Nearly 25% of All Violations Issued to Hazardous Waste Generators Are For Failing to Properly Label Containers

The following information from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) can help hazardous waste generators avoid violations. However, it does not include all applicable regulations.

1. When hazardous waste is generated, immediately mark the accumulation container with the words “Hazardous Waste” and the date waste accumulation began. Use a permanent marker or paint, or write the information on a pre-printed or handmade label, as shown below.

![Label Example]

2. Large-quantity generators of hazardous waste are allowed to accumulate hazardous waste on site for a maximum of 90 days, starting from the date waste accumulation began, as marked on the container. By law, any large-quantity generator storing hazardous waste beyond the 90-day time frame is determined to be operating a hazardous waste storage facility and must obtain a Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Treatment, Storage or Disposal Permit. Small-quantity generators are allowed to accumulate hazardous waste on site for a maximum of 180 days. Any small-quantity generator storing hazardous waste beyond the 180-day time frame is required to obtain a RCRA Treatment, Storage or Disposal Permit.

![Storage Containers]

By law, any large-quantity generator storing hazardous waste beyond the 90-day time frame is determined to be operating a hazardous waste storage facility and must obtain a Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Treatment, Storage or Disposal Permit. Small-quantity generators are allowed to accumulate hazardous waste on site for a maximum of 180 days. Any small-quantity generator storing hazardous waste beyond the 180-day time frame is required to obtain a RCRA Treatment, Storage or Disposal Permit.
3. If a generator fails to include the accumulation start date when labeling containers, the DEP will be unable to ascertain compliance with the above-noted permit exemption rule, and the generator could be determined to be operating a hazardous waste storage facility without the required RCRA Treatment, Storage or Disposal Permit.

4. Large-quantity generators are required to inspect areas where hazardous wastes are accumulated weekly. This inspection should be recorded in a written log, and should include information on labeling, dating, and number of containers and condition of containers.

5. Special marking is required for materials such as used oils, universal wastes and other recyclable materials. For used oil, mark accumulation containers and tanks with the words “used oil.” Universal waste, as it is accumulated, must be marked with the words “recyclable materials” and either “Universal Waste – Batteries”, “Universal Waste – Mercury-Containing Devices”, “Universal Waste – Oil-Based Finishes”, “Universal Waste – Pesticides”, “Universal Waste-Consumer Electronics” or “Universal Waste-Lamps,” as appropriate. The collection date of this material is also required.

Whom should I contact with questions?

Bureau of Hazardous Waste Compliance and Enforcement – Headquarters  (609) 584-4250
Chief, Michael Hastry

Hazardous Waste Compliance and Enforcement – Northern Field Office  (973) 299-7571
Supervisor, Jeffrey Sterling; covering Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Hunterdon, Morris, Passaic, Somerset, Sussex and Warren counties

Hazardous Waste Compliance and Enforcement – Central Field Office  (609) 584-4250
Supervisor, Joseph Mirabella; covering Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Ocean and Union counties

Hazardous Waste Compliance and Enforcement – Southern Field Office  (856) 614-3650
Supervisor, Farouk Afrasiabi; covering Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, and Salem counties

Where can I get more information?

Access the following Web sites for additional information:

http://www.nj.gov/dep/enforcement/hw-summary.html (Explains the categories of Hazardous Waste generator and the New Jersey and/or federal regulations that apply.)
http://www.state.nj.us/dep/dshw/ (Links to New Jersey regulations)
http://www.nj.gov/dep/enforcement/advisories.html (DEP’s Compliance and Enforcement advisories)

Please note this advisory is intended to be a summary explanation of a DEP initiative. It does not include all potentially applicable requirements. If you have questions about compliance with this initiative, please contact the Compliance and Enforcement office in your area, as listed above.