and yard maintenance, that would otherwise be considered hazardous waste are excluded from the definition of hazardous waste. Refer to 40 CFR 261.4(b)(1).

Wastes covered by the household hazardous waste exclusion must satisfy two criteria:

1. The waste must be generated by individuals on the premise of a temporary or permanent residence, and

2. The waste stream must be composed primarily of materials found in wastes generated by consumers in their homes. Examples include pesticides, herbicides, poisons, corrosives, solvents, fuels, paints, motor oil, antifreeze, and mercury and mercury-containing wastes.

Household Use: Use by the home or dwelling owner in or around households, including single and multiple residences, hotels and motels. Refer to OAR 340-100-0010.

Incinerator: A device using controlled flame combustion to burn waste for treatment or disposal. Incinerators do not include boilers or industrial furnaces. Incinerators that burn hazardous waste are subject to specific regulations outlined in 40 CFR Part 264, Subpart O.

Investigation Derived Waste (IDW): Waste generated during the investigation, assessment, or remediation of contaminated sites. This waste may include soil, water, or other materials that have been sampled or removed for testing during environmental investigations. Typically, the characterization, treatment, and disposal of waste generated during environmental investigations would be subject to RCRA regulations.

Jet Rinsing: A specific treatment for an empty container using the following procedure:

- A nozzle is inserted into the container, or the empty container is inverted over a nozzle such that all interior surfaces of the container can be rinsed; and
- The container is thoroughly rinsed using an appropriate solvent.

Refer to OAR 340-100-0010.

Lab pack: Refers to a specific method of managing and disposing of small quantities of laboratory chemicals that have become waste. This term is commonly used in the hazardous waste management industry to describe a packaging and disposal method for relatively small volumes of diverse chemicals generated in laboratories. It involves consolidating small containers (such as bottles, vials, or jars) of various laboratory chemicals into a single, compatible, and properly labeled larger container, called "overpack". The goal is to minimize the risk of spills, reactions, or cross-contamination during transportation and disposal. Refer to 40 CFR 265.316.

Land Disposal Restrictions (LDR): This program is designed to minimize the environmental impact of hazardous waste disposal by restricting the land disposal of certain hazardous wastes or imposing treatment requirements before disposal. The regulations identify certain wastes that are restricted, and the standards to which they must be treated before being placed in a landfill. LDR regulations also require analysis and recordkeeping. Refer to 40 CFR Part 268.

Large Quantity Generator (LQG): Per month, this category of hazardous waste generate will generate:

- 2,200 pounds or more of non-acute hazardous waste; or
- More than 2.2 pounds of acute hazardous waste listed in § 261.31 or § 261.33(e); or
- More than 220 pounds of any residue, contaminated soil, water, or other debris from cleaning up a spill of acute hazardous waste listed in § 261.31 or § 261.33(e).

Large Quantity Generators have additional regulatory obligations under RCRA compared to Small Quantity Generators (SQG) and Very Small Quantity Generators (VSQG). They must comply with more stringent requirements, including more detailed recordkeeping, reporting, and contingency planning.

Large Quantity Handler of Universal Waste (LQHUW): A universal waste handler who accumulates a total of 11,000 pounds or more of all universal wastes at any time. This designation is retained through the end of the calendar year at which time 11,000 pounds or more of universal wastes accumulate.

Legitimacy Criteria: A set of standards used to determine if hazardous secondary materials are being legitimately reused, reclaimed, or recycled and therefore are not subject to regulation as hazardous waste. Refer to 40 CFR 260.43 and OAR 340-100-0043.

Listed Hazardous Waste: These wastes are included on one of four lists: F-list (wastes from common manufacturing and industrial processes), K-list (wastes from specific industries), P-list (acute wastes), and U-list (discarded commercial chemical products). The designation depends on the waste's origin, composition, and characteristics. Each listed waste is assigned a unique code to ensure proper handling and disposal. Refer to 40 CFR 261.31 - 261.33.

