

THREE ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATIONS TO KNOW

The USEPA is back to regular enforcement as of August 31. Ensure that you're compliant and up to date with these three important environmental regulations.



#1 Stormwater Permits



Quick summary: The EPA has certain rules to ensure that stormwater pollution from work sites and facilities is limited. Stormwater pollution is managed under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit program.

Who does it affect? Construction, manufacturing and industrial businesses are generally subject to stormwater permits. Knowing your industry's Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) code can help you reference stormwater discharge requirements from the EPA.

What's required? Applicable businesses must develop and implement a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP). This is a site-specific, written document that identifies all activities and conditions on a site that could cause water pollution. It also details the steps the facility will take to prevent the discharge of any unpermitted pollution, including:

- a. A detailed site description and map
- b. A designated pollution prevention team
- c. A description of what activities may cause pollution
- d. Control measures and procedures (including frequency)
- e. Spill response plans
- f. Inspections and monitoring requirements (inspections and monitoring must be conducted according to permit requirements)
- g. Training
 - o Annual and refresher training is required. Topics must include:
 - Company specific SWPPP and procedures
 - Good housekeeping measures
 - Site-specific best management practices; and
 - How to perform the inspections as well as frequency.

#2 Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure (SPCC) Plans



Quick summary: This regulation was created to prevent oil from reaching navigable waters and adjoining shorelines, and to contain discharges of oil. The regulation requires facilities to develop and implement SPCC Plans and establishes procedures, methods, and equipment requirements.

Who does it affect? Facilities that answer yes to questions 1, 2 and either 3 or 4 below, may be subject to regulations.

1. Is the facility considered non-transportation related?
2. Does the facility produce, store, process, refine, transfer, distribute, use, or consume oil?
3. Does the facility have a total aggregate capacity of above ground oil storage containers greater than 1,320 gallons (do not count containers less than 55 gallons or those permanently closed)?
4. Does the facility have a total aggregate capacity of completely buried oil storage tanks greater than 42,000 gallons?

What's required? Applicable facilities must have adequate secondary containment for oil storage and machinery/equipment oil. An SPCC plan, with the elements below, must be developed and implemented to prevent and control a release of oil:

- a. Oil release scenarios that include possible volume of spills and what direction the spills would flow;
- b. Notification procedures, including an emergency call list;
- c. A facility site plan showing areas of oil storage and transfer;
- d. A description of the containment structures or equipment at facility designed to prevent releases
- e. Procedures to stop, contain, and clean up any released oil or oil containing materials; and
- f. Oil storage inspection procedures
- g. Various training components are also required to accompany SPCC plans.

Some plans may need to be certified by a professional engineer (PE) who's familiar with your facility.

#3 Resource Conservation and Recovery Act - Hazardous Waste



Quick summary: Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) is the Federal law that creates the framework for proper management of hazardous and non-hazardous solid waste. It provides “cradle-to-grave” control of solid and hazardous waste by establishing management requirements for generators and transporters of hazardous waste and for owners and operators of hazardous waste treatment, storage, and disposal facilities (TSDFs).

Who does it affect? Producers, users or transporters of a hazardous waste must comply. Different requirements apply, based on the volume of hazardous waste generated per calendar month.

What’s required? Requirements vary based on generator status. In addition to what’s listed below, hazardous waste generators must classify on-site waste by characteristic, how “acutely hazardous” it is, and if it’s listed as hazardous. Specific training requirements also apply based on generator status. The three generator types are:

1. Very Small Quantity Generator (VSQG) – Those who generate 100 kilograms (220 lbs) or less per month of hazardous waste or one kilogram (2.2 lbs) or less per month of acutely hazardous waste. Requirements for VSQGs include:

- Identify all the hazardous waste generated;
- May not accumulate more than 1,000 kilograms (2,200 lbs) of hazardous waste at any time; and
- VSQGs must ensure that the hazardous waste is delivered to a person or facility who is authorized to manage it.

Note: VSQG regulations apply to conditionally exempt small quantity generators (CESQG) too.

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#3 RCRA - Hazardous Waste Continued



2. **Small Quantity Generators (SQGs)** – Those who generate more than 100 kilograms (220 lbs), but less than 1,000 kilograms (2,200 lbs) of hazardous waste per month. Major requirements for SQGs include:

- May only accumulate hazardous waste on site for up to 180-days from the accumulation start date;
- The quantity of hazardous waste onsite must never exceed 6,000 kilograms (~13,220 lbs);
- Must comply with and manage the hazardous waste manifest requirements of the RCRA standard;
- Must comply with the preparedness and prevention requirements of 40 CFR sections 262.16(b)(8); and
- Must always have at least one employee available to respond to an emergency.

3. **Large Quantity Generators (LQGs)** – Those who generate 1,000 kilograms (2,200 lbs) per month or more of hazardous waste or more than one kilogram (2.2 lbs) per month of acutely hazardous waste. Major requirements for LQGs include:

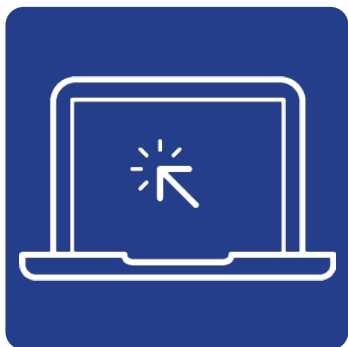
- May only accumulate hazardous waste on site for up to 90-days from the accumulation start date; however, they have no limit on the amount of waste accumulated
- Hazardous waste generated must be managed in containers, tanks, or containment buildings subject to the 40 CFR 262 regulations
- Must comply with the hazardous waste manifests requirements and the preparedness, prevention, and emergency procedure requirements of 40 CFR 262 subpart M
- Must submit a biennial hazardous waste report

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