



# Focus

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## Amendments to the *Dangerous Waste Regulations*

Ecology recently approved changes in the regulations for management of hazardous wastes in Washington. The changes include new federal requirements and streamline state-only requirements. Ecology developed the rule amendments after an extensive two-year evaluation to maintain a high level of environmental protection while improving the regulations. Ecology staff worked with representatives from industry, environmental groups, and local government in crafting the new rules. These changes reduce overlapping requirements, make waste management requirements commensurate with risk, reduce complexity, and make the rules easier to follow. The changes become effective on November 20, 1995.

### Highlights of the Changes

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**Special Waste Exclusions** - Many state-only dangerous wastes of marginal hazard qualify for management under this conditional exclusion. The regulations will reduce waste management requirements for these lower hazard solid wastes if they are recycled, treated or disposed in state-of-the-art solid waste landfills. Disposing low-hazard wastes in solid waste landfills with liners, leachate collection, and groundwater monitoring controls the risks associated with these wastes.

**Extremely Hazardous Waste** - Changes to the extremely hazardous waste classification include removing the extremely hazardous waste label from federally regulated wastes. Ecology will only require additional designation for extremely hazardous waste when the designation improves the way the waste must be managed.

**Toxicity Realignment** - The rule amendments realign the fish, or aquatic, bioassay to correlate more closely with the rat bioassay. The fish bioassay provides one way to test a waste's toxicity.

**Carcinogenicity** - Carcinogens are regulated under the federal lists and characteristics, or by the state criteria for persistence and toxicity. The separate carcinogenicity criterion was deleted from the regulations since it has not been an effective way to regulate carcinogens.

**Small Quantity Generator Accumulation Limit** - Ecology adopted the federal accumulation limit of 2200 pounds for small quantity generators. All small quantity generators must still limit their generation rate to 220 pounds.

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**Federal Requirements** - The amendments adopt several key federal rules. These include: Air Emission Standards, Drip Pad Standards and the Land Disposal Restriction Universal Treatment Standards.

**Redesignating Wastes** - The designation status of some wastes may change because of the amendments. For example, some wastes previously designated extremely hazardous waste may become dangerous waste. Facilities that generated and designated a waste stream before the effective date of the amendments must redesignate their waste **only** if it is treated before being shipped off-site. However, off-site treatment, storage and disposal facilities may require the waste to be redesignated by the generator before they will accept it.

**Redesignated waste streams on the 1995 Dangerous Waste Annual Report** - To simplify annual reporting during the last months of 1995, Ecology is giving reporters an option. A waste stream managed after November 20, 1995 may be reported with either the designation in effect before that date or any new designation that applies after November 20.

## For More Information

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If you would like to receive a copy of the regulations, write to:

*Dangerous Waste Regulations*  
Department of Ecology  
Hazardous Waste and Toxics Reduction Program  
Post Office Box 47658  
Olympia, WA 98504-7658

Copies are limited to one (1) per request.

The Hazardous Waste and Toxics Reduction Program is responsible for managing and reducing hazardous waste and toxic substances in Washington. If you have a question, please contact a Toxics Reduction Specialist or Hazardous Waste Specialist at your nearest regional office.

If you have special accommodation needs or require this document in alternative format, please contact Dave Dubreuil at (360) 407-6721 (voice) or (360) 407-6006 (TDD).

Regional TDD numbers are:

CRO (509) 454-7673      NWRO (206) 649-4259  
ERO (509) 458-205      SWRO (360) 407-6306

