

CONNECTICUT ACHMM REGULATORY NEWS UPDATE



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General Permit for the Discharge of Wastewater Associated With Food Preparation Establishments That Discharge to Sanitary Sewers

The Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) recently issued a general permit for wastewater discharges from food preparation establishments. This general permit standardizes the removal of fats, oils, and grease (FOG). Under the general permit, wastewater that is discharged to a sanitary sewer will need to be treated to remove FOG using a grease trap/interceptor that meets one of the following specifications:

- Outdoor in-ground grease trap/interceptor with a minimum 1,000-gallon capacity
- An indoor automatic grease recovery unit (AGRU)

The captured FOG will be taken to regional disposal sites where it can be further treated or used as a fuel source in sewage sludge incinerators. The pH of the wastewater discharge for the grease trap must never be less than 5.0 or greater than 10.0 standard units. The concentration of FOG in the wastewater may not exceed 100 milligrams per liter. Existing facilities have until July 1, 2011, to comply with the conditions of the permit. Newly constructed facilities, facilities that are renovated, or those that are sold must immediately comply. If a facility is in a FOG problem area, the municipality can require compliance ahead of schedule. Municipalities can also exempt establishments that have small discharges with minimal FOG quantities.

(BLR Environmental Compliance – Connecticut Edition – November 2005)

Licensed Environmental Professionals and the New UST Clean Up Account Program

On July 1, 2005, Public Act 05-3 was signed into law. This act included many significant changes to the laws affecting underground storage tanks (USTs) in Connecticut. Some of the more important changes relate to the program administered by the DEP for funding remediation of releases from USTs. The law now authorizes Licensed Environmental Professionals to approve remediation work as part of an application for funding, representing an expansion of the roles LEPs play in Connecticut's remediation programs.

For more information see CTDEP's website under the Bureau of Waste Management, USTs Program.

(EPOC Website)

EPA Proposes TRI "Burden Reduction" Rule

EPA has proposed a rule to expand the use of a shortened reporting form (Form A certification statement) for some facilities. The proposal is expected to save 165,000 hours per year, while still ensuring full Form R (long form) reporting on over 99 percent of toxic

releases and other waste management activities. The proposal also provides new incentives to facilities to emit less in order to be able to use the shorter form. This proposed action comes after an extensive evaluation by EPA, its stakeholders, and reporting facilities to address the concerns expressed about the toxics release inventory (TRI) reporting burden.

The proposed rule is part of an on-going effort to streamline TRI reporting. EPA issued a final rule in July 2005 that revised the TRI reporting forms to eliminate information not used, and to make use of data already available in existing EPA information systems.

In a separate but related action to the proposal being announced, EPA is notifying Congress, as required by the Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act (EPCRA) Section 313(i), that the Agency plans to initiate a rulemaking to modify the frequency of reporting under the TRI program. As required by Section 313(i)(5), EPA will delay the initiation of such rulemaking for at least 12 months, but no more than 24 months, from the date of the notification. According to EPA, it is taking this step because it believes that alternate year reporting not only offers burden reduction, but also offers other potential advantages that merit consideration. Not only would alternate year reporting result in significant burden reduction for covered facilities, but citizens would also benefit from the redirection of federal and state taxpayer dollars to improve the quality, clarity, usefulness, and accessibility of TRI information products and services.

Program savings during the non-reporting years would be reinvested to:

- Improve the TRI-Made Easy (TRI-ME) software, thereby improving data quality and further reducing burden on reporters
- Conduct more analysis of the TRI data, making it more useful to citizens and communities
- Invest in greater electronic reporting including a Web-based TRI-ME for all reporters

According to EPA, electronic reporting enables the Agency to provide even greater taxpayer savings as processing time diminishes.

As the Agency begins collecting information that will aid an analysis of the alternate year approach, EPA states that it will stand ready to consider all viewpoints on the issues and plans to convene meetings with TRI stakeholders to invite their views. Any changes EPA may propose as a result of this notice will be done as part of a full notice and public comment rulemaking process.

(BLR Website)

OSHA's Top 10 List

OSHA has revealed the 10 most-violated safety standards thus far in 2005.

Scaffolding-General Requirements (standard 1926.451) continues to be the most-cited standard with 8,130 violations. The second most-cited standard remains Hazard

Communication (1910.1200) with 6,641 violations. The one new standard on this year's list is Ladders (1926.1053) at number 10 with 2,054 violations.

The complete list:

1. Scaffolding
2. Hazard Communication
3. Fall Protection – General Requirements (1926.501; 5,504 violations) – third last year
4. Respiratory Protection – (1910.134; 3,904 violations) – fifth last year
5. Lockout/Tagout – (1910.147; 3,711 violations) – fourth last year
6. Powered Industrial Trucks – (1910.178; 2,871 violations) – eighth last year
7. Electrical – Wiring Methods, Components, and Equipment for General Use (1910.305; 2,785 violations) – sixth last year
8. Machine Guarding – General Requirements (1910.212; 2,743 violations) – seventh last year
9. Electrical – General Requirements (1910.303; 2,120 violations) – ninth last year
10. Ladders

OSHA and the National Safety Council presented the list at the recent NSC Conference & Expo, as they did last year. Overall, the number of violations among the 10 most-cited standards is 40,463, according to the agency, and the top three standards accounted for approximately half of this total.

(CBIA Safety & Health Website)

DEP Publishes Comprehensive List of Approved Additional and Alternative Criteria

The CT DEP has published a comprehensive list of both Criteria for Additional Polluting Substances and Alternative Criteria, which have been approved by the CT Department of Environmental Protection pursuant to the Remediation Standard Regulations (RCSA § 22a-133k-1 through k-3). This comprehensive list incorporates information from previously released lists of Approved Criteria for Additional Polluting Substances (for statewide use), and also incorporates (for reference purposes) Alternative Criteria approved only for use at a specific site. To obtain this list, please use the following link:

<http://www.dep.state.ct.us/wtr/regs/remediation/altcriteria.htm>.

(EPOC Website - October 2005)

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