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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 Characteristic of Ignitability and DOT Oxidizers

DATE: APRIL 27, 2017

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TWO MINUTE TRAINING

SUBJECT: RCRA Characteristic of Ignitability and DOT Oxidizers

Q: A customer has a solid waste that meets no hazardous waste listings for the F, K, U or P waste codes. The customer has also confirmed that the solid waste exhibits no characteristics of hazardous waste from D002 to D043. However, the customer is not sure if the solid waste is a D001 ignitable characteristic waste since the original product's Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) states that the material is an oxidizer which is one of the criteria of a D001 hazardous waste. The MSDS also states that the material is not regulated by the Department of Transportation (DOT) and hence the hazard classes of 5.1 oxidizer and 5.2 organic peroxide do not apply. Since the waste is described on an MSDS as an oxidizer but does not meet the definition of a DOT oxidizer, is the customer's solid waste a D001 or not?

A: This question has a lot of history to it.

Prior to the July 14, 2006, Federal Register that promulgated changes to the ignitable characteristic wording at 40 CFR 261.21 *[WAC 173-303-090(5)]*, an oxidizer met the D001 characteristic if "it is an oxidizer as defined in 49 CFR 173.151". Clearly, if a waste met the DOT definition of a hazard class 5.1 oxidizer as defined at 49 CFR 173.151, it would also meet the RCRA definition of a characteristic ignitable hazardous waste at 40 CFR 261.21(a)(4).

In the July 14, 2006, Federal Register, EPA corrected wording at 40 CFR 261.21(a)(4) since DOT had moved its reference to oxidizer. The effect of the DOT move was that 40 CFR 261.21(a)(4) referred to nonexistent or irrelevant sections of the DOT regulations. EPA's solution was to replace the obsolete references to the DOT regulations with the actual regulatory language. EPA stated on page 40255:

"The implementation and enforcement of the ignitability characteristic will not change in any way. The Agency is simply publishing the original definitions to ease the burden on the regulated community."

The current wording at 40 CFR 261.21(a)(4) is now narrative but still addresses the DOT definition of oxidizers and organic peroxides. Hence if a material's MSDS states that it is an oxidizer but is not regulated by DOT, the material would not be a D001ignitable characteristic hazardous waste.

SUMMARY:

- Prior to the July 14, 2006, Federal Register, a D001 oxidizer was defined as meeting the DOT oxidizer definition at 49 CFR 173.151.
- After the July 14, 2006 amendments took effect, a D001 oxidizer was still defined as meeting the DOT definition for oxidizer and organic peroxides but the RCRA regulation is in a narrative form.
- EPA confirmed that this final rule did not create new regulatory requirements and did not change in any way the implementation and enforcement of the ignitable characteristic.

Excerpts from the previous and current wording of 40 CFR 261.21, and the July 14, 2006, Federal Register are attached. If you have any questions, please contact me at Paul_W_Martin@rl.gov or at (509) 376-6620.

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TWO MINUTE TRAINING - ATTACHMENT

SUBJECT: RCRA Characteristic of Ignitability and DOT Oxidizers

Previous Wording 40 CFR §261.21 Characteristic of ignitability

(a) A solid waste exhibits the characteristic of ignitability if a representative sample of the waste has any of the following properties:

(4) It is an oxidizer as defined in 49 CFR 173.151.

(b) A solid waste that exhibits the characteristic of ignitability has the EPA Hazardous Waste Number of D001.

[45 FR 33119, May 19, 1980, as amended at 46 FR 35247, July 7, 1981; 55 FR 22684, June 1, 1990; 70 FR 34561, June 14, 2005]

Current Wording 40 CFR §261.21 Characteristic of ignitability

(a) A solid waste exhibits the characteristic of ignitability if a representative sample of the waste has any of the following properties:

(4) It is an oxidizer. An oxidizer for the purpose of this subchapter is a substance such as a chlorate, permanganate, inorganic peroxide, or a nitrate, that yields oxygen readily to stimulate the combustion of organic matter (see Note 4).

