

Solvent-Contaminated Wipes



The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has excluded solvent-contaminated wipes that are cleaned and reused (reusable wipes) from the definition of solid waste, and solvent-contaminated wipes that are disposed of from the definition of hazardous waste (disposable wipes), provided certain conditions are met. In so doing, both reusable and disposable wipes are excluded from regulation under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), Subtitle C.

When does the final rule become effective and will it be adopted by Arizona?

The final rule became effective January 31, 2014. ADEQ anticipates Arizona will adopt the final rule sometime during 2014.

Must I seek compliance with the January 2014 final rule, or do I wait until it's adopted by Arizona?

You may either continue existing practices for managing solvent-contaminated wipes or you may implement the procedures in the final rule. However, once the final rule is adopted in Arizona solvent-

contaminated wipes must be managed in accordance with that final rule.

What are the conditions in the new final rule that must be met to exclude solvent-contaminated wipes from RCRA Subtitle C regulation?

1. Both reusable and disposable wipes must be placed in non-leaking, closed containers which must be able to contain free liquids, and the containers must be labeled "Excluded Solvent-Contaminated Wipes."
2. Before transportation, generators must ensure that solvent-contaminated wipes and their containers have no free liquids as determined by the Paint Filter Liquids Test (EPA Methods Test 9095B).
3. A generator can accumulate solvent-contaminated wipes for up to 180 days before sending them for cleaning or disposal.
4. Solvent-contaminated wipes must be managed only by facilities legally authorized to receive reusable and disposable wipes, such as industrial laundries or dry cleaners, municipal solid waste landfills, municipal waste combustor or other combustion facilities.

5. Generators must document: the name and address of the laundry, dry cleaner, landfill or combustor; the 180-day accumulation time limit is being met; and the process the generator is using to meet the "no free liquids" condition.
6. The exclusion consists of wipes that exhibit a hazardous characteristic resulting from a solvent listed in Part 261; wipes that exhibit only the characteristic of ignitability when containing one or more non-listed solvents; and wipes containing one or more F001-F005 listed solvents listed in 40 CFR § 261.31 or the corresponding P- or U-listed solvents found in § 261.33 including:

- Acetone
 - Benzene
 - n-Butanol
 - Chlorobenzene
 - Creosols
 - Cyclohexanone
 - Toluene
 - Ethyl acetate
 - Ethyl benzene
 - Xylenes
 - Isobutyl alcohol
 - Methanol
 - Methyl ethyl ketone
 - Methyl isobutyl ketone
 - Methylene chloride
 - Tetrachloroethylene
 - 1,2-Dichlorobenzene
 - 1,1,2-Trichloroethane
 - 2-Ethoxyethanol
 - Trichloroethylene*
- (*for reusable wipes only)

7. The exclusion does not include: wipes that contain listed hazardous waste 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 hazardous waste due to the presence of trichloroethylene.

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