THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MAINE

Universal Waste Program
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POLICY:

UNIVERSAL WASTE PROGRAM

1.0 Scope

To encourage recycling and reduce the amount of waste that is disposed of in an inappropriate manner such as landfills or incinerators. Sound recycling is imperative in reducing Maine's contaminant level.


2. Regulated Items:

   a) Mercury containing lamps.
   b) Cathode ray tubes – high lead content.
   c) Mercury thermostats.
   d) PCB (Polychlorinated biphenyl) ballasts – cancer causing.
   e) Mercury thermometers.
   f) Batteries – only cadmium, not car or alkaline batteries.

3. Types of Universal Waste Generators (EPA identification number required for all LUWG, USM generator type – LARGE. USM facility status – central accumulation):

   a) Large (LUWG) – Generates or accumulates more than 200 items at any one time or in a given month.
   b) Small (SUWG) – Generates 200 or less at a time or in any given month.
   c) Example: 50 Ni-cd batteries plus 100 mercury lamps, 25 cathode ray tubes, 25 mercury thermostats equals 200 items of universal waste.

4. Prohibitions: Generators, owners, operators of any central accumulation or consolidation facility and transporters of universal waste are prohibited from conducting the following activities:
a) Disposing, diluting, or treating of universal waste. The intentional breaking of cathode ray tubes or lamps is considered a form of treatment and may only be conducted by licensed recycling facility.

b) Sending or transporting universal waste to any facility other than a central accumulation facility, consolidation facility for universal waste, or a recycling facility for universal waste.

c) Exception: Ballasts and residues from mercury spill kits may be sent to an approved hazardous waste disposal or treatment facility.

2.0 Universal Waste Specific Requirements – USM’s Procedures

1. Storage facility location and site specific signage:

   a) Storage – Central accumulation facility.
   b) Location – 46 Bedford Street, main level, Portland Campus
   c) Security – The building, including the central accumulation area, can be locked when not in use.
   d) Site Signage – Universal Hazardous Waste Storage to be posted upon entry to the storage area.
   e) Specific Signage – Waste cathode ray tubes storage, waste lamp storage, waste mercury thermostat storage, waste PCB ballast storage, waste mercury thermometer storage, waste battery storage. To be posted accordingly within the accumulation area.

2. Containers:

   a) All waste is to be stored in appropriate containers.
   b) Each container must be labeled (waste type) with the date you first put universal waste in it; this is the accumulation start date, and the date the container becomes full. Storage maximum time is 365 days. Time exceptions include:

      i. Cathode ray tubes – one carton to a container.
      ii. Lamps – a container designed for no more than 190 lamps.
      iii. Mercury containing thermostats – a container no more than 30 gallons.
      iv. PCB ballasts – a container to more than 30 gallons.
      v. Mercury thermometers – a container no larger than one gallon.

   Note: These are the exceptions to the 365 day requirement which allows additional storage time in order to fill the container and is shipped no more than 90 days from the date the container is filled.

c) Containers must not show leakage, spillage, or damage that could cause leakage under reasonably foreseeable conditions.

d) Containers are to be compatible with the waste.

e) Containers must be closed and structurally sound.

f) Containers cannot be exposed to the weather.
g) Container packing – universal waste must be packed in containers with packaging materials adequate to prevent breakage during storage, handling, and transportation.

h) Sectional or egg carton type of packing materials is suggested the type and amount used should be adequate to prevent breakage.

i) When full, waste containers are to be sealed securely around box openings. Any universal waste container must be immediately sealed if incidental breakage occurs. Use wide, good adhesive tape.

j) Maximum stack height (5 feet) and visible container sight is necessary.

3. Inspections – Universal waste storage areas must be inspected weekly by the recycling supervisor and documented in a written log. The logs will be kept at the central accumulation site for auditing.

4. Breakage – Incidental breakage of units is covered in our standard operating procedures including incidental spill and release that require no reporting to DEP. If frequent breakage is occurring, the generator (USM) facility and transporter should review their handling procedures and packing materials to insure that they are adequate for the jobs.

For spills or releases that require reporting. University Environmental Safety & Health will notify DEP at 1-800-452-4664 and call for an outside environmental contractor to respond. Clean up plan for spills or releases that do not require reporting is found in our universal waste standard operating procedures.

5. Reporting Requirements – USM as the generator or the central accumulation facility – log form parts I & II are to be completed quarterly and forwarded to Maine DEP by the University Environmental Health & Safety Office.

Maine Department of Environmental Protection
Bureau of Remediation and Waste Management
Division of Oil and Hazardous Waste Facilities Regulation
State House Station #17
Augusta, ME 04333 – 0017
Attn: Hazardous Waste Manifest Section

Universal waste transporter will complete all required transportation and recycling paperwork to the necessary agencies including USM.