Management: The comprehensive set of activities and practices involved in the proper handling, storage, treatment, transportation, and disposal of hazardous waste. For the purpose of annual reporting, management refers only to the final disposition of the waste, i.e., whether it is recycled, landfilled, incinerated, etc. Refer to 40 CFR Part 262 for generator requirements and 40 CFR Parts 264 and 265 for treatment, storage, and disposal facility (TSDF) requirements.

Management Facility: A facility that treats, stores, disposes of, or recycles hazardous waste. Refer to 40 CFR 270.2 "Hazardous Waste Management facility" and OAR 340-100-0010.

Manifest: The shipping document, EPA Form 8700-22 and, if necessary, EPA Form 8700-22A, originated and signed by the generator by the instructions included in the Appendix to CFR Part 262 as modified by OAR 340-102-0060. Using the manifest system is a critical component of RCRA's hazardous waste management program. It promotes transparency, accountability, and regulatory compliance throughout the life cycle of hazardous waste, from generation to final disposition. The specific requirements for manifesting are outlined in 40 CFR Part 262 for generators and Part 263 for transporters and treatment, storage, and disposal facilities.

Mixed Waste: Refers to waste that contains both hazardous waste and radioactive waste. This combination of hazardous and radioactive materials presents unique challenges in terms of handling, treatment, and disposal due to the different regulatory frameworks that govern these two types of waste. The management of mixed waste is subject to both hazardous waste and radioactive waste regulations, overseen by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). Refer to 40 CFR Part 266 Subpart N.

Multiple Rinsing: Also called "triple rinsing"; a specific treatment for an empty container repeating the following procedure a minimum of three times:

- An appropriate solvent is placed in the container in an amount equal to at least 10% of the container volume; and
- The container is agitated to rinse all interior surfaces; and
- The container is opened and drained, allowing at least 30 seconds after the drips start.

Refer to OAR 340-100-0010.

North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) Code: A six-digit coding system developed by the United States Census Bureau and the Office of Management and Budget that categorizes the principal product or group of products produced or distributed, or services rendered at a site's physical location. Refer to <https://www.census.gov/naics/>

National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES): A provision of the Clean Water Act which prohibits discharge of pollutants into waters of the United States unless a special permit is issued by EPA, a state, or where delegated, a Tribal Government. Refer to 40 CFR Part 122.

Off-site: Refers to activities or conditions that occur outside the boundaries of a facility. Specifically, it relates to the transport, treatment, storage, or disposal of hazardous waste at locations other than the facility where the waste was generated; any location hazardous waste originated from or is destined for which a hazardous waste manifest is required for shipment. Refer to OAR 340-100-0010.

On-site: Refers to activities or conditions that occur within the boundaries of a facility, where hazardous waste is generated, treated, stored, or disposed of; the site where hazardous waste is located and all the adjacent parts of that location to which the waste can be transported without requiring a hazardous waste manifest.

Operator: Refers to an individual or entity responsible for the day-to-day operations of a facility that manages hazardous waste. The operator plays a key role in ensuring that the facility complies with RCRA regulations, including those related to the generation, treatment, storage, transportation, and disposal of hazardous waste. Refer to 40 CFR 270.2 "Owner or operator".

Owner: Refers to an individual or entity that owns or has legal control over a facility where hazardous waste is generated, treated, stored, or disposed of. Refer to 40 CFR 270.2 "Owner or operator".

Permit: An official authorization issued by DEQ or EPA that allows the holder to perform certain activities related to managing hazardous waste. These activities can include treating, storing and disposing hazardous waste. The permit sets forth specific conditions and requirements to ensure that waste management practices do not harm human health or the environment. Refer to 40 CFR 270.2 "Permit" and OAR 340-100-0010.

Pesticide: Any substance or combination of substances intended for defoliating plants or for preventing, destroying, repelling, or mitigating insects, fungi, weeds, rodents, or predatory animals; including but not limited to defoliants, desiccants, fungicides, herbicides, insecticides, and nematicides. Refer to Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) 634.006 and OAR 340-100-0010.

