Satellite Accumulation Waste Management

Division of Waste and Hazardous Substances, Compliance and Permitting Section

Purpose of a Satellite Accumulation Area

Delaware's *Regulations Governing Hazardous Waste* (DRGHW) recognize the need for alternative hazardous waste accumulation standards for generators with numerous processes where small amounts of hazardous wastes are generated and accumulated during daily operations prior to being moved or consolidated to central accumulation area (CAA) or an interim status or permitted on-site facility. Regulations pertaining to these operations are referred to as "satellite accumulation area" (SAA) requirements.

Accumulating Hazardous Waste in a SAA

Both Small Quantity Generators (SQG) and Large Quantity Generators (LQG) of hazardous waste can establish SAAs. SAAs can be maintained in locations were hazardous waste is generated, provided the generated waste is:

- Accumulated at or near the point of generation;
- Under the control of the operator; and
- Used to accumulate no more than 1 quart of liquid (or 1 kilogram for solid) acute hazardous waste listed in §261.31 (F-listed dioxin wastes) or §261.33(e) (P-listed) and/or no more than 55-gallons of non-acute hazardous waste

While the regulations limit the volume of waste allowed in a SAA, the regulations do not restrict the following:

- Total number of SAAs
- Proximity between SAAs
- Types of wastes in a SAA
- Number of containers in a SAA
- Accumulation time period

What is the "Point of Generation?"

The "point of generation" is the place in a process where hazardous waste first becomes subject to regulation. For example, in ignitable solvent is used to clean a spray paint gun. While the solvent is moving through the paint gun it is not a waste because it's being used for its intended purpose of cleaning the paint gun. If once removed from the paint gun the solvent can be collected and reused to clean additional paint guns, the solvent is not yet a waste since it can still be utilized for its intended purpose. However, whether the solvent is used once or multiple times, once the solvent becomes too contaminated for its intended purpose ("spent"), the solvent has become a waste and is subject to DRGHW.

Where is "At or Near" the Point of Generation?

"At or near" the point of generation means hazardous waste must be accumulated in the immediate area of the process generating the waste. Although DRGHW does not designate a distance from the point of generation, waste that is accumulated in a room other than where it is generated is not considered "at or near" the point of generation. A good rule of thumb is if the waste must pass over a threshold to be deposited in the designated SAA, the SAA is not "at or near" the point of generation.

Examples of SAAs being at or near the point of generation would be an process line that drains spent material directly into a 55-gallon container, or a small container attached via tight fitting tubing and in close proximity to the HPLC creating the waste. Alternatively, taking the hazardous waste generated from the lab to another area of the building or to a shed that is located outside the building is not be considered "at or near the point of generation". In these examples, the waste is being managed in CAAs which are subject to more stringent regulations.

What Does it Mean to be "Under the Control of the Operator?"

The term operator refers to the individual, not the generator's entire facility, having responsibility for and knowledgeable of the equipment or processes generating the hazardous waste. In addition to these attributes, the operator must regularly view the SAA and have ability to control access to the area and the generated hazardous waste. A SAA can have multiple operators. For example, manufacturing processes that run continually will experience a change in operator throughout a 24-hour period, and a single SAA in a laboratory where multiple researchers are working remains under the control of several operators.

Consolidating Hazardous Waste Within SAA Containers

Yes, accumulations of hazardous waste in satellite containers can be transferred between containers **within the same** SAA. For example, an accumulation of hazardous waste in a 1-gallon SAA container on a lab bench can be transferred into a 10-gallon SAA container in a hood within the same lab. Just be aware that the total amount of hazardous waste, regardless

of the size or number of containers within a SAA, cannot exceed the SAA quantity limits (e.g., 55 gallons of non-acute hazardous waste).

Can I Move Hazardous Waste Containers between SAAs?

No, generators may not move hazardous waste containers between SAAs. Once a hazardous waste container leaves a SAA, it can only be moved to one of the following locations (§262.15(a)(6)):

- Central accumulation area (CAA)
- On-site interim status treatment, storage or disposal facility (TSDF)
- On-site permitted TSDF
- Off-site designated facility

For example, when a 10-gallon SAA container in Lab A becomes full, it cannot be transferred to or consolidated in a SAA container in Lab B.

