

**HAWAII DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
CONSTRUCTION AND DEMOLITION (C&D) WASTE DISPOSAL GENERAL
GUIDANCE**

This C&D waste disposal guidance supersedes the previous letter dated May 24, 1996. Although the waste composition varies from project to project, C&D wastes generally consist of concrete, wood, metal, glass, plastic, asphalt, tile, drywall, roofing and insulation material. These wastes are often bulked as one waste stream when sent for disposal. With advance planning, most of these wastes can be reused on the job site and/or salvaged for recycling opportunities.

Another type of C&D waste stream sometimes generated from a construction project is excavated soil.

If the C&D waste is designated for disposal to a landfill or to any other off-site location, the contractor must make a hazardous waste determination in accordance with the Hawaii Administrative Rules (HAR) §11-262-11. Making a hazardous waste determination is a step-by-step process, and should start with determining whether the waste is excluded, then if listed, and finally if characteristic. Determining whether a waste is hazardous under RCRA (Resource Conservation and Recovery Act) can be done through one of the following methods:

1. **Testing** – Testing the waste according to the methods set forth in subpart C of HAR 11-261; and/or
2. **Knowledge** – See attached if applying knowledge

Collecting a representative sample of the bulk C&D waste or excavated soil waste is crucial to characterizing environmental samples. If a sample is not representative, there are legal and environmental consequences. Each generator would be responsible for its own sampling plan. We advise contractors to work with experienced environmental companies and labs for guidance and implementation.

Note - Construction wastes with lead-based paint may be exempt from HAR §11-262-11 provided wastes:

- 1) *were from a residential structure; and*
- 2) *from renovation, remodeling or abatement work; and*
- 3) *contain no other listed constituents – refer to HAR §§11-261-20 and 11-261-30.*

Knowledge Determination

How can knowledge be applied to determine if a waste is a characteristic waste?

In some cases, a generator can use his/her knowledge of a waste to make a determination as to whether the waste is a characteristic hazardous waste. In order to use knowledge to characterize the waste, the generator must consider the raw materials that constitute the waste or the **process(es)** that result in the waste being generated.

In considering the materials that make up the waste, the generator needs to examine the specific chemical and physical characteristics of the waste material. Information such as Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDSs) can be a helpful resource. However, while MSDSs can provide useful information regarding ignitability (flash point), corrosivity (pH), and reactivity, they tend to be less useful when it comes to identifying the toxic characteristics of waste. MSDSs are not required to list all of the ingredients in a certain material, but only those that make up greater than 1% of the total constituents of that material. This means that a waste may contain a toxic constituent exceeding the regulatory limit (making it a hazardous waste), but this constituent may not necessarily be included on the MSDS. Generators should also be aware that MSDSs are representative of raw materials; the MSDS may not accurately represent a waste material that is generated by the use of a particular raw material.

In considering the **process** that generates the waste, the generator needs to ask himself/herself: How does the operation/process affect the waste? For example, does the process make the waste ... more concentrated? ... more dilute?... contain free liquids?... become contaminated? ...etc.

One critical factor in using knowledge to characterize waste is that the knowledge must be applied appropriately. In other words, the knowledge that is applied must be valid and verifiable. A generator should not just assume that a waste is non-hazardous without providing some type of supporting, verifiable information to justify that conclusion. Using knowledge of the waste to conduct a hazardous waste determination involves a well thought out process in which the waste materials or the process generating the waste are considered. It should be noted that, more often than not, it is easier to use knowledge of the waste to characterize it as hazardous than it is to characterize it as non-hazardous.

Can I always use knowledge?

No. In many cases knowledge alone is inadequate to properly characterize the waste, specifically in those cases where the waste is cross-contaminated or inherently non-homogeneous. If you are generating a waste and your knowledge of the waste is insufficient to completely and accurately characterize it, you will need to get the waste tested by a lab that is certified to perform the tests that need to be conducted on the waste. Generators that use knowledge of process in waste determinations must be able to demonstrate the basis for their claim.

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How frequently must a hazardous waste determination be made?

An initial characterization must be done on each waste stream and a re-characterization must be performed at least every twelve months, or whenever there is a process change. It is recommended that MSDSs and other "knowledge of process" information be specifically reviewed during re-characterizations to ensure that neither the raw materials nor the process associated with the waste have changed.

What type of paperwork/recordkeeping is necessary with hazardous waste determinations?

According to [40 CFR 262.40](#), a generator must keep records of any test results, waste analysis, or other determinations made in accordance with 40 CFR 262.11 for at least three years from the date that the waste was last sent to on-site or off-site treatment, storage, or disposal. Generators that use knowledge of process in waste determinations must be able to demonstrate the basis for this claim.

Acknowledgement

State of Connecticut, Department of Environmental Protection (DEP); Knowledge Determination