

Overview of California's Universal Waste Regulations

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Background

The Universal Waste Regulations (UWR) provide:

- Special management standards - separate from the general hazardous waste standards
- For “universally” generated hazardous wastes rather than industrial hazardous wastes

Background

Universal wastes are:

- Wastes – they are discarded by being disposed of or recycled
- Hazardous– they are listed as hazardous wastes or they exhibit a characteristic of a hazardous waste
- Designated as universal wastes in regulation or statute

Criteria for Designation as Universal Waste

- The waste is produced by a wide variety of generators.
- The waste is produced by a large number of individual generators.
- Universal waste management would provide good stewardship of the waste.
- Risks posed during accumulation and transportation of the waste are relatively low.

Criteria for Designation as Universal Waste

- Designating the waste as universal waste will result in diversion from the solid waste stream.
- Designation as universal waste will improve compliance.

California UWR - Standards

Entities regulated under the UWR:

- Handlers
 - Generators
 - Intermediate accumulation facilities
- Transporters
- Destination facilities
 - Hazardous waste disposal facilities
 - Hazardous waste recycling facilities

California UWR - Standards

Two classes of universal waste handler:

- Small quantity handlers of universal waste
 - Most handlers
- Large quantity handlers of universal waste
 - Handlers that have >5000kg (5.5 tons) of universal waste onsite at any one time

California UWR – Standards

Standards for Handlers

- Prohibitions on treatment and disposal
- EPA ID Number (Large Quantity)
- Waste Management
- Labeling/Marking
- Accumulation Time Limits
- Employee Training
- Response to Releases
- Offsite Shipments
- Tracking of Shipments
- Export Requirements

Standards for UW Handlers

- **Prohibitions:**

- Do not dispose (directly to land or trash)
- Do not treat, except as allowed in the UWR
 - Electronic devices
 - CRT Materials
 - Aerosol Cans
 - Batteries
 - Mercury Gauges

- **Notification (66273.12/.32)**

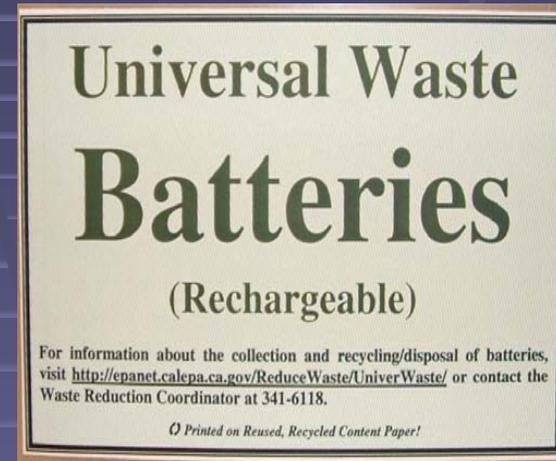
- No notification for small quantity except for UW electronic devices (UWEDs) (66273.13(d))
- U.S. EPA ID number for large quantity.
- If the handler exceeds the 5,000 kg limit because of the volume of UWEDs, no EPA ID number is required.

Standards for UW Handlers

- **Waste management**
 - Properly contain wastes (Table 3)
 - Prevent any releases
 - Clean up releases, properly manage residuals
 - Treat only as allowed for specific types of universal waste (Table 4)
 - Offsite shipment only to a UWH or a Destination Facility

Standards for UW Handlers

- **Labeling/marking(66273.14/.34)**
 - Use required labeling language
- **Accumulation Time Limits (.15/.35)**
 - One year
 - Longer times for cause (e.g., proper recovery, treatment, or disposal)
 - Document the accumulation start date
 - Labels on containers
 - Labels on individual wastes
 - Inventory system
 - Label near universal waste



Standards for UW Handlers

- **Employee training(66273.16/.36)**
 - Small: Informal (poster, handout, etc.)
 - Large: Formal training/recordkeeping
- **Response to releases(66273.17/.37)**
 - Immediate cleanup all wastes
 - Manage residuals from UW as UW
 - Properly manage other cleanup wastes

Standards for UW Handlers

- **Offsite Shipments (66273.18/.38)**
 - Send universal waste only to another destination facility or another handler
 - Follow load rejection rules
 - Immediately notify DTSC if you receive a shipment containing hazardous waste that is not universal waste; DTSC will provide instructions.
 - Properly manage non-hazardous non-universal wastes

Standards for UW Handlers

- **Tracking Shipments (66273.19/.39)**
 - Keep records of UW shipments and receipts for three years. Records must include:
 - Name and address of shipper
 - Quantity and type of UW received
 - Date shipment was received
- **Exports (66273.20/.40)**
- **Imports (Article 6)**
 - Follow rules

Broken, Damaged, or Leaking UW

- Should be cleaned up immediately and repackaged.
- May be managed as universal waste.
- Other wastes generated during clean up, if they exhibit any hazardous waste characteristic, are regulated as hazardous waste (not universal).

California UWR - Standards

Standards for transporters

- Prohibitions
- Waste Management
- Storage Time Limits
- Response to Releases
- Offsite Shipments
- Exports
- Transporter Reporting Requirements

California UWR - Standards

Destination Facilities

- Must be authorized for hazardous waste
 - Hazardous waste disposal sites
 - Hazardous waste recyclers
- In California, “authorized” means they have a permit

Note: Lamps, CRTs, and many mercury-containing universal wastes must be recycled to qualify for universal waste management

Temporary Exemptions

Temporary Disposal Exemptions for Batteries, Lamps, Thermostats, and Electronic Devices

- Sunset 2/8/2006
- Household (True households only)
- Conditionally Exempt Small Quantity Universal Waste Generators (CESQUWGs) (limited quantities; no thermostats)
- DTSC may adopt regulations to extend the household disposal exemption if collection infrastructure not in place.

Temporary Exemptions

Conditionally Exempt Small Quantity Universal Waste Generator (CESQUWG):

- Generates, monthly, no more than 100kg (220 pounds) total of RCRA hazardous waste plus all universal wastes except CRTs;
- Generates, monthly, no more than 1 kg acutely hazardous waste;
- Generates, annually, no more than 5 CRTs or CRT devices; and
- Complies with 40 CFR 261.5.