

Industrial Solid Waste Fact Sheet

Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs) Contaminated Wastes- Category 3

Definition

Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs) consist of 209 chlorinated hydrocarbons that were banned from manufacture in 1979 due to their toxicity. Due to their electrical insulating, non-flammability, and chemical stability properties, PCBs were prevalently used in many industrial applications. In MN PCBs are regulated by the MN Hazardous Waste Regulations and the Federal Regulations (Toxic Substance Control Act (TSCA 1976) with concentrations equal to or greater than 50 parts per million (ppm).

Special Disposal Conditions

Waste materials with less than 50 ppm total PCBs can be accepted at the Olmsted Waste-to-Energy Facility or the Olmsted County Kalmar Landfill dependent on their combustible properties. The Olmsted County Hazardous Waste Facility can accept encased fluorescent light ballasts and small capacitors that are not regulated under the TSCA.

Generator Requirements

See below for testing requirements and documentation to certify the waste as non-PCB material.

Procedures

Typical Delivery types

- Electrical ballasts
- Contaminated substrates like wood and concrete

Background

Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs) consist of 209 chlorinated hydrocarbons that were banned from manufacture in 1979 due to their toxicity and potential to be a human carcinogen. Due to their electrical insulating, non-flammability, and chemical stability properties, PCBs were prevalently used in many industrial applications. In Minnesota, PCBs are regulated by the Minnesota Hazardous Waste Regulations and the Federal Regulations established pursuant to the passage of the Toxic Substance Control Act (TSCA) in 1976. Waste materials contaminated with PCBs at concentrations equal to or greater than 50 parts per million (ppm) are regulated by the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA). Waste materials containing less than 50 ppm total PCBs (classified as non-PCB in Minnesota) can be accepted at the Olmsted Waste-to-Energy

Facility (OWEF) or the Olmsted County Kalmar Landfill. In addition, the Olmsted County Hazardous Waste Facility (HWF) can accept encased fluorescent light ballasts and small capacitors that are not regulated under TSCA. PCB wastes that cannot be managed by Olmsted County facilities should be handled by a hazardous waste disposal vendor. To obtain a current list of hazardous waste disposal contractors, contact the Olmsted County Environmental Resources Department at 507-328-7070, and ask to speak with the Waste Abatement Manager.

Disposal

Approved PCB-contaminated wastes that contain less than 50 ppm total PCBs may be accepted at the Kalmar Landfill or the OWEF, depending on the combustion characteristics of the material.

Testing Requirements

Waste materials may be documented as being non-PCB using one or more of the following three documenting methodologies: I. Analysis for PCBs (generally using analytical method SW-846 8080). II. When the waste material consists of equipment, a name plate or other permanent marking from the manufacturer of equipment stating that the equipment is non-PCB. III. Equipment manufacture date after July 2, 1979 (date of purchase is not sufficient). Under certain circumstances, additional analytical testing may be required to ensure 1) the waste material is not a regulated hazardous waste and 2) the waste material is acceptable for disposal at an Olmsted County solid waste management facility.

Documentation

A current, approved Industrial Solid Waste Evaluation Form must be on file with the Olmsted County Environmental Resources Department. The hauler must present a current, approved Non-Hazardous Industrial Solid Waste Tracking Form at the time of delivery.