Chapter 17: Hazardous Waste

Universal Waste Requirements

1 Purpose

The purpose of these requirements is to ensure that universal waste is properly managed. They cover handling and disposal of such waste. They apply to workers (as hazardous waste generators and custodians), supervisors, Facilities and Operations, and Waste Management.

2 Requirements

Universal waste comes from consumer products containing mercury, lead, cadmium, and other hazardous substances. (Common items considered universal waste are listed below.) These items must not be discarded in the regular trash nor disposed of in landfills. They must be tracked by Waste Management and managed according to the requirements below.

2.1 Small Consumer-type Batteries

Batteries used in items such as flashlights, calculators, pagers, and cameras usually contain lithium, nickel-cadmium, carbon-zinc, silver-oxide, or mercury-oxide. This universal waste is generally collected at established battery collection stations for spent consumer-type batteries. Contact Waste Management to

- Locate the nearest spent-battery collection station
- Establish a new battery pickup station near a particular work area
- Initiate a pickup of spent batteries at a remote site: submit a request to Waste Management

2.2 Light Bulbs and Ballasts

All spent and intact (not broken) light bulbs and lamps are classified as universal waste, including

- Tubular fluorescent lamps
- Compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs)
- Incandescent bulbs
- Sodium lamps
- High intensity discharge (HID) lamps
- Light-emitting diodes (LEDs)
Broken lamps are classified as hazardous waste and usually managed as a 90-day waste. Request a pickup from Waste Management.

Facilities and Operations handles work area light bulb and lamp replacements. To arrange to have bulbs or lamps replaced or to arrange a pickup of working bulbs and lamps that are no longer needed, contact Facilities using the Facilities Service Request System. Contact Waste Management for pickup of any spent or otherwise unusable light bulbs and lamps.

Ballasts from fluorescent lighting fixtures are managed as hazardous waste. Ballasts manufactured before 1979 may contain polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB)-contaminated oil and are managed separately from those that contain only oil. Contact Waste Management for disposal.

2.3 Thermostats and Thermometers Containing Mercury

Many thermostats used in residences and businesses used to contain mercury. Each mercury thermostat has an average of 4 grams of mercury; this seemingly small amount could pollute an 80 acre lake or 20 million gallons of water and result in a fish consumption advisory lasting a year. If you have a thermostat or thermometer that contains mercury, carefully place it in a sealed plastic bag and contact Waste Management for disposal.

2.4 Aerosols

Aerosol cans at SLAC are treated as “non-empty” and therefore hazardous waste (because to be considered empty they must be punctured to ensure they are completely drained, and SLAC chooses not to perform any puncturing). Contact Waste Management to

- Locate the nearest aerosol collection container
- Establish a new aerosol pickup station near a particular work area
- Initiate a pickup of aerosols at a remote site: submit a request to Waste Management

2.5 Cathode Ray Tubes

A cathode ray tube (CRT) is a glass video display component of an electronic device (usually a computer or television monitor). CRTs are recycled by the SLAC Salvage group, contact them for pickup.

3 Forms

The following forms and systems are required by these requirements:

- **Hazardous Waste Pick-Up and Empty Container Request Form** (SLAC-I-800-0A08R-001). Form used to request delivery and pickup of waste containers from Waste Management
- **Facilities Service Request System.** System used to request services from Facilities
4 Recordkeeping

The following recordkeeping requirements apply for these requirements:

- None

5 References

SLAC Environment, Safety, and Health Manual (SLAC-I-720-0A29Z-001)

- Chapter 17, “Hazardous Waste”