

# HRP Associates, Inc.

Creating the Right Solutions Together

July 18, 2007

Ms. Susanna Baxter  
Tennessee Independent Colleges and Universities Association  
1031 17th Avenue South  
Nashville, Tennessee 37212

email: [Baxter@ticua.org](mailto:Baxter@ticua.org)

**RE: QUESTIONS AND ACTION ITEMS FROM THE TENNESSEE ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE PEER AUDIT TRAINING**

Dear Ms. Baxter:

HRP Associates, Inc. and Halloran and Sage appreciate the opportunity to work with TICUA and the associated colleges and universities on the Environmental Compliance Peer Auditing Program.

In the course of the training performed in Nashville on June 19 – 21, several questions and requests for information were raised by the participating colleges and universities. Within this letter, HRP would like to address the following items:

- Please provide a list of the Hazardous Waste P – List.
- What, in general, is required for cadaver waste?
- Are sharps used only to dispense chemicals in a chemistry lab required to be disposed as medical waste?
- Please provide guidance regarding closing containers of waste from chemistry/biology instrumentation rooms.
- May the participants get copies of questions on the mini-forms prior to the audit?
- Please provide guidance on elementary neutralization of wastes in the laboratories.
- Please provide guidance on placement of, and wording of, labels with regard to waste;
- Please provide guidance on purchasing an aerosol can punch;
- Please provide guidance on purchasing a bulb crusher;
- Please provide guidance on best management practices for fuel transfer to and from above ground storage tanks; and
- Please provide guidance regarding students with diabetes and placement of sharps containers for personally administered medicines.

## **Hazardous Waste P-list**

Discarded commercial chemical products considered acutely hazardous are listed as “P” hazardous waste. The P-list is available in the hazardous waste Code of Federal Regulations 40 CFR 261.33. HRP has provided this list to you in Attachment A to this letter.

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### **Cadaver Waste**

According to Tennessee Rule 1200-1-7-.04(2)k.4.(iv) recognizable human organs and body parts may not be landfilled. Several licensed companies provide medical waste services, including disposal of human and animal cadavers. A review of the website <http://state.tn.us/environment/swm/pdf/transporter.pdf> provides a list of approved transportation and disposal facilities licensed in Tennessee.

Please contact your routine waste disposal company to see what additional handling and packaging standards they require.

### **Sharps Not Used for Medical Purposes**

Labs will occasionally use plungers that resemble medically used syringes. If a lab is using a "needleless" syringe to dose chemicals then the lab needs to perform and document a waste determination on that syringe. If it is deemed not to be medical waste, then consult your routine waste carrier and receiver to ensure that they will receive the waste. Some landfills will reject waste if the waste appears to be hazardous in nature.

If the syringe does have a needle, then it must be disposed of as medical waste in an appropriate sharps container.

### **Closing Containers of Waste from Biological/Chemical Analytical Equipment**

When using analytical instruments that require venting during processing sample(s), lids can remain off the waste collection container. However, it's recommended to use good chemical hygiene practices, such as placing the container in a secondary container and/or a sign identifying the instrument is in progress and waste container is open. The container should be labeled as waste and emptied into the waste collection area at the end of the process. This container should be only used as waste collection and not waste storage.

### **Mini-Form Questions**

The mini-forms questions associated with the peer audit software program are not being made available prior to the on-site audits. Please contact HRP Associates directly at (800) 752-3922 for assistance with regulatory questions regarding compliance as your college prepares for the upcoming audits.

### **Elementary Neutralization**

An elementary neutralization unit (ENU) is defined under 40 CFR 260.10 as follows:

"A device which:

- Is used for neutralizing wastes that are hazardous only because they exhibit the corrosivity characteristics defined in 40 CFR 261.22 or they are listed in Subpart D of 40 CFR 261 only for this reason; and

- Meets the definition of tank, tank system, container, transport vehicle or vessel in 40 CFR 261.10.”

Under this definition, a laboratory could use a 5-gallon container to neutralize an acid waste (hazardous for corrosivity only) and meet the ENU exemption. As outlined under EPA’s FAXBACKs 13204, 13717 and 13778 (see Attachment B) an ENU is exempt from the following RCRA standards:

- 90 or 180 day storage limits;
- Weekly inspections;
- Labeling requirements; and
- Permitting requirements.

