



Solvent Contaminated Wipes Exclusion

FACT SHEET 37-068-0915

In 2013 the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a final rule that modifies the hazardous waste (HW) management regulations for solvent-contaminated wipes under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act. Specifically, this rule revises the definition of solid waste to conditionally exclude solvent-contaminated wipes that are cleaned and reused and revises the definition of HW to conditionally exclude disposable solvent-contaminated wipes.

As of March 2015, the rule is in effect in the following states and U.S. territories:

- Alaska
- Florida
- Illinois
- Iowa
- Louisiana
- Mississippi
- Montana
- New Hampshire
- New Jersey
- North Carolina
- Pennsylvania
- Rhode Island (reusables only)
- Texas
- Utah
- Virginia

“Wipes” are reusable or disposable cloth or paper materials used to apply solvent to surfaces or clean surfaces with solvent. Prior to the ruling, EPA considered solvent-contaminated wipes to be HWs depending on the solvent used or the solvent characteristics. Under the new rule, some reusable or disposable wipes are not HW if they are managed according to the requirements of the new rule. See the table below for a description of contaminated wipes and the corresponding waste classification under the new rule. The complete rule and other information is located at <http://www.epa.gov/epawaste/hazard/wastetypes/wasteid/solvents/wipes.htm>.

Waste Classification of Solvent Contaminated Wipes.

Description	Waste Classification
Reusable wipes contaminated with F001 – F005 listed solvents or the corresponding P- or U- listed solvents found in 261.33 that are laundered and reused.	The wipe is not a solid waste and is not a HW.
Disposable solvent-contaminated wipes.	The wipe is a solid waste but is excluded from regulations
Reusable or disposable wipes that exhibit a HW characteristic resulting from a solvent listed in 261.21 and wipes that only exhibit the characteristic of ignitability due to the presence of these listed solvents.	The wipe is a solid waste but is excluded from HW regulations.

If any of the wipes in the table above are managed according to the new regulation they will not count toward a facility's monthly HW generator status. To take advantage of this exclusion, reusable and disposal wipes:

- Must be contained in non-leaking, closed containers that contain no free liquids.
- Must be labeled with the words “Excluded Solvent Contaminated-Wipes”.
- May only accumulate for up to 180 days from the accumulation start date.
- Reusable wipes must be laundered.

Required written documentation includes:

- Name of industrial laundry or dry cleaner, permitted landfill, or permitted incinerator.
- Documentation that the 180-day accumulation limit is met.
- A description of the process to meet the “no free liquids” condition in the regulation.

The exclusion does not apply to:

- Wipes that contain listed HW other than solvents.
- Wipes that exhibit the characteristic of toxicity, corrosivity or reactivity due to non-listed solvents or contaminants other than solvents.
- Disposable wipes that are HW due to the presence of trichloroethylene.

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