Pesticide Collection Program: A program that collects waste pesticides for subsequent treatment or disposal. A pesticide collection program may be operated by federal, state or local municipal entities as well as by persons in private industry. Pesticide collection programs are required to notify DEQ of their activities prior to the collection of pesticides. Refer to <https://www.oregon.gov/oda/programs/Pesticides/Water/Pages/PesticideStewardship.aspx>

Pesticide Equipment: Any equipment, machinery or device used in pesticide manufacture, repackaging, formulation, bulking and mixing, use, cleaning up spills, or preparation for use or application of pesticides, including but not limited to aircraft, ground spraying equipment, hoppers, tanks, booms and hoses. Refer to OAR 340-100-0010.

Pesticide Residue: An Oregon state-only hazardous waste that is generated from pesticide operations and pesticide management, such as, from pesticide use (except household use), manufacturing, repackaging, formulation, bulking and mixing, and spills. Pesticide residue includes, but is not limited to, 1) unused commercial pesticides, 2) tank or container bottoms or sludges, 3) pesticide spray mixture, container rinsings and pesticide equipment washings, and 4) substances generated from pesticide treatment, recycling, disposal, and rinsing spray and pesticide equipment. Pesticide residue does not include pesticide-containing materials that are used according to label instructions, and substances such as, but not limited to treated soil, treated wood, foodstuff, water, vegetation, and treated seeds where pesticides were applied according to label instructions. Refer to OAR 340-100-0010.

Point Of Generation: The location where and time when a waste is produced or first created. The hazardous waste determination for each solid waste must be made at the point of waste generation, before any dilution, mixing, or other alteration of the waste occurs, and at any time in the course of its management that it has, or may have, changed its properties as a result of exposure to the environment or other factors that may change the properties of the waste such that the RCRA classification of the waste may change. Refer to 40 CFR 262.11.

Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTW): Refers to facilities and infrastructure that are publicly owned and operated for the treatment of municipal wastewater and industrial wastewater. POTWs are typically operated by local government agencies or municipalities to treat and manage wastewater from homes, businesses, and industries before it is discharged into the environment. Refer to 40 CFR 403.3.

RCRA Permit: These permits are issued to facilities that treat and/or, store and/or, dispose of hazardous waste to ensure compliance with environmental regulations and to protect human health and the environment. Refer to 40 CFR 270.10 and OAR Chapter 340, Division 105.

Reclamation: The process of recovering usable materials or energy from hazardous waste or solid waste. It can include activities such as recycling, reusing, or regenerating valuable resources from waste materials, thereby reducing the amount of waste that requires disposal. Examples include recovering lead from spent batteries and regeneration of spent solvents. Refer to 40 CFR 260.10.

Recycling: The process of collecting, processing, and reusing materials that would otherwise be discarded as waste. Recycling aims to recover valuable resources from waste materials and use them as raw materials to manufacture new products or for other beneficial purposes. Refer to 40 CFR 260.10.

Remediation waste: Waste materials generated as a result of the cleanup or remediation of contaminated sites, such as land, soil, or groundwater, to address environmental contamination or pollution. This waste category includes materials removed from contaminated areas during cleanup efforts, and it is subject to specific regulations to ensure proper management and disposal. Refer to 40 CFR 260.10.

Residue: Solid waste as defined in 40 CFR 261.2. Refer also to OAR 340-100-0010.

Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA): A U.S. environmental law that gives the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and authorized states the authority to control hazardous waste “from cradle to grave”, that is, from its creation to disposal. RCRA aims to protect human health and the environment from potential dangers of waste disposal, encourage waste reduction, and oversee hazardous waste management.

Reuse: The return of a commodity to the economic mainstream for use in the same kind of application as before without change in its identity, e.g., a container used to repackage a pesticide formulation. Refer to OAR 340-100-0010.

