

**NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY
BUREAU OF PRETREATMENT AND RESIDUALS**



REQUIREMENTS FOR DENTAL FACILITIES

Background

On October 1, 2007, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection adopted the Dental Amalgam rules. These rules, under [N.J.A.C. 7:14A-21.12](#), are applicable to all dental facilities that generate amalgam waste through placement or removal of amalgams, and discharge wastewater to the sanitary sewer. These regulations are designed to curtail the release of mercury from dental facilities to the environment.



What is Required?

For existing dental facilities, Best Management Practices, or BMPs, are required to be implemented by October 1, 2008, and an amalgam separator is required to be installed by October 1, 2009. An amalgam separator is equipment designed to remove amalgam waste contained in rinse or wastewater from chair-side water collection and discharge systems. The amalgam separator is required to be certified to perform at ninety-five (95) percent or greater efficiency in accordance with the testing methodologies required by the International Standard Organization (ISO) 11143 protocol. The installation and proper operation of an amalgam separator will prevent at least ninety-five (95) percent of the amalgam

waste from entering the sanitary sewer. New facilities (constructed on or after October 1, 2007) subject to the regulation shall immediately install an amalgam separator that meets the ISO 11143 criteria. Along with these requirements, each dental facility subject to this regulation shall register and certify compliance annually with the Department. The Department has developed an on-line portal so that the registration and certification requirements can be completed on-line. [See here.](#)



Who is Exempt?

Exemptions are specified under [N.J.A.C. 7:14A-21.12\(a\)](#). Any facility that does not generate amalgam waste is exempt from these requirements. The following specialty

practices are exempt provided no other types of dentistry are practiced at the facility: orthodontics; periodontics; endodontics; oral and maxillofacial surgery, oral and maxillofacial radiology; and oral and maxillofacial pathology.

For more information, contact:

NJ Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Water Quality
Bureau of Pretreatment and Residuals
PO Box 420
Trenton, NJ 08625-0420
(609) 984-4428
www.nj.gov/dep

Important Reminders:

**October 1, 2008—
Compliance with the BMP
required.**

**October 1, 2009—Amalgam
separator must be
installed in existing
facilities.**

**Annually—Register and
Certify Compliance with
the BMP and Separator
Requirements.**

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