



## Temporary guidance for complying with hazardous waste requirements during COVID-19 response

Please check back to this page regularly as this guidance will evolve as the situation warrants. Additionally, this guidance will terminate as soon as the division deems appropriate.

### Inspection Requirements

The hazardous waste regulations require weekly inspections of areas where hazardous waste is generated, accumulated, or stored to ensure that containers are properly managed and not leaking. This requirement applies to Small and Large Quantity generators (SQGs and LQGs) of hazardous waste which is stored in 180/270 day areas for SQGs, 90 day areas for LQGs, and Satellite Accumulation Areas as well as other areas where hazardous waste is generated or accumulated.

If your facility is closing down due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Hazardous Material and Waste Management Division's ("the division") first recommendation is to manifest as much hazardous waste off-site to your treatment, storage or disposal facility (TSDF) as soon as possible so as not to leave unattended hazardous waste stored at your facility.

The division recommends that all satellite accumulation area waste be consolidated into the facility's central accumulation area and that facility personnel conduct weekly inspections of that consolidated waste. If this is not possible, facilities should document the reasons for being unable to conduct SAA weekly inspections and why the waste cannot be moved to the central accumulation area.

The division expects that weekly inspections will continue to be conducted at central accumulation areas (90-day and 180/270-day). If for some reason this is not possible, the division would first encourage facilities to manifest all hazardous waste off-site as soon as possible. If this cannot be accomplished and no one is available to conduct weekly inspections, facilities should document the reasons for reduced inspections and detail a plan for ensuring hazardous waste is sent off site for disposal as soon as possible.

The division expects that required daily inspections at TSDF facilities will be performed at a minimum of once per week. If daily inspections are not possible, document the reasons for reduced inspections.

The division expects that daily inspections of tank systems storing hazardous waste continue to be conducted due to the volume of waste involved and potential for release associated with ancillary equipment. If for some reason this is not possible, contact the division to discuss your specific circumstance.



Most importantly, all hazardous waste should be stored in secure and stable configurations and periodic inspections should be conducted on a frequency as close to the regulatory requirements as possible to prevent the release of unattended hazardous waste kept in storage.

This guidance applies only to systems that are idle or have temporarily ceased receiving/treating hazardous wastes. If any permitted systems continue to actively receive/treat wastes then all permit-related inspection requirements remain in effect while those activities are occurring.

### **Training Requirements**

The hazardous waste regulations require SQGs to ensure that their employees receive hazardous waste training relative to their responsibilities. This is a one-time requirement. The division expects that all new employees at an SQG will receive proper training prior to handling hazardous waste.

LQGs are required to provide initial hazardous waste training as well as an annual refresher to all employees whose duties involve the management of hazardous waste. Similarly to the SQGs, the division expects that all employees will receive initial hazardous waste training relevant to their job duties prior to handling hazardous waste.

However, if an LQG is unable to provide annual hazardous waste refresher training within 13 months of the last training due to shut downs associated with COVID-19 response, facilities should document the reasons for the delay and outline plans contemplated to meet this requirement as soon as practicable; this could include implementing remote or on-line refresher training classes.

### **Signing Manifests**

Some transporters have asked whether the requirement to get a facility signature on the uniform hazardous waste manifest at the time of pick-up can be forgone while trying to follow the guidance for social distancing during the response to COVID-19.

The division will allow transporters to sign for generators on the uniform hazardous waste manifest, i.e. "signed on behalf of Facility A" for RCRA hazardous waste. Transporters should have some agreement in place with each generator to acknowledge that the generator is allowing the transporter to sign hazardous waste manifests on their behalf.



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Shipments of used oil and universal waste do not require the use of the uniform hazardous waste manifest and therefore do not need signatures from the generator. However, if you do use a uniform hazardous waste manifest for these types of shipments, the division allows transporters to sign on behalf of the generator as described above. Please keep in mind that even though a uniform hazardous waste manifest is not required for shipments of used oil or universal waste, there are still specific shipping documentation requirements, however these do not require signatures from generators.