

Exemption for Ninety Day Accumulation

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Environmental Protection Agency

Part II

Environmental Protection Agency

40 CFR Parts 260, 261, 262, 263, 270,
and 271

**Hazardous Waste: Generators of
Hazardous Waste (100 to 1000 Kilograms
Per Month), on Site Storage, etc.; Final
Rule**

40 CFR Part 262

**Hazardous Waste: Generators of
Hazardous Waste (100 to 1000 Kilograms
Per Month), Waste Minimization;
Proposed Rule**

managed, the Agency has decided to impose manifest requirements on these generators, except in the case of certain reclamation agreements. The existence of a State-approved collection center does not, on its own, provide assurance that the waste would be transported or handled properly prior to or during transportation to such a facility, or indeed, that the shipment would ever reach such a facility. Consequently, development of some recordkeeping and transportation requirements would be needed which would offset any potential savings of such an exemption.

E. Part 264/265 Facility Standard Issues

The requirements for facilities that treat, store, or dispose of hazardous waste are contained in Parts 264 and 265 of the hazardous waste regulations. The Part 265 standards are applicable to facilities under interim status, a condition which allows a facility to continue operating until it receives a full RCRA permit. (See HSWA section 3005(e)). The Part 264 standards establish the minimum standards to be incorporated into a full RCRA permit by EPA or a State with an EPA authorized hazardous waste program.

Section 261.5(b) previously exempted generators of 100-1000 kg/mo of hazardous waste from the facility requirements of Parts 264 and 265 that cover the on-site treatment, storage, or disposal of hazardous waste, provided the facility is at least approved by a State to manage municipal or industrial (non-hazardous) solid waste and no more than 1000 kg of hazardous waste were accumulated at any time. Under the rules promulgated today, this exemption will continue to apply only to generators of less than 100 kg/mo of hazardous waste. Generators of 100-1000 kg/mo of hazardous waste will be subject to full regulation under Parts 264 and 265 if they accumulate hazardous waste on-site for greater than 180 (or 270) days, exceed the 6000 kg accumulation limit, engage in waste treatment in other than tanks, or manage their waste in surface impoundments, waste piles, landfills, or land treatment facilities. In addition, those State-approved municipal or industrial waste facilities that manage wastes only from generators of 100-1000 kg/mo will also no longer be exempted from the Part 264 and 265 permit requirements. In the proposed rule, the Agency requested comments concerning the application of the uniform Part 264 and 265 requirements to generators of 100-1000 kg/mo and to the treatment, storage, and disposal facilities that accept waste from the generators.

1. Activities Requiring Permits

Under today's final rules, 100-1000 kg/mo generators will be required to obtain a permit if they treat or dispose of hazardous waste on-site (except for treatment in tanks or containers during the 180/270 day accumulation period in conformance with Subparts J or I of Part 265, respectively) or accumulate hazardous waste on-site in tanks or containers for more than 180 (or 270) days.

A number of commenters agreed with the need to manage wastes from generators of 100-1000 kg/mo at fully permitted facilities. They argued that no special exemptions or requirements should be applied to the management of waste from these generators because the characteristics of the waste, not the source of the waste, poses the threat to human health and the environment.

Two commenters opposed the requirement for generators of 100-1000 kg/mo who accumulate waste on-site for longer than 180 (or 270) days to obtain RCRA permit, and argued that the accumulation time limit before permitting is required should be extended. One of the commenters also maintained that determining the maximum quantity of hazardous waste that may be accumulated at a non-permitted facility should be based on the degree of hazard posed by the waste and the generator's capacity to transport the waste off-site. The EPA disagrees with both of these positions. As noted in Unit III.C.4.a. of today's preamble, the HSWA of 1984 clearly limit Agency discretion in this matter. The Agency carries a heavy burden in extending the time limits established under section 3001(d)(6), and except for emergency circumstances, the Agency does not believe there to be sufficient justification for extending the limits Congress has established.

Another commenter opposed any permitting requirement due to the economic burden that would be placed on a small number of generators. While some generators of 100-1000 kg/mo may be burdened financially by the requirements promulgated today, Congress has already judged that outside of the accumulation limits allowed for in Section 3001(d)(6), disposal of wastes from these generators at permitted facilities is necessary to protect human health and the environment. In addition, since the rules allow generators to manage their hazardous wastes off-site, they are able to avoid the cost of acquiring a RCRA permit, if they so choose.

Several commenters suggested exemptions from the RCRA permitting requirements or reduced permit

requirements for on-site waste treatment. Some commenters stated that there is a need to encourage on-site treatment to reduce the amount of wastes sent off-site and that the permitting requirements may hamper the ability of generators to treat wastes at their facilities.

The Agency disagrees that on-site treatment should be encouraged by exempting those generators of 100-1000 kg/mo from the RCRA permitting requirements. To the extent that these generators are conducting the same treatment/storage or treatment/disposal as other permitted facilities, their on-site treatment activities pose a potential risk to human health and the environment. Therefore, reduced or eliminated permitting requirements would be inappropriate.

Of course, no permitting would be required if a generator chooses to treat their hazardous waste in the generator's accumulation tanks or containers in conformance with the requirements of § 262.34 and Subparts J or I of Part 265. Nothing in § 262.34 precludes a generator from treating waste when it is in an accumulation tank or container covered by that provision. Under the existing Subtitle C system, EPA has established standards for tanks and containers which apply to both the storage and treatment of hazardous waste. These requirements are designed to ensure that the integrity of the tank or container is not breached. Thus, the same standards apply to a tank or a container, regardless of whether treatment or storage is occurring. Since the same standards apply to treatment in tanks as applies to storage in tanks, and since EPA allows for limited on-site storage without the need for a permit or interim status (90 days for over 1000 kg/mo generators and 180/270 days for 100-1000 kg/mo generators), the Agency believes that treatment in accumulation tanks or containers is permissible under the existing rules, provided the tanks or containers are operated strictly in compliance with all applicable standards. Therefore, generators of 100-1000 kg/mo are not required to obtain interim status and a RCRA permit if the only on-site management which they perform is treatment in an accumulation tank or container that is exempt from permitting during periods of accumulation (180 or 270 days).

Two commenters suggested that a mechanism should be created to tailor RCRA permits to the circumstances of individual facilities. For example, one commenter specifically asked for a simplified and streamlined permit for the incineration of spent paint spray