

Satellite Accumulation

This Technical Information Memorandum (TIM) will provide guidance and interpretation on the Department of Ecology's (Ecology) satellite accumulation regulations and help generators understand and comply with those rules.

The satellite accumulation rules were amended in 2009 so the state regulation would be equivalent to federal regulation. The change removed the phrase "per waste stream" from the first sentence of WAC 173-303-200(2)(a). The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) believed this phrase could be misinterpreted and allow excess waste to accumulate in satellite areas. The rule has two additional instances where the phrase is used; these will be removed in the next rule cycle. This rule change does not alter Ecology's policy on satellite accumulation. Regulated generators can continue to implement satellite accumulation the same as they have in the past, following this guidance document.

Purpose of Satellite Accumulation Rules

The standards for storing and accumulating dangerous waste depend on the length of time, location, and volume of waste being stored or accumulated. The satellite accumulation standards are designed to allow slowly accumulating wastes from routine operations to be held on site longer than 90 or 180 days without requiring a dangerous waste storage permit.

The accumulation area must be under the control of the process operator where the waste is being generated, or secured at all times to prevent improper wastes from being added to the satellite containers. These measures give better waste management oversight, preventing container spills, leaks, and contamination.

The regulations governing satellite accumulation apply to all generators subject to WAC 173-303-200, (*Accumulating dangerous waste on-site*). Conditionally exempt small quantity generators (SQGs) are exempt from Section 200 if they comply with their own subset of regulations outlined in the *Dangerous Waste Regulations*, (refer to WAC 173-303-070(8)).

WHY IT MATTERS

Satellite accumulation allows generators to collect slowly accumulating wastes in containers close to process operations.

The Department of Ecology prepared this document to help clarify the elements of satellite accumulation.

This document does not replace the state or federal regulations dealing with the proper management of dangerous (hazardous) waste. Please refer to Chapter 173-303 WAC, and federal 40 CFR regulations for complete definitions and regulatory citations.

Special accommodations:

To ask about the availability of this document in a version for the visually impaired call the Hazardous Waste and Toxics Reduction Program at 360-407-6700. Persons with hearing loss, call 711 for Washington Relay Service. Persons with a speech disability, call 877-833-6341.

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Satellite Accumulation Area Defined

The *Dangerous Waste Regulations* define a satellite accumulation area as: “a location at or near any point of generation where dangerous waste is initially accumulated in containers (during routine operations) prior to consolidation at a designated ninety-day accumulation area or storage area. The area must be under the control of the operator of the process generating the waste or secured at all times to prevent improper additions of wastes into the satellite containers.”

Satellite Accumulation Standards

Provisions for maintaining satellite accumulation areas include:

- A generator may accumulate as much as 55 gallons of dangerous waste or one quart of acutely hazardous waste in containers at or near any point of generation.
- The satellite area must be under the control of the process operator and located in the same area that generates the waste; or the area must be secured at all times.
- The generator must be able to prevent improper wastes from being added to the satellite container.

Satellite accumulation does not need a storage permit provided the generator complies with the requirements of WAC 173-303-200(2).

WAC 173-303-200(2)(a) requires all of the following:

- Container labeling/marketing requirements, -200(1)(d).
- Condition of containers, -630(2).
- Compatibility of waste with containers, -630(4).
- Containers to be closed, -630(5)(a).
- Container handling to prevent leaks, -630(5)(b).

- Special requirements for ignitable or reactive wastes, -630(8)(a).
- Special requirements for incompatible wastes, -630(9)(a) and (b).

WAC 173-303-200(2)(b) requires that when 55 gallons of dangerous waste or one quart of acutely hazardous waste accumulates in a container, the container(s) must be marked immediately with the accumulation start date. The generator must move the waste within three days to a designated storage or final accumulation area.

Number of Satellite Accumulation Areas Allowed on Site

A generator is not limited in the number of satellite accumulation areas allowed on site. Every individual waste stream in the facility is allowed to be accumulated in a satellite area.

“Individual” Waste Streams

Each individual waste stream has a distinct, separate point of generation. Individual waste streams include:

- Wastes that are physically or chemically different from each other.
- Wastes that are generated from different types of processes.
- Wastes of the same type that are generated at different points in the same process or at different process locations.

Volume Threshold Limit

Each satellite accumulation area is limited by volume, up to either 55 gallons of dangerous waste or one quart of acutely hazardous waste.

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Number of Containers at Each Satellite Accumulation Area

A generator is not limited to the number of containers allowed in a satellite accumulation area to collect waste. The important point is that each area does not exceed the 55-gallon volume threshold limit as mentioned above.

Distance Between Satellite Accumulation Areas

Ecology does not have a minimum distance requirement for two separate satellite accumulation areas. A generator may have two or more separate satellite accumulation areas immediately adjacent to each other provided each area independently meets the definition and requirements for satellite accumulation.

Number of Waste streams at each Satellite Accumulation Area

A single satellite accumulation area can accumulate multiple individual waste streams in their own containers, as long as the total dangerous waste volume does not exceed 55 gallons or one quart of acutely hazardous waste. For example, a single satellite accumulation area could consist of a 15-gallon container of paint waste, a 20-gallon container of spent solvent, and a 15-gallon container of corrosive material. Alternatively, these individual dangerous waste streams could be accumulated up to 55 gallons in separate, adjacent satellite accumulation areas.

