

RCRA/SUPERFUND HOTLINE MONTHLY REPORT

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1. Generator Closure Requirements

Under the RCRA regulations, generators are persons who produce a hazardous waste or first cause a hazardous waste to become subject to regulation. RCRA regulates generators in three categories depending on how much waste they produce within a calendar month. These categories are large quantity generators (LQGs), small quantity generators (SQGs), and conditionally exempt small quantity generators (CESQGs). Each of these three categories has detailed provisions in 40 CFR Parts 261 and 262 for the management of hazardous waste during facility operation. On the other hand, Parts 261 and 262 do not contain specific provisions outlining requirements for closure of waste management units at such generator facilities. What are the closure requirements for hazardous waste generator waste management units?

The specific generator closure provisions depend on the status of the generator and the types of accumulation units that the facility used to store or treat hazardous waste.

LQGs are subject to the most stringent requirements, which include general closure provisions and unit-specific ones. The general closure requirements appear in Section 265.111 and Section 265.114 (Section 262.34(a)(1)). These standards require the minimization of the need for further maintenance of the site, and the minimization or elimination of post-closure escape of hazardous waste or constituents into the environment. These regulations also provide for the decontamination or removal of all contaminated equipment, structures, and soils. While LQGs must comply with Section 265.111, they are not subject to the Section 265.111(c), which pertains to requirements for closure plans and financial assurance.

LQGs storing or treating waste in tanks, on drip pads, or in containment buildings are also subject to closure requirements specific to these types of units. Generators managing waste in tanks must decontaminate or remove all waste residues and contaminated tank system components. If this is not possible, the facility must close in

accordance with landfill closure requirements and perform post-closure care (Sections 265.197(a) and (b)). Similar provisions apply to generator closure of drip pads (Section 265.445(a) and (b)) and containment buildings (Section 265.1102). LQGs managing waste in containers do not have unit-specific closure requirements.

The closure standards for SQG waste management units are less extensive. SQGs managing waste in tanks must remove all hazardous waste from such tanks, discharge control equipment, and discharge confinement structures (Section 265.201(d)). SQGs managing waste in containers do not have unit-specific closure requirements.

CESQGs waste management units do not have closure requirements.

The table below fully outlines the closure requirements applicable to each category of generator.

CLOSURE REQUIREMENT	LQGs	SQGs	CESQGs
General Standards Sections 265.111(a) & (b)	Section 262.34(a)(1)	None	None
General Standards Section 265.114	Section 262.34(a)(1)	None	None
Tank Standards Sections 265.197(a) & (b)	Section 262.34(a)(1)(ii)	Section 265.201(d)	None
Drip Pad Standards Sections 265.445(a) & (b)	Section 262.34(a)(1)(iii)	None	None
Containment Building Standards Section 265.1102	Section 262.34(a)(1)(iv)	None	None