Top 10 Most Common RCRA Violations -- Pitfalls to Avoid Non-Compliance --

Hazardous Waste Advisory Committee (HWAC)



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About Your Presenter





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- •20 years with the DEP's Hazardous Waste Program
- •Hazardous waste permitting, enforcement.
- •Now with the WEED Program Analysis Group.

Outline of Today's Presentation

- Source and evaluation of data.
- Top 10 List.
- Item-by-item details (including common pitfalls).
- Overall strategies for ensuring compliance.
- Our goal: avoid a dreaded condition:

COMPLI-ACNE

• Medical Definition: "a painful and embarrassing condition resulting from the appearance of unsightly blemishes on an otherwise clear hazardous waste record."



Source & Evaluation of Data

- HW NOVs, 10/07 10/08: **63 NOVs.**
- Total # of violations cited: 323 violations.
- Almost all violations result in an NOV even if a formal enforcement action comes later.
- All violations entered into a spreadsheet and categorized by violation type.
- Sorted by type, number of each type.
- Top 10 types = "Top Ten Violations."

"Top Ten" List

- 1. Inspections (46/323 citations).
- 2. Personnel Training (36/323 citations).
- 3. Emergency Preparedness (35/323 citations).
- 4. Container Management (30/323 citations).
- 5. Marking/Dating (30/323 citations).
- 6. Hazardous Waste Determinations (28/323 citations).
- 7. Used Oil (23/323 citations).
- 8. Universal Waste (22/323 citations)
- 9. Closure/Financial (13/323 citations)
- 10. Transporter Requirements (9/323 citations)



"The Best of the Rest..."

- All other violations: 51 citations.
- Accumulation Time (8)
- Miscellaneous TSDF requirements (8)
- Notification/EPA ID Number (7)
- Tank Management (7)
- Maintenance & Operation of Facility (5)
- Subparts AA/BB/CC Air Emissions Requirements (5)
- Manifest/LDR (5)
- Biennial Reporting (3)
- Ignitable & Reactive Wastes (2)
- Miscellaneous Waste Management (1)



#1: Inspections (46)

- Inspection log (25). Pitfalls:
 - No documentation of inspections at all.
 - Gaps in inspection logs.
 - Required data not recorded (first <u>and</u> last name of inspector, date <u>and</u> time of inspection, problems to be looked for).
- Inspection schedule (18). Pitfalls:
 - No schedule at all.
 - Inspection frequency (tanks daily; containers weekly; emergency equipment – monthly).
 - Does not address certain required items (e.g., all storage areas, loading and unloading areas, containment structures, monitoring, safety and emergency equipment).



#1: Inspections (continued)

- Performing inspections (8). Pitfalls:
 - No inspections at all.

• Certain items not inspected (tank or container storage areas, safety & emergency equipment, secondary containment,

loading and unloading areas).



#2: Personnel Training (36)

- Did not provide adequate training (24). Pitfalls:
 - No training at all (13): LQGs (6), SQGs (7).
 - Certain personnel not trained (4).
 - Lack of annual refresher training (7).
- Inadequate training documentation (12). Pitfalls:
 - List of names and job titles for all staff involved in HW mgmt.
 - Job descriptions: missing for some personnel, or description did not include HW duties.
 - No written description of training program.
 - Incomplete training records.



#3: Emergency Preparedness (35)

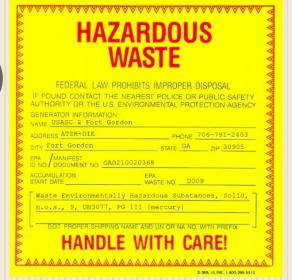
- Content of contingency plan (LQGs) (12):
 - Pitfalls: procedures for fires, spills and explosions, emergency coordinator info, changes in personnel, primary and secondary evacuation routes, capabilities of emergency equipment.
- SQG emergency info posted next to on-site phone (8):
 - Pitfalls: not posted or incomplete.
- No contingency plan at all (LQGs) (6).
- Submission of copies of plan to local authorities (LQGs) (5).
 - Pitfall: not sending to all required authorities police, fire, hospital(s), LEPCs.
- Lack of an emergency coordinator (SQGs and LQGs) (3).
 - Pitfalls: personnel changes, lack of training.