Safety Data Sheet (SDS): Formerly known as a Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS), is a standardized document that provides essential information about the properties, hazards, safe handling, storage, and emergency measures associated with a chemical product. SDSs are crucial for ensuring the safe use and handling of chemicals in various settings, including workplaces, laboratories, and industrial facilities. Refer to <https://www.osha.gov/sites/default/files/publications/OSHA3514.pdf>

Satellite Accumulation Area (SAA): A location near the point of waste generation where hazardous waste is initially accumulated before being moved to a central accumulation area. RCRA allows for the accumulation of up to 55 gallons of hazardous waste or 1 quart of acute hazardous waste in these areas, facilitating safer and more efficient waste management close to where the waste is produced. Refer to 40 CFR 262.15.

Skewering prohibition: The regulation that prohibits the disposal of hazardous waste pharmaceuticals into public sewer systems, for example, by flushing down the toilet. This measure aims to prevent the release of hazardous waste into waterways, thus protecting water quality and public health. Refer to 40 CFR 266.505.

Site: The location where hazardous waste management activities or remediation efforts related to hazardous waste contamination are taking place. A "site" can include various facilities, properties, or areas where hazardous waste is generated, treated, stored, disposed of, or cleaned up. Refer to OAR 340-100-0010.

Site Identification Number: The unique number assigned to each generator, transporter, and treatment, storage, and disposal facility. If assigned by Oregon DEQ, this ID number begins with "OR" and is followed by a letter or number and nine digits. Site ID numbers are assigned to physical locations and are not transferrable. Refer to OAR 340-102-0018 and 340-100-0010.

Small Quantity Generator (SQG): Per month, this category of hazardous waste generate will generate:

- More than 220 pounds but less than 2,200 pounds of non-acute hazardous waste.
- 2.2 pounds or less of acute hazardous waste listed in § 261.31 or § 261.33(e).
- 220 pounds or less of any residue, contaminated soil, water, or other debris from cleaning up a spill of acute hazardous waste listed in § 261.31 or § 261.33(e).

Refer to 40 CFR 260.10 for the definition of SQG and 40 CFR 262.14 for SQG requirements under RCRA.

Small Quantity Handler of Universal Waste (SQHUW): A universal waste handler who does not accumulate more than 11,000 pounds total of universal waste at any time. Refer to 40 CFR Part 273 Subpart B.

Significant Non-Complier (SNC): Refers to a facility or entity that has significantly violated RCRA's hazardous waste management regulations. These violations are serious enough to warrant formal enforcement actions and are typically characterized by their potential to harm human health and the environment. Refer to <https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/documents/finalerp1203.pdf>

Solid Waste: Any discarded material that is not exempt from regulation under RCRA, or that is not excluded by a variance, or that is not excluded by a non-waste determination. Refer to 40 CFR 261.2.

Solid/Sludge Residual: Any solid or semi-solid waste generated from a municipal, commercial, or industrial wastewater treatment plant, water supply treatment plant, or air pollution control facility, exclusive of the treatment effluent from a wastewater treatment plant. Refer to 40 CFR Part 503.

Source Reduction: A waste management approach aimed at preventing or reducing the generation of hazardous waste at its source rather than managing it after it has been generated. This concept is often referred to as "waste minimization" or "pollution prevention." The goal of source reduction is to minimize the creation of hazardous waste by implementing practices, technologies, and strategies that decrease the quantity and toxicity of waste generated by industrial processes, businesses, and other entities. This approach emphasizes the reduction of waste through product design, process modifications, recycling, and other methods to prevent the environmental and health risks associated with hazardous waste disposal. Refer to OAR 340-014-0105.

State-Only Hazardous Waste: Waste that is defined as hazardous in the State of Oregon but is not federally recognized as hazardous waste. Refer to OAR 340-101-0033.

Storage: Also called "collection", refers to the temporary holding of hazardous waste prior to its treatment, recycling, disposal, or transportation off-site; the containment of hazardous waste either on a temporary basis or for a period of years, in a manner that does not constitute disposal of the hazardous waste. Refer to 40 CFR Part 265 and OAR 340-100-0010.

