



EPA530-R-07-003
May 2008
Version 1

Definition of Solid Waste Compendium



Volume T: Incidental Processing

Hazardous Waste Identification Division
Office of Solid Waste
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency



Navigation Tips

To improve document navigation:

Using Microsoft Word

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Introduction

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About the Compendium

The Definition of Solid Waste Compendium serves as a user-friendly reference to assist Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and state staff, industrial facilities generating and managing solid and hazardous wastes, as well as the general public, in locating resources addressing specific regulatory issues within the federal Definition of Solid Waste regulations. Please note that this reference is designed to be web-based; therefore, the usefulness of the document is maximized when it is viewed on a computer that is connected to the internet.

A frequently mentioned comment from stakeholders is the need for EPA to improve the user-friendliness of the existing regulations. Commenters note that the applicable Definition of Solid Waste regulations and relevant guidance materials are difficult to locate and use. As a result, stakeholders have difficulty in understanding the regulations and identifying solid waste. The objective of this document is to address some of the commenters' concerns by consolidating and streamlining the Definition of Solid Waste into a helpful reference tool that features a user-friendly format, including references to EPA FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions), letters, memoranda, and guidance documents that EPA has provided to the public through the years to help stakeholders interpret the Definition of Solid Waste. This document does not change any of the existing solid or hazardous waste requirements.

The resources referenced in the Compendium may include Federal Register (FR) notices, documents from [Resource Conservation and Recovery Act \(RCRA\) Online](#) (e.g., RCRA Hotline Q&A's, letters, and memoranda issued by EPA), and other resources, as well as relevant Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) language. We have attempted to identify the relevant resources for each Compendium volume topic. However, please note that EPA could have inadvertently overlooked a relevant document and did not reference it. Certain available resources, such as superseded RCRA Online documents and items that were judged to be not pertinent, have not been referenced. Most of the referenced resources are not included or reproduced in the Compendium; instead, hyperlinks to the resources are provided. As an exception, we have included a version of relevant sections of the most current CFR language (as of the date on the cover of the Compendium volume) that we have reformatted to make it easier to read and find citations of interest. In addition, we also provide links to the [Government Printing Office's Electronic Code of Federal Register Web site](#) (e-CFR), which is updated almost daily. [Note: this volume does not include CFR language.]

This reference document presents only the federal Definition of Solid Waste. Most states are authorized to manage their own solid and hazardous waste generator regulatory program. Therefore, states may have their own set of regulations that apply in

lieu of federal regulations, and while most state solid and hazardous waste regulations are based on the federal requirements, some states have developed regulations more stringent than the federal program. We direct you to the following Web site to determine if the state regulatory program is different from the federal program:
<http://www.epa.gov/epawaste/wyl/stateprograms.htm>.

The Definition of Solid Waste includes multiple subtopics, and is codified under 40 CFR. To help users of the Compendium more quickly identify the information they need, and to make the Compendium more user-friendly in an electronic environment, the Compendium has been divided into multiple volumes. These volumes are available through EPA's Definition of Solid Waste Web site at <http://www.epa.gov/epawaste/hazard/dsw/index.htm>. Because regulations are promulgated throughout the year, EPA intends to update the Compendium volumes periodically to remain up-to-date with regulations relating to the Definition of Solid Waste.

Please note that this document is not a rulemaking in any way.

About the Incidental Processing Volume

This volume of the Compendium lists resources that address the “incidental processing” exclusion in the as it relates to the Definition of Solid Waste regulations. Materials that undergo limited, or incidental, processing before use as products or ingredients are not reclaimed and are excluded under the use/reuse provisions. The Resources section is comprised of a table that provides basic details about and a hyperlink to each resource.

This reference document does not provide guidance on solid waste or hazardous waste regulations beyond issues concerning incidental processing. For more information regarding the various regulations applied to facilities generating or managing hazardous waste, see [Hazardous Waste Generators: A User Friendly Reference Document](#).

The Compendium volumes are also available in Microsoft Word format from EPA upon request. For more information on these versions and any other questions or comments concerning this document, please contact EPA's Office of Solid Waste:

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Resources

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Resource	Document Date	Type	Topic is Focus?	Link to EPA Summary	Link to Resource
1. 50 FR 614 - Amendments to Definition of Solid Waste (Final) [pp. 634, 639]	1/4/1985	Federal Register	Yes	N/A	PDF
2. MERCURY SUITABLE FOR DIRECT USE (99% PURE) NOT SOLID WASTE	5/30/1986	Letter	Yes	Summary	PDF
3. USE OF WASTE LEATHER TRIMMINGS IN THE MANUFACTURE OF ABSORBED MATERIALS	6/11/1996	Letter	No	Summary	PDF
4. SULFURIC ACID RECYCLING IN THE SEMICONDUCTOR INDUSTRY	11/30/2000	Memo	No	Summary	PDF
5. GUIDANCE FOR IDENTIFYING INCIDENTAL PROCESSING ACTIVITIES	10/4/2005	Memo	Yes	Summary	PDF

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Glossary of Acronyms

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Acronym	Meaning
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
e-CFR	electronic Code of Federal Regulations
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
FR	Federal Register
RCRA	Resource Conservation and Recovery Act