#4: Container Management (30)

- Containment (17):
 - Impervious base (11).
 - Secondary containment system (8).
 - Pitfalls: lack of coating, unsealed seams, insufficient containment volume, unplugged drains.
- Open Containers (7):
 - 90- or 180-day storage areas (6).
 - Satellite areas (1).
 - Pitfalls: ring-top drums, funnels, small-quantity additions.
- Aisle space (2).
- Separation of Incompatible Materials (2).
 - Pitfall: forgot non-waste materials in same storage area.

#5: Marking/Dating (30)

- Mark "Hazardous Waste" and with other words identifying the contents (19):
 - Containers (12).
 - Satellite Containers (3).
 - Tanks(4).
 - Pitfalls: incorrect (e.g. "Hazardous Material") or incomplete (e.g. "Hazardous Waste" but no description of contents).
- Mark containers with accumulation date (11). Pitfalls:
 - Forgot to mark at time of first addition.
 - Forgot to include month, day <u>and</u> year.





#6: Hazardous Waste Determinations (28)

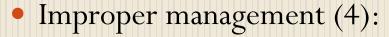
- Most common single regulatory citation: 40 CFR 262.11.
- Pitfalls include:
- Commonly-missed waste streams.
 - Absorbents, rags/wipers, waste gasoline, spent antifreeze, grinding dusts and blasting media, filters, paint-related wastes, old/overstock unused products, wastewaters treated in evaporators, items noted in trash dumpsters (e.g., fluorescent lamps, paint cans, etc.), abandoned materials.
- Incomplete determinations.
- Documentation of "Generator Knowledge."
- Annual review/recharacterization.

#7: Used Oil (23)

- Containers or tanks not marked "Used Oil" (9).
 - Pitfalls: not marked or improperly marked (e.g., "waste oil").
- Determination of total halogen content (7).
 - Pitfalls: don't test, or forgot to document generator knowledge.
- Secondary containment for generator storage areas storing over 55 gallons of used oil (4).
- Releases/disposal to ground (1).

#8: Universal Waste (22)

- Improper marking (11).
 - Pitfalls: not marked, improper wording.
- No accumulation date or other means to document compliance with accumulation time limit (6).



- Storage in a manner that will not prevent releases (e.g., stored loose or on the ground).
- Disposal to trash.









#9: Closure/Financial (13)

- Generator Closure (4).
 - Pitfalls: discontinued use of a storage area and forgot to close it, relocated and forgot to perform final closure, or closed without following DEP closure guidance.
- Problems with wording of financial assurance documents (3).
 - Pitfalls: do not adhere to required language format.
- Problems with cost estimate (3). Pitfalls:
 - Do not have a valid estimate, or the estimate is not adjusted for inflation properly.
 - Not revised and submitted to DEP annually.
- Lack of financial assurance (2).

#10: Transporter Requirements (9)

- Transportation without a permit (3).
 - Pitfall: don't realize a permit is needed.
- Personnel Training (2).
- Other (4).



Overall Compliance Strategies

- Follow up on inspection findings ASAP!
- Periodic reviews of HW compliance program.
- Frequent staff meetings.
- Periodic self-audits (DEP checklists available go to <u>www.ct.gov/dep/hazardouswaste</u> and click on "Inspection Forms."
- Consultant-performed audits.
- CONNSTEP audit: <u>www.connstep.org</u>
- "Tickler" list.
- "Clean Sweeps" to find and get rid of old chemicals and "contraband" materials.

"Red Flag" Events

- Events that tend to have an effect on your compliance. Examples:
- New hires/personnel changes.
- New wastes, processes or raw materials.
- Changes in waste storage locations.
- Changes in waste handling (e.g. switch from disposal to recycling or from one kind of recycling to another).
- Changes in waste generation amounts.
- Remediation/cleanup activities/spills.

To Sum Things Up...

- Self-evaluation is key.
- "Onward and upward."
- "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure."
- "Why put off until tomorrow what you can do today?"
- Mind the details.



Where to Get More Information

- DEP Website: www.ct.gov/dep/hazardouswaste
- Toll-free COMPASS help line: **(866)-424-4193**(Audits also available for new or expanding companies.)
- WEED telephone number for information on Hazardous Waste, Permitting, Solid Waste, and Recycing: (860) 424-3023
- DEP web master: <u>dep.webmaster@ct.gov</u>
- EPA Website: www.epa.gov (EPA HQ website)
 www.epa.gov/Region1/ (EPA Region 1/New England)