Container Requirement

Satellite accumulation is limited only to containers. You cannot use satellite accumulation for accumulating wastes in tanks, waste piles, lagoons, or any other dangerous waste management unit or device. A container is any portable device in which a material is stored, transported, treated, disposed of, or otherwise handled.

“At” or “Near” the Point of Generation

There is no maximum or minimum distance used to define or interpret “at” or “near” the point of generation. Since there are numerous processes where dangerous wastes may be generated, a specific distance requirement, such as 10 feet between the point of generation and the satellite area, would limit the ability of a generator to effectively and safely manage dangerous waste.

This element of satellite accumulation provides flexibility in applying and using the rule. “At” or “near” is intended to be used as its common, everyday meaning.

Operator Control or Secured

Satellite accumulation areas must be either “under the control of the operator of the process generating the waste” or “secured at all times.” The intent of providing both options in this rule is to allow flexibility in locating a satellite accumulation area, yet prevent the improper or unauthorized addition of waste to a satellite accumulation container.

Operator of the Process Generating the Waste

The “operator of the process generating the waste” means any person at the production level who is responsible for operating, or coordinating the operation of, the manufacturing process or any other process that generates a waste.

The “operator” may include several individuals, as in the case where the facility has two or three shifts with a different operator during each shift.

If an operator can assure a second party, such as an inspector or auditor, that he can secure the satellite accumulation area “to prevent improper additions of waste into the satellite container,” then the intent of the satellite accumulation regulations would be met.

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Secured at All Times

The “secured at all times” option allows flexibility in locating satellite accumulation areas away from the immediate point of generation. For example, the fire code may require a waste be stored in a special structure some distance from the process operator. Satellite accumulation areas can also include central collection points for wastes generated throughout a facility (for example, batteries and rags).

Satellite accumulation areas may be located outside of the area where the waste is generated, as long as the containers are secure.

“Secured” means the use of a locked area (possibly located outside the building), a locking device on the container, or the use of administrative controls developed and implemented by the generator. The administrative controls must be able to prevent the improper or unauthorized addition of waste to a satellite accumulation container.

During Routine Operations

The term “during routine operations” is intended to limit the provisions of satellite accumulation to wastes that are generated on a relatively continuous basis. Wastes generated on an infrequent or one time basis (for example, spills) cannot be held for extended periods in satellite accumulation areas.

Ecology does not intend to allow cleanup material to accumulate or be stored indefinitely in a satellite accumulation area container.

Accumulation Start Date

Once the volume threshold limit has been reached in a satellite accumulation area, the container(s) must be marked immediately using that date as the accumulation start date. Satellite accumulation areas are the only accumulation areas where waste containers do not require an accumulation start date until such thresholds of waste are met.

Three (3) Day Time Limit

Within three calendar days from the time the volume threshold has been reached in a satellite accumulation area, the container(s) must be either transported off site to a designated facility or moved to a 90/180 day accumulation or “storage” area on site. The three day time period applies only to moving the waste out of a satellite accumulation area. It does not apply to other management requirements such as placing the accumulation start date on the container.

90 Day Accumulation or Storage Areas

If dangerous waste is placed in an area that is not defined and managed as a satellite accumulation area, then the area is identified as either a permitted storage facility or a 90/180 day accumulation area.

The 90/180 day accumulation area commonly refers to a “central” collection point on the generator’s site where dangerous wastes from satellite accumulation areas are brought before being further managed.

The 90/180 day accumulation area requirements are found in WAC 173-303-200 and require accumulation start dates to appear on containers as soon as waste enters the containers.

A generator is allowed to locate a satellite accumulation area within a 90/180 day accumulation area, as long as it independently meets the definition of a satellite accumulation area and complies with the satellite accumulation regulations.

Permitted Storage Areas

A permitted storage area refers to a facility designed for long-term storage (longer than 90 or 180 days) of waste and generally is not on the generator’s site. Wastes are commonly shipped from a generator’s 90/180 day or satellite accumulation area to an off-site permitted storage area.

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The permitted storage facility standards and permit requirements are found in WAC 173-303-280 through 395, 600-680, and 800-840. These regulations require the facility to have a dangerous waste permit before dangerous waste storage begins.

Additional Management Requirements

On a case-by-case basis, Ecology may require the satellite area to be managed in accordance with all or some of the 90/180 day accumulation standards. Ecology may require this if the nature of the wastes being accumulated, a history of spills or releases from accumulated containers, or other factors are determined to be a threat or potential threat to human health or the environment. This provision is found in WAC 173-303-200(2)(c).

For More Information

The Hazardous Waste and Toxics Reduction Program is responsible for ensuring the safe management and reduction of dangerous (hazardous) waste and toxic substances in Washington State. If you are uncertain about your responsibilities as a hazardous waste generator, contact your nearest regional office and ask for a Hazardous Waste Specialist. For information on reducing or recycling hazardous waste, ask for a Toxics Reduction Specialist.

Northwest Regional Office	(425) 649-7000
Southwest Regional Office	(360) 407-6300
Central Regional Office	(509) 575-2490
Eastern Regional Office	(509) 329-3400

Department of Ecology Regions

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/hwtr>

