

HUMBOLDT STATE UNIVERSITY

Risk Management and Safety Services

Standard Operating Procedure: EHS004-150702

Title: Hazardous Waste Determination Procedure

Policy Statement

It is the responsibility of every employee of Humboldt State University to determine whether or not the wastes they produce are hazardous as defined by the California Health and Safety Code and the California Code of Regulations.

This procedure will explain the definitions of “waste” and “hazardous waste” and how these definitions apply to your operations. In most cases, by following the steps outlined below, you should be able to classify your wastes as hazardous or non-hazardous. Code sections will be cited where applicable.

Step 1. Determine whether or not the material is a waste.

The California Health and Safety Code (§25122) defines waste as:

- Any material for which no use or reuse is intended and which is to be discarded.
- Any recyclable material.
- Any material that poses a threat to public health or the environment, **and** which meets either or both of the following conditions:
 - Is mislabeled or not adequately labeled, unless the material is correctly labeled or adequately labeled within 10 days after the material is discovered to be mislabeled or inadequately labeled.
 - Is packaged in deteriorated or damaged containers, unless the material is contained in sound or undamaged containers within 96 hours after the containers are discovered to be deteriorated or damaged.

It should be noted that materials may inadvertently become wastes through mismanagement. Allowing labels to become unreadable, containers to deteriorate, or simply abandoning materials can cause them to be classified as wastes. A waste determination, in most cases, is made based on whether the product is still fit for its intended use. Inadequate labeling or containers may be confiscated by RM&SS (see Compliance and Enforcement).

Step 2. Determine whether or not the waste is a hazardous waste.

Check to see if the waste is listed in Title 22 of the California Code of Regulations, Division 4.5, Sections 66261.31, 66261.32, or 66261.33. (Appendix B)

If the waste is not listed, determine if it possesses any of the following characteristics:

1. The waste is ignitable. A liquid with a flash point equal to or less than 140°F (60°C). A non-liquid, capable under standard temperature and pressure of causing fire by means of friction, absorption of moisture, or spontaneous chemical changes and which, when ignited, burns so vigorously and persistently that it creates a hazard. A flammable, compressed gas. An oxidizer.
2. The waste is corrosive. It is aqueous and has a pH ≤ 2, or ≥ 12.5, or is capable of corroding SAE 20 steel at a rate greater than ¼ inch per year.
3. The waste is reactive. Is normally unstable and readily undergoes violent change without detonating. Reacts violently with water. Forms a potentially explosive mixture with water. Generates toxic gases, vapors or fumes when mixed with water and does so in a quantity sufficient to present a danger to human health or the environment. Is a cyanide- or sulfide-bearing waste which, when exposed to pH conditions between 2 and 12.5 can generate toxic gases, vapors or fumes. Is capable of detonation, explosive reaction or explosive decomposition.
4. The waste is toxic. It is a waste that, when analyzed by a state certified laboratory, is determined to exceed the regulatory levels established for the inorganic or organic chemicals found in Table II or Table III of CCR Title 22, §66261.24(a)(2) (Appendix D) Is a waste that contains the California listed carcinogenic substances in single or combined concentration of 0.001% by weight by testing or other information available. Is determined by biological tests to be more toxic than any of the following:
 - an acute oral LD50 less than 2,500 mg/Kg;
 - an acute dermal LD50 less than 4,300 mg/Kg;
 - an acute inhalation LC50 less than 10,000 ppm; and
 - an acute aquatic 96-hour LC50 less than 500 mg/L.
 - or it can cause illness or death if inhaled, swallowed or absorbed through the skin.

In most cases the hazard characteristics can be determined by referring to the Safety Data Sheet for each of the waste material's chemical components. If one component of the waste material is determined to be hazardous then the entire waste is hazardous.

**Step 3. Determine if the hazardous waste is an extremely hazardous waste refer to:
Title 22, Division 4.5, Chapter 11, Appendix X**

If the waste is determined to be extremely hazardous, a note to that effect should be made on the hazardous waste label