



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF
LAND AND EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT

Date: 11.19.2021

COVERSHEET: EXPLANATION OF CITATION AND/OR TERMINOLOGY CHANGES IN THIS POLICY DOCUMENT

This policy document remains wholly in effect, but some or all of the regulatory citations within it have changed. These changes do not alter the existing regulatory interpretations.

As part of the [2016 Hazardous Waste Generator Improvements Rule](#), many of the regulations that apply to hazardous waste generators were moved to, or reorganized within, title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) part 262. To view a crosswalk between the old and new citations, please visit the [Hazardous Waste Generator Regulations Crosswalk webpage](#).

The Hazardous Waste Generator Improvements Rule also made changes to terms that may be included in this document. The most common term change was replacing “conditionally exempt small quantity generators” (CESQGs) with “very small quantity generators” (VSQGs). In addition, EPA defined the term “central accumulation area” (CAA) to mean a generator’s 90- or 180-day accumulation area for hazardous waste.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jessica Young". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jessica Young
Chief of the Recycling and Generator Branch
Office of Resource Conservation and Recovery

9441.1986(67)

COUNTING DRY CLEANING INDUSTRY WASTE ONLY AFTER REMOVAL
FROM THE PROCESS - SQG RULE

OFFICE OF SOLID WASTE AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE

SEP 8 1986

Re: File #15579

Honorable Frank H. Murkowski
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Murkowski:

Thank you for your August 8, 1986, letter on behalf of your constituent, Mr. George Kelly, regarding the potential impact of the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) regulations on the dry-cleaning industry.

Unfortunately, the article which Mr. Kelly enclosed provided an incorrect explanation of our Small Quantity Generator (SQG) rule issued under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). The RCRA rules actually require dry cleaning hazardous wastes to be counted for purposes of determining a dry cleaner's regulatory status only when they are physically removed from the dry cleaning process as wastes.

The two type of hazardous wastes typically generated by dry cleaners are filter cartridges containing listed spent solvents and still bottoms from solvent reclamation. Under our counting rules, these wastes are only counted as hazardous waste when they are removed from the dry cleaning process for subsequent management, including accumulation, transportation, treatment, or disposal. Under no circumstances are these materials regulated under the hazardous waste rules while they are in the dry cleaning machine.

The so-called single counting system referred to in the article actually simplified the counting of hazardous waste by eliminating the need to count the same waste more

than once in a calendar month. It is intended to apply to regulated materials which are used and reused over and over during a calendar month. However, this rule only comes into play if the hazardous waste is subject to counting. Since the solvents in the dry cleaning machine are not considered to be solid or hazardous wastes while part of a closed loop reclamation process (see 51 Federal Register 25422, July 14, 1986), they are not subject to counting while in the dry cleaning machine. However, when the spent solvents contained in filter cartridges are removed from the dry cleaning machine, they are no longer exempt from regulation. The still bottoms from solvent reclamation, while solid and hazardous wastes, are not required to be counted until they exit the unit and become subject to substantive regulation (see 51 Federal Register 10152, March 24, 1986 and 40 CFR 261.5(c)).

I trust that this explanation will clarify the confusion that exists over the article that Mr. Kelly attached. For additional information, I have enclosed a copy of a handbook we have developed for small businesses to help them comply with the new statutorily mandated regulations for small quantity generators. Should Mr. Kelly have any additional questions on the hazardous waste regulations, he should feel free to contact Bob Axelrad, of my staff, at (202) 382-4761. If I can be of further assistance, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Original Document signed

J. Winston Porter
Assistant Administrator

Enclosure