System: A process or series of processes that perform a single operation on a hazardous waste stream. It may consist of several units, or single pieces of equipment, e.g., individual tanks, surface impoundments, or distillation systems.

Subpart P: This part of RCRA establishes a sector-specific set of regulations for the management of hazardous waste pharmaceuticals by healthcare facilities and reverse distributors. Refer to 40 CFR Part 266 Subpart P.

Tank: A stationary device designed to contain an accumulation of hazardous waste constructed primarily of non-earthen materials to provide structural support. Tanks are used to treat, store or dispose of hazardous waste and must meet specific design, construction, and operational standards to prevent leaks and releases. Refer to 40 CFR 260.10 "Tank" and "Tank system".

Toxic Chemical Release Inventory (TRI): Also known as the Toxics Release Inventory, a program that was established under the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) of 1986. The EPA administers the program. The primary purpose of the TRI is to provide the public with information about the release and management of toxic chemicals by industrial facilities. The TRI program covers over 650 toxic chemicals and chemical categories, including substances like lead, mercury, benzene, and various heavy metals. The list of covered chemicals is periodically updated. Refer to <https://www.epa.gov/toxics-release-inventory-tri-program>

Toxic Substance: Any substance in a gaseous, liquid, or solid state listed pursuant to Title III, Section 313 of the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986, or any substance added by the Environmental Quality Commission (EQC) under the authority of ORS 465.009 and OAR 340-135-0040.

Toxics Use Reduction: A proactive and systematic approach aimed at minimizing or eliminating the use of toxic or hazardous substances in industrial processes, products, or operations. The primary objective of toxics use reduction is to prevent the generation of hazardous waste at its source by reducing the quantity and toxicity of the materials used in various industrial activities. Refer to OAR 340-014-0105.

Transfer Facility/Station: A waste management facility or site where hazardous waste is temporarily held or consolidated before it is further transported to a treatment, storage, or disposal facility (TSDF). Transfer facilities play a critical role in managing hazardous waste by facilitating the safe and efficient transportation of waste from its point of generation to its ultimate destination for treatment, storage, or disposal. Refer to 40 CFR 260.10 "Transfer facility".

Treatment: A set of processes or activities designed to change the physical, chemical, or biological characteristics of hazardous waste to make it less harmful or less environmentally hazardous. RCRA defines treatment as one of the key categories of hazardous waste management and distinguishes it from other waste management activities such as storage, disposal, and generation. Treatment processes are implemented to reduce hazardous waste's toxicity, volume, mobility, or other hazardous characteristics, making it safer for handling, transportation, and eventual disposal or other management methods. Refer to 40 CFR 260.10 "Treatment".

Treatment, Storage, Disposal Facility (TSDF): A facility or site that is specifically permitted to manage hazardous waste. TSDFs play a critical role in the hazardous waste management system established by RCRA. These facilities are authorized to perform various activities related to treating, storing or disposing hazardous waste to ensure its safe management and ultimate disposition. Compliance with RCRA regulations is essential for the operation of TSDFs, and these facilities are subject to regular inspections and oversight. Refer to 40 CFR Part 264.

Waste Management Unit: A contiguous area of land on or in which waste is placed; the largest area in which there is a significant likelihood of mixing of waste constituents in the same area; a term used to describe various components, structures, or areas within a facility that are used for the treatment, storage, or disposal of hazardous waste including tanks, containers, landfills, surface impoundments, and waste piles. Refer to 40 CFR parts 264, 265 and 266 and OAR 340-100-0010.

Wastewater Treatment Unit: Facilities or systems designed to treat wastewater, often generated from industrial, commercial, and municipal sources, before it is discharged into the environment. The primary goals of wastewater treatment units are to remove pollutants, contaminants, and pathogens from wastewater, ensuring that the treated effluent meets environmental standards and does not harm aquatic ecosystems or public health. These units are not regulated under RCRA but rather under the Clean Water Act (CWA). Refer to 40 CFR 260.10 "Wastewater treatment unit".

