

Management of Mercury Switches in New Jersey

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Solid and Hazardous Waste Management
Program

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What is Universal Waste?

- Universal Waste is a specific hazardous waste stream that has been designated by EPA or a state as universal waste
- Universal Wastes are subject to reduced management requirements

New Jersey Universal Wastes

Adopted in 1996

- Batteries*
- Spent Pesticides*
- Thermostats*

* Also federal universal wastes

Adopted June 17, 2002**

- Mercury-containing Equipment
- Consumer Electronics
- Oil-based finishes
- Hazardous Waste Lamps*

**Effective December 17, 2002

Management of Universal Waste

- Universal Wastes Do Not Have to Be Managed As A Hazardous Waste
- Universal Wastes Do Not Count Toward Hazardous Waste Generation Amounts
- Do Not Have To Be Transported By A Hazardous Waste Transporter Using a Hazardous Waste Manifest

Management of Universal Waste

- Universal Waste Handlers
 - a generator of universal waste or
 - the owner or operator of a facility that receives universal waste from other universal waste handlers and sends the universal waste to another universal waste handler, to a destination facility, or to a foreign destination.

Universal Waste Handlers

- Small Quantity Handlers
 - Accumulate less than 5,000 kilograms (11,000 pounds) of universal waste (combined) at any given time
 - May not dispose of universal waste
 - Cannot be accumulated for longer than one year
 - UW must be sent to another handler or a destination facility

Universal Waste Handlers

- Small Quantity Handlers (cont)
 - Mercury switches must be stored in a sealed container that will prevent releases of mercury
 - Container must be labeled as follows:
 - “Universal Waste - Mercury-Containing Equipment”
 - The date the first switch went into the container must be marked on the container
 - Must inform employees of proper handling & emergency procedures

Universal Waste Handlers

- Large Quantity Handlers
 - Accumulate greater than 5,000 kilograms of universal waste (combined) at any given time
 - Must maintain records and submit an annual report to the Department
 - Must notify the Department of activities and obtain an EPA ID# for universal waste
 - Cannot be accumulated for longer than one year

Universal Waste Handlers

- Large Quantity Handlers
 - Mercury switches must be stored in a sealed container that will prevent releases of mercury
 - Container must be labeled as follows:
 - “Universal Waste - Mercury-Containing Equipment”
 - The date the first switch went into the container must be marked on the container
 - Must ensure employees are thoroughly familiar with proper handling & emergency procedures

Universal Waste Destination Facilities

- Regulated as Class D recycling centers in NJ
- Must obtain a Class D recycling center approval to process universal waste
- Examples of processing:
 - Recovery of mercury from mercury switches
 - Demanufacturing consumer electronics
 - Crushing hazardous waste lamps or computer monitors
 - Mixing and screening of paint

Universal Waste Destination Facilities

- Regulated as either a RCRA TSDF if treating or disposing of waste or a Class D recycling center if recycling the waste
- Recyclers must obtain a Class D recycling center approval to recycle universal waste
- Examples of recycling:
 - Recovery of mercury from mercury switches
 - Crushing hazardous waste lamps or computer monitors
 - Mixing and screening of paint
 - Demanufacturing consumer electronics

Summary

- Mercury Switches are regulated as universal waste in New Jersey
- Switches must be placed in a sealed container
- Container must be labeled “Universal Waste-Mercury Containing Devices” and have the accumulation start date marked

Additional Information

- New Jersey Universal Waste Web Page:
 - www.state.nj.us/dep/dshw/lrm/uwaste/uwindex.htm
- To obtain an EPA ID Number:
 - www.epa.gov/epaoswer/hazwaste/id/univwast.htm

Contact Information

- If you have questions on New Jersey's Universal Waste Rule contact:
 - Bureau of Solid & Haz. Waste Permitting
North - Charlie D'Amico or Ralph Asplen
(609) 292-9880 (Mercer, Hunterdon, Somerset, Union, Warren, Morris, Essex, Hudson, Bergen, Passaic, Sussex)
 - Bureau of Solid & Haz. Waste Permitting
South - Dawn Higgins (609) 984-6664 (Middlesex, Monmouth, Ocean, Burlington, Camden, Gloucester, Atlantic, Salem, Cumberland, Cape May)