Are There SAA Provisions for Hazardous Wastes Generated Throughout a Site?

Yes, but only in cases of maintenance activities. For example, it would be impractical to establish a SAA at the point of generation for hazardous waste paint generated by maintenance activities. In this example, hazardous waste paint may be satellite accumulated in a maintenance area or similar type of shop location provided it's under the control of personnel responsible for painting, there is a means to prevent unwanted contact with the paint waste and the addition of incompatible waste into a the waste paint container can be prevented. In a building with multiple maintenance areas or similar type shops, the satellite accumulation of paint waste is permitted in one location only. This provision also applies to other hazardous waste and is commonly used for the accumulation of universal wastes (e.g., aerosol cans, fluorescent lamps, batteries).

Satellite Areas and Container Requirements

A full description of SAA requirements are found in §262.15. In brief, satellite accumulation containers must be:

- Marked with the words "Hazardous Waste";
- Labeled with an indication of the hazard of the contents;

- Closed unless waste is being added, removed, consolidated, or vented (limited circumstances);
- Compatible with the waste within;
- Compatible with the waste stored adjacent; and
- Maintained in good condition.

When the amount of hazardous waste in a SAA exceeds the regulatory limits (e.g., 55 gallons of non-acute hazardous waste), the container holding the excess waste must be immediately marked with the accumulation start date (which is the date the excess waste is generated) and moved to a CAA, an on-site interim status or permitted TSDF, or shipped off-site for management. For the purposes of this requirement "immediately" means within the same shift in which the accumulation limit was exceeded. If a site can't move, or chooses not to move the excess hazardous waste, the site must immediately manage that SAA as a CAA and comply with all applicable requirements based on the site's generator category. For specific SQG and LQG CAA requirements, please refer to §262.16(b) and §262.17(a), respectively.

Using a Safety Cabinet as a SAA

It is acceptable to maintain small containers of hazardous waste in a safety cabinet designated as a SAA. As the safety cabinet is serving as the "accumulation container", the cabinet must meet all SAA container requirements (e.g., labeled, closed, not accumulating incompatible wastes). The cabinet must also be located in a position that meets the criteria for where an SAA is allowed to be established. In the event the cabinet fails to achieve the SAA container requirements, each individual waste container within the cabinet is required to meet the regulatory provisions for SAA containers.

Counting SAA Hazardous Waste Toward Generator Status

Hazardous waste in SAAs must be included in your monthly quantities when determining your generator status. You should not count waste that is managed as used oil, universal waste, or is otherwise exempt per §261.4. Also, please don't "double count" your waste when it is relocated from a SAA to a CAA as explained in §262.13(d).

Emergency Preparedness for SAA's

Small quantity generators (SQGs) of hazardous waste and large quantity generators (LQGs) of hazardous waste must maintain and operate their sites to minimize the possibility of a fire, explosion, or any unplanned sudden or non-sudden release of

hazardous waste or hazardous waste constituents to air, soil, or surface water, which could threaten human health or the environment. For specific SQG and LQG emergency preparedness requirements, please refer to §262.15(a)(7) and §262.15(a)(8), respectively.

Delaware's Requirements Are More Stringent than the Federal Requirements

Unlike the federal requirement of 40 CFR 262.15(a)(6) that affords a generator three consecutive days to move excess accumulation of hazardous waste from a SAA, upon exceeding more than 1 quart of liquid/1 kilogram of solid acute hazardous waste and/or more than 55 gallons of non-acute hazardous waste, Delaware requires the container holding the excess accumulation of hazardous waste to be immediately marked with the accumulation start date (which is the date the excess waste is generated) and moved to a CAA, an on-site interim status or permitted TSDF, or shipped off-site for management. For the purposes of this requirement "immediately" means within the same shift in which the accumulation limit was exceeded. Should a site not be able, or elect not to move the excess waste, the site must immediately comply with all applicable CAA requirements instead of SAA requirements, including marking the container with an accumulation start date. For specific SQG and LQG CAA requirements, please refer to §262.16(b) and §262.17(a), respectively.

This fact sheet is a summary provided as a courtesy to businesses. It is not intended as a substitute for 7 DE Admin. Code 1302, Delaware's *Regulations Governing Hazardous Waste* (DRGHW), Parts 260-266, 268, 273 and 279.
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