

	<u>SUBJECT</u>		<u>DATE</u>
1188.	RCRA Empty Containers vs. TSCA PCB Decontaminated Containers - Scenario II	ENCORE	AUG 11, 2016
1189.	RCRA Empty Containers vs. TSCA PCB Decontaminated Containers - Scenario III	ENCORE	AUG 18, 2016

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TWO MINUTE TRAINING

TO: CH2M HILL PLATEAU REMEDIATION COMPANY

FROM: PAUL W. MARTIN, RCRA Subject Matter Expert
CHPRC Environmental Protection, Hanford, WA

SUBJECT: RCRA EMPTY CONTAINERS VS. TSCA PCB DECONTAMINATED CONTAINERS - SCENARIO III

DATE: AUGUST 18, 2016

<u>CHPRC Projects</u>	<u>CH PRC - Env. Protection</u>	<u>MSA</u>	<u>Hanford Laboratories</u>	<u>Other Hanford Contractors</u>	<u>Other Hanford Contractors</u>
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TWO MINUTE TRAINING

SUBJECT: RCRA Empty Containers vs. TSCA PCB Decontaminated Containers - Scenario III

Q: OK - one last scenario...really. The last two weeks' 2MTs discussed requirements for rendering reusable, a drained 55-gallon waste drum that had contained a RCRA listed hazardous waste (non-acute one week, and acute the next week); and also a TSCA PCB regulated waste (PCB concentration ≥ 50 ppm and < 500 ppm one week, and ≥ 500 pm the next week). What if the customer does not want to reuse the drum as before, but instead wants to dispose of the drum in a local nonhazardous waste landfill (Subtitle D)? What must the customer do to render a drum disposable in a Subtitle D landfill, per RCRA and TSCA requirements?

A: In terms of RCRA, the customer must still render the drum RCRA empty. If the waste was an acutely hazardous waste, the container could be rinsed at least three times with an appropriate cleaner or solvent ([WAC 173-303-160\(2\)\(b\)](#) [[40 CFR 261.7](#)]). The volume of solvent used for each rinsing must be 10% or more of the container's capacity or of sufficient quantity to thoroughly decontaminate the container.

If the waste was not an acutely hazardous waste, then the container must be emptied as much as possible and contain no more than 1 inch of residues, or no more than 3% by weight of residues. Once the RCRA empty criteria is achieved for acute or non-acutely hazardous wastes, the residues remaining in the RCRA empty container are no longer subject to RCRA [[WAC 173-303-160\(3\)](#)]. Regardless of reuse, or disposal in a Subtitle D landfill, the container must be RCRA empty.

Note that the rinsate from a listed hazardous or dangerous waste remains a regulated listed waste. The rinsate from a characteristic hazardous or dangerous waste remains a regulated characteristic waste, if the rinsate exhibits any characteristic of hazardous or dangerous waste.

In terms of TSCA, if the PCB concentrations of the waste were < 500 ppm, per [40 CFR 761.60\(c\)\(2\)](#) the drum can be drained and disposed as municipal solid wastes, i.e., disposed in a Subtitle D landfill. The drained liquid would require disposal in a TSCA compliant high efficiency boiler or incinerator as required at [40 CFR 761.60\(a\)](#). Note that no rinsing or decontamination is required to meet the criteria of "drained".

If the PCB concentrations of the waste were ≥ 500 ppm, the drum would have to be decontaminated per [40 CFR 761.79\(c\)\(1\)](#), i.e., triple rinsed, as opposed to merely drained. Per [40 CFR 761.79\(a\)\(4\)](#), materials decontaminated for PCBs are unregulated for disposal. This means that the PCB waste drum could be disposed in a Subtitle D facility once decontaminated.

Note that if the PCB waste drum (≥ 500 ppm) was not decontaminated and only drained, the drained drum would require disposal in a TSCA approved incinerator or landfill, i.e., not a Subtitle D landfill.

SUMMARY:

- RCRA hazardous waste containers must be RCRA empty when disposed in a Subtitle D landfill.
- PCB contaminated waste containers (≥ 50 and < 500 ppm) must be drained when disposed in a Subtitle D landfill.
- PCB waste containers (≥ 500 ppm) must be decontaminated when disposed in a Subtitle D landfill.

Excerpts from WAC 173-303-160, 40 CFR 761.60 and 761.79 are attached to the e-mail. If you have any questions, please contact me at "Paul_W_Martin@rl.gov" or at (509) 376-6620.

FROM: Paul W. Martin

DATE: 8/18/16

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TWO MINUTE TRAINING - ATTACHMENT

SUBJECT: RCRA Empty Containers vs. TSCA PCB Decontaminated Containers - Scenario III

WAC 173-303-160 Containers.

(2) A container or inner liner is "empty" when:

(a) All wastes in it have been taken out that can be removed using practices commonly employed to remove materials from that type of container or inner liner (for example, pouring, pumping, aspirating, etc.) and:

- (i) No more than one inch of waste remains at the bottom of the container or inner liner; or
- (ii) No more than 3 percent by weight of the total capacity of the container remains in the container or inner liner if the container is less than or equal to 119 gallons in size; or
- (iii) No more than 0.3 percent by weight of the total capacity of the container remains in the container or inner liner if the container is greater than 119 gallons in size.

(3)

(a) Any residues remaining in containers or inner liners that are "empty" as described in subsection (2) of this section will not be subject to the requirements of this chapter, and will not be considered as accumulated wastes for the purposes of calculating waste quantities.

40 CFR 761.60 Disposal requirements.

(a) PCB liquids. PCB liquids at concentrations ≥ 50 ppm must be disposed of in an incinerator which complies with §761.70, except that PCB liquids at concentrations ≥ 50 ppm and < 500 ppm may be disposed of as follows:

- (1) For mineral oil dielectric fluid, in a high efficiency boiler according to §761.71(a).
- (2) For liquids other than mineral oil dielectric fluid, in a high efficiency boiler according to §761.71(b).

(c) PCB Containers.

(1) Unless decontaminated in compliance with §761.79 or as provided in paragraph (c)(2) of this section, a PCB container with PCB concentrations at 500 ppm or greater shall be disposed of:

- (i) In an incinerator which complies with §761.70, or
- (ii) In a chemical waste landfill that complies with §761.75; provided that if there are PCBs in a liquid state, the PCB Container shall first be drained and the PCB liquid disposed of in accordance with paragraph (a) of this section.

(2) Any PCB Container used to contain only PCBs at a concentration less than 500 ppm shall be disposed of as municipal solid wastes; provided that if the PCBs are in a liquid state, the PCB Container shall first be drained and the PCB liquid shall be disposed of in accordance with paragraph (a) of this section.

(3) Prior to disposal, a PCB container with PCB concentrations at 50 ppm or greater shall be stored in a unit which complies with §761.65.

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DATE: 8/18/16

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40 CFR 761.79 Decontamination standards and procedures.

(a) Applicability. This section establishes decontamination standards and procedures for removing PCBs, which are regulated for disposal, from water, organic liquids, non-porous surfaces (including scrap metal from disassembled electrical equipment), concrete, and non-porous surfaces covered with a porous surface, such as paint or coating on metal.

(4) Materials from which PCBs have been removed by decontamination in accordance with this section, not including decontamination waste and residuals under paragraph (g) of this section, are unregulated for disposal under subpart D of this part.