Universal Waste: A category of hazardous wastes that are generated by a wide range of businesses and industries. This category was introduced to streamline the management of common hazardous waste items and to encourage proper disposal and recycling practices. Universal wastes are subject to specific regulations under

RCRA. These regulations were designed to simplify waste management requirements for these commonly generated hazardous materials. Refer to 40 CFR 273 and OAR Chapter 340 Division 113.

Universal wastes currently include the following:

1. **Batteries:** Includes various types of batteries, such as nickel-cadmium (Ni-Cd), nickel-metal-hydride (Ni-MH), lead-acid, and small sealed lead-acid batteries commonly used in items like electronic devices, vehicles, and emergency lighting. Lithium-ion (Li-ion) batteries are not currently included.
2. **Fluorescent lamps:** Includes fluorescent light tubes and bulbs that contain hazardous materials such as mercury. They are commonly found in commercial and industrial lighting fixtures.
3. **Pesticides:** Includes certain types of pesticides that are being discarded or intended for disposal, but still meet regulatory criteria for hazardous waste. These may include banned, recalled, or unused pesticides.
4. **Mercury-Containing Equipment:** Includes equipment that contains elemental mercury, such as thermostats, thermometers, and switches.
5. **Aerosol cans:** These are common household and industrial items that contain potentially hazardous substances, such as propellants and contents that may be flammable, toxic, or otherwise harmful. When transporting universal waste aerosol cans, they should be packaged to prevent spills, punctures, or leaks. Compliance with Department of Transportation (DOT) regulations may be required for transportation.

Used Oil: Any oil that has been refined from crude oil, or any synthetic oil that has been used as a lubricant, coolant (non-contact heat transfer fluids), hydraulic fluid or for similar uses and as a result of such use is contaminated by physical or chemical impurities. Used oil includes, but is not limited to, used motor oil, gear oil, greases, machine cutting and coolant oils, hydraulic fluids, brake fluids, electrical insulation oils, heat transfer oils and refrigeration oils. Used oil does not include used oil mixed with hazardous waste except as allowed in 40 CFR 279.10(b), oil (crude or synthetic) based products used as solvents, antifreeze, wastewaters from which the oil has been recovered, and oil contaminated media or debris. Refer to 40 CFR Part 279 and OAR Chapter 340 Division 111.

Variance: A regulatory flexibility mechanism. A variance might be granted in situations where the strict application of a regulation may not be feasible or when alternative practices can achieve the same or better environmental protection outcomes. For example, a generator may apply for a variance from certain hazardous waste management standards if they can demonstrate that their waste does not pose the same risk level of as other wastes that are subject to those standards. Similarly, a variance might be granted for innovative waste treatment technologies that deviate from established standards but provide equivalent or superior protection for human health and the environment. Refer to 40 CFR 260.31 for standards and criteria for variances from classification as a solid waste. Refer to OAR 340-100-0020 for variance request procedures.

Very Small Quantity Generator (VSQG): Per month, this category of hazardous waste generator will generate less than or equal to:

- 220 pounds of non-acute hazardous waste; and
- 2.2 pounds of acute hazardous waste listed in § 261.31 or § 261.33(e); and
- 220 pounds of any residue, contaminated soil, water, or other debris from cleaning up a spill of acute hazardous waste listed in § 261.31 or § 261.33(e).

Prior to adoption of the Generator Improvements rule, this category was called conditionally exempt small quantity generator or conditionally exempt generator, CESQG or CEG. Refer to 40 CFR 260.10 for the definition of VSQG and 40 CFR 262.14 for VSQG requirements under RCRA.

Contact Information

For more information on this and other fees, please contact the Hazardous Waste Program via email at hazwaste@deq.oregon.gov or call 1-844-841-4938.

Non-discrimination statement

DEQ does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability, age or sex in administration of its programs or activities. Visit DEQ's [Civil Rights and Environmental Justice page](#).