In addition, the corrosive hazardous waste is not counted when determining a site’s generator status (i.e. CESQG, SQG or LQG) if upon generation the corrosive hazardous waste immediately enters an ENU (even if it is not treated for several months). Corrosive hazardous waste that is stored prior to entering an ENU must be counted in the month that it is generated.

### Labeling of Waste

All waste must be labeled at all times. At your colleges you should have waste stored either within a satellite accumulation area or a long-term storage area (i.e. less than 90 days, or 180 days).

#### Satellite Accumulation Areas [40 CFR 262.34(c)(1)(ii) & (c)(2)]

- Container must be marked with the words “Hazardous Waste” or with other words that identify the container’s contents when the first drop of hazardous waste is added to the container; and
- Accumulation start date is not added to the container until the container is moved to the 90-day or 180-day storage area. The container must be moved to the 90-day or 180-day storage area within 3 days of reaching either the 55-gallon storage limit for non-acute hazardous waste or 1-quart storage limit for acute hazardous waste (date of excess accumulation).

#### 90-Day and 180-Day Storage Areas [40 CFR 262.34(a)(2), (a)(3) & (d)(4)]

- Containers must be marked with the words “Hazardous Waste” when the first drop of hazardous waste is added to the container or when it is received from a satellite accumulation area;
- The date accumulation period began;
- Before offering the container for off-site shipment, the container must be marked with the appropriate Department of Transportation (DOT) label; and
- Before offering the container for off-site shipment, the container must be label as follows:
  - HAZARDOUS WASTE – Federal Law Prohibits its Improper Disposal. If found, contact the nearest police or public safety authority or the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency;
  - Generator’s Name and Address;

- Manifest Document Number.

### **Aerosol Can Punch**

The following is a list of three companies who sell aerosol can punching systems. By listing these companies, HRP is not endorsing these companies or products, rather, we are providing this list as reference for the colleges and universities.

New Pig – (800) 468-4647, <http://www.newpig.com/>

Grainger – (888) 361-8649, <http://www.grainger.com/>

McMaster-Carr - (404) 346-7000, <http://www.mcmaster.com/>

Aerosol can punch collection drums should be handled as hazardous waste (i.e. the raw material drained from the can). Many facilities establish the aerosol can punch operation as a satellite accumulation area. The crushed can is rendered a recyclable scrap metal waste.

### **Fluorescent Bulb Crusher**

The following is a list of three companies who sell bulb crusher systems. By listing these companies, HRP is not endorsing these companies or products; rather, we are providing this list as reference for the colleges and universities.

New Pig – (800) 468-4647, <http://www.newpig.com/>

Compactors Unlimited – (866) 522-9720, <http://www.compactorsunlimited.com/>

Air Cycle Corporation – (800) 909-9709, <http://www.aircycle.com/>

Please note that the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation does regulate the use of bulb crushers in Rule 1200-1-11-.12(8). A copy of this rule is enclosed in Attachment C of this letter.

### **Fuel Transfer**

Below is a bulleted list of best management practices to be employed when transferring oil on site. If your facility stores greater than 1,320 gallons of oil in above ground containers larger than 55 gallons, or stores greater than 42,000 gallons of oil below ground, your facility must prepare and implement a Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasures Plan (SPCC).

- Tanks must be provided with secondary containment to hold the volume of the largest container or 110% of the total contents, whichever is bigger;
- All loading and offloading activities should be monitored by a facility representative who has been properly trained in spill response;
- If loading or offloading to/from a truck, ensure that the tires are secured by using a chock;
- Following all loading and offloading activities, one must ensure that all valves are closed and transfer hoses properly drained and secured;
- Ensure all appropriate emergency response equipment (i.e. fire extinguishers, spill kits, etc) is located in close proximity to the loading/offloading area;

- All fill lines, supply valves, and drain lines and valves should be capped and/or locked when not in use.

**Sharps for Self Administered Drugs**

On a college campus, there may be students, faculty or staff who require injected medicines such as insulin. Domestically generated waste (i.e. waste from dorms, on campus housing, etc.) is not regulated. As a best management practice, the campus may want to communicate to students, faculty and staff the locations of sharp containers (such as in health services) to ensure the health and safety of its students and workers. At some colleges, students are supplied with sharps containers each semester and utilize the health center as a disposal resource.

If you have any further questions regarding the peer audit program or environmental compliance for your location, please do not hesitate to contact us at (864) 289-0311.

Sincerely,

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for

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*Tad Goetcheus*

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Regional Manager