(i) An organic compound containing the bivalent -O-O- structure and which may be considered a derivative of hydrogen peroxide where one or more of the hydrogen atoms have been replaced by organic radicals must be classed as an organic peroxide unless:

(A) The material meets the definition of a Class A explosive or a Class B explosive, as defined in §261.23(a)(8), in which case it must be classed as an explosive,

(B) The material is forbidden to be offered for transportation according to 49 CFR 172.101 and 49 CFR 173.21,

(C) It is determined that the predominant hazard of the material containing an organic peroxide is other than that of an organic peroxide, or

(D) According to data on file with the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration in the U.S. Department of Transportation (see Note 3), it has been determined that the material does not present a hazard in transportation.

(b) A solid waste that exhibits the characteristic of ignitability has the EPA Hazardous Waste Number of D001.

Note 4: The DOT regulatory definition of an oxidizer was contained in §173.151 of 49 CFR, and the definition of an organic peroxide was contained in paragraph 173.151a. An organic peroxide is a type of oxidizer.

[45 FR 33119, May 19, 1980, as amended at 46 FR 35247, July 7, 1981; 55 FR 22684, June 1, 1990; 70 FR 34561, June 14, 2005; 71 FR 40259, July 14, 2006]

FROM: Paul W. Martin

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TWO MINUTE TRAINING - ATTACHMENT

SUBJECT: When is When Defined for the RCRA Phrase "When Reclaimed"?

Hazardous Waste and Used Oil; Corrections to Errors in the Code of Federal Regulations

Federal Register / Vol. 71, No. 135 / Friday, July 14, 2006 / Rules and Regulations Page 40254

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is correcting errors in the hazardous waste and used oil regulations, as a result of printing omissions, typographical errors, misspellings, citations to paragraphs and other references that have been deleted or moved to new locations without correcting the citations, and similar mistakes appearing in numerous final rules published in the Federal Register. This final rule does not create new regulatory requirements.

DATES: Effective Date: This final rule is effective on July 14, 2006.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

III. What Does This Rule Do and Why Are the Corrections Necessary?

B. Corrections to Part 261 (Identification and Listing of Hazardous Waste)

1. EPA is amending the following sections of 40 CFR part 261 in order to correct typographical and spelling errors, incorrect citations, and printing errors: Sections 261.2, 261.3, 261.4, 261.6, 261.21, 261.24, 261.31, 261.32, 261.33, 261.38, Appendix VII (F002, F038, F039, K001, and K073 entries), and Appendix VIII.

2. 40 CFR 261.21(a)(3) and 261.21(a)(4): When EPA first promulgated the ignitability characteristic for hazardous waste identification, the Agency incorporated, by reference, U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) regulations (contained in Title 49 of the CFR) that defined an ignitable compressed gas and an oxidizer. In 1990, DOT revised and recodified its regulations governing transportation of hazardous materials, including the sections of 49 CFR referenced by 40 CFR 261.21. The referenced DOT regulations were both revised and moved within 49 CFR; as a result, the hazardous characteristic definitions at 40 CFR 261.21(a)(3) and 261.21(a)(4) now refer to nonexistent or irrelevant sections of the DOT regulations.

Since these original DOT regulations are still required under RCRA, EPA is replacing the obsolete references to the DOT regulations contained in the definitions for an ignitable compressed gas and an oxidizer, 40 CFR 261.21(a)(3) and 261.21(a)(4), respectively, with the actual language from the referenced sections of the DOT regulations that was published in Title 49 of the CFR at the time of the finalization of the RCRA regulations (1980). Because it can be difficult to obtain copies of the CFR from 1980, this revision will make it easier for the regulated community to find and apply the definitions of ignitable compressed gas and oxidizer for the purposes of 261.21. The implementation and enforcement of the ignitability characteristic will not change in any way. The Agency is simply publishing the original definitions to ease the burden on the regulated community.

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