

## 2013 Solvent Contaminated Wipes Rule

On July 31, EPA published a final rule that modifies its RCRA hazardous waste regulations for solvent-contaminated wipes. (78 FR 46448).

According to EPA, the purpose of the rule was:

- to provide a consistent regulatory framework that is appropriate to the level of risk posed by solvent-contaminated wipes in a way that maintains protection of human health and the environment, while reducing overall compliance costs for industry.
- The rule supersedes the 1994 Shapiro memo which allowed states and Regions to make determinations regarding management of solvent-contaminated wipes.

*Wipe* means a woven or non-woven shop towel, rag, pad, or swab made of wood pulp, fabric, cotton, polyester blends, or other material.

The Final Rule defines as *Solvent-contaminated wipe* as:

- A wipe that, after use or after cleaning up a spill, either:
  - Contains one or more of the F001 through F005 solvents;
  - Exhibits a hazardous characteristic when that characteristic results from a listed solvent; or
  - Exhibits only the hazardous waste characteristic of ignitability due to the presence of solvents that are not listed.
- Solvent-contaminated wipes that contain listed hazardous waste other than solvents, or exhibit the characteristic of toxicity, corrosivity, or reactivity due to contaminants other than solvents, are not eligible for the exclusions.

The definition of solvent contaminated reusable wipes does not include:

- Wipes that contain listed hazardous waste other than solvents

# napim Bulletin

- Wipes that exhibit the characteristic of toxicity, corrosivity or reactivity due to non-listed solvents or contaminants other than solvents.

The definition of solvent contaminated disposable wipes 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.
- Wipes that are hazardous due to the presence of trichloroethylene

### **Storage Requirements:**

Wipes must be accumulated, transported and stored in non-leaking containers that can contain free liquids should they occur.

### **Labeling:**

Containers must be labeled "Excluded Solvent-Contaminated Wipes"

### **Accumulation Time Limits:**

Generators may accumulate wipes up to 180 days from the date of accumulation prior to being sent for cleaning or disposal.

### **Recordkeeping:**

- Generators must maintain documentation that includes:
- Name and address of the laundry, dry cleaner, landfill or combustor
- Documentation that the 180 day accumulation time limit is being met
- Description of the method that the generator is using to meet the "no free liquids" condition\*

\*EPA specified the Paint Filter Liquids Test (SW-846, Method 9095B) in the Final Rule as the applicable method for this determination. However, some states presently rely on other test methods (e.g. Liquids Release Test or Toxicity Characteristic Leaching Procedure) to determine whether solvent-contaminated wipes contain no free liquids under their state policies.

Where an authorized state has specified a standard or test method for determining that solvent-contaminated wipes contain no free liquids, generators must meet that standard in

# *napim* Bulletin

lieu of the Paint Filter Liquids Test for purposes of meeting the “no free liquids” condition. Of course, the authorized state standard must be no less stringent than today’s definition of “no free liquids.”

For more information please contact George Fuchs at the NAPIM office.