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MONTHLY HOTLINE REPORT

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1. Frequently Asked Questions on the Universal Waste Regulations

Which hazardous wastes are covered under the universal waste regulations in 40 CFR Part 273?

Currently, the three specific wastes covered under Part 273 are hazardous waste batteries (e.g., nickel-cadmium and lead-acid batteries), hazardous waste pesticides, and hazardous waste mercury-containing thermostats (273.1). Part 273, Subpart G, contains provisions to allow for other wastes to be added to the universal waste regulations through a petitioning process. As such, new wastes, such as mercury lamps, may be added in the future.

Are universal waste handlers required to manage spent lead-acid batteries under 40 CFR Part 266, Subpart G, or under Part 273?

Handlers may actually choose the management standards with which they will comply. That is, they may either manage their batteries under the standards provided in Subpart G of Part 266 for spent lead-acid batteries that are being reclaimed, or they may comply with the universal waste regulations in Part 273 (60 FR 25505; May 11, 1995).

What are the notification requirements for Large Quantity Handlers of Universal Waste (LQHUW) and Small Quantity Handlers of Universal Waste (SQHUW)?

The universal waste regulations specify two distinct forms of notification for handlers of universal waste: a one-time written notification of universal waste management activity, and the acquisition of an EPA identification number. SQHUWs are not required to notify EPA of their universal waste activity, nor are they required to obtain an EPA identification number (273.12). LQHUWs, however, must submit the one-time written notification and must also obtain an EPA identification number (273.32). Renotification is not required for a LQHUW who has previously notified EPA of universal waste management activities and who has already received an EPA identification number (60 FR 25521; May 11, 1995).

Do the universal waste regulations contain a provision similar to the generator satellite accumulation provisions in 262.34(c)?

There is no specific provision under Part 273 for satellite accumulation. However, the universal waste regulations do not limit the location, or number of locations, at which a handler may accumulate universal wastes. Thus, a handler may accumulate universal wastes at or near the point of generation and may do so, in general, for up to one year (60 FR 25527; May 11, 1995).