

Satellite Accumulation

THIS POLICY DOES NOT HAVE THE FORCE OF LAW

Hazardous Waste Program

*The purpose of this guidance is to address questions we have received about management of hazardous wastes under Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) rule **3745-52-15**, commonly called “satellite accumulation.”*

We intend this guidance to be used and applied by hazardous waste generators and inspectors to improve their understanding and compliance with the satellite accumulation requirements. We recognize that due to the great variability of plant design and process layout, it is impractical to suggest specific distance limits for defining "at or near" that would be applicable to all situations. Therefore, you should direct any questions concerning this subject to your Ohio EPA District Office inspector.

The major concepts that will be addressed in this Guidance

- Each satellite accumulation area is limited to 55 gallons of hazardous waste accumulated from each point of generation.
- Distinct satellite accumulation areas may be in close proximity.
- There may be multiple operators of a single process.

What is the Purpose of the Satellite Accumulation Requirements?

In the *December 20, 1984, Federal Register*, 49568 U.S. EPA stated that satellite accumulation is intended for industries who generate small amounts of hazardous waste in numerous locations at a facility. The rule eliminates some paperwork and other requirements for the generator (i.e., contingency plan, personnel training plan and preparedness and prevention arrangements). In addition to this benefit, generators can accumulate small amounts of waste until 55 gallons is accumulated.

What are the Reduced Requirements for Satellite Accumulation?

When you accumulate a hazardous waste at a point of generation, you must comply with the following requirements:

- Mark your containers with the words “Hazardous Waste” and an indication of the hazards of the contents. **[OAC rule 3745-52-15(A)(5)(a)and(b)]**
- Keep all containers used to accumulate your hazardous waste closed, unless you are adding or removing waste from them or if temporary venting of the container is needed. **[OAC rule 3745-52-15(A)(4)]**
- The containers you use to accumulate hazardous waste must be in good condition. If the container being used to accumulate hazardous waste is not in good condition, or if it begins to leak, you must transfer the contents to a container that is in good condition. **[OAC rule 3745-52-15(A)(1)]**
- The containers you use to accumulate hazardous waste must be compatible with the waste or lined with a material which will not react with the hazardous waste being accumulated. **[OAC rule 3745-52-15(A)(2)]**

When you exceed 55 gallons of hazardous waste from a point of generation or more than one quart of acutely hazardous waste in containers from a point of generation, with respect to that amount of excess waste, either manifest

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that waste off-site or remove the excess to the central accumulation area within three consecutive calendar days of the date you place on the container and comply with the 90/180-day accumulation area requirements:

- During the three-day period, continue to comply with OAC rules 3745-52-15(A)(4), 3745-52-15(A)(1) and 3745-52-15(A)(2) summarized above.
- Mark the containers with the date when the accumulation limit was exceeded. [[OAC rule 3745-52-15\(6\)\(c\)](#)]

Under What Circumstances Can I Accumulate my Hazardous Waste in a Satellite Accumulation Area?

You can accumulate your hazardous waste under the reduced requirements for satellite accumulation at or near the point of generation. The hazardous waste also must be under the control of the person who is operating the process that generates the waste.

There is no limit on how long you are allowed to accumulate the hazardous waste at or near the point of generation as long as you accumulate no more than 55 gallons of hazardous waste generated from a point of generation (or less than 1 quart for acute hazardous waste). You must also mark the container with the words "Hazardous Waste" and an indication of the hazards of the contents of the container and keep the container closed except when adding or removing hazardous waste after you first place hazardous waste into the container. Your containers must also be in good condition and be compatible with the hazardous waste.

When you exceed 55 gallons of hazardous waste from a point of generation, with respect to the excess amount of hazardous waste, you must place the date it happened on the container and begin complying with the large quantity generator or small quantity generator requirements within three consecutive calendar days of the date you placed on the container. In order for you to get the most benefit from the reduced requirements, you should move hazardous waste to your central accumulation area (i.e., <90 or <180/<270-day area) within three days of the date the excess accumulation began. Otherwise, you will be subjecting the satellite accumulation area to the full generator requirements.

What is "at or near" the Point of Generation?

"At or near" is not designated by any specific distance from the generating process. We consider the container to be "at or near the point of generation" when it is where the hazardous waste is first generated. There is no designated distance from a point of generation to where satellite accumulation may occur in the rule.

When evaluating whether or not the satellite container is at or near the point of generation, an inspector would look at each situation on a case by case basis. When determining if your situation meets the requirement to be "at or near the point of generation," we consider the type of hazard posed by the hazardous waste being accumulated, the physical controls in place where the waste is initially accumulated and the amount of training provided to the operator who is in control of the process generating the waste.

What Have We Interpreted as the Point of Generation?

The point of generation is where or when hazardous waste first becomes subject to regulation, with respect to the location and the step in the process that it is generated. The point of generation usually occurs at a distinct step in the manufacturing or laboratory process.

Point of generation examples include a waste exiting a process unit into a pipe, paint overspray exiting a spray paint gun, a rag or wiper when it is used to clean a part with a solvent, when the waste exits a foundry furnace, or an air pollution control system.

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What Do we Mean by “Under the Control of the Operator”?

We believe the purpose of this requirement is to prevent the addition of incompatible waste into the satellite container and to prevent another person who has not been trained about the hazards of a particular hazardous waste from coming into contact with the hazardous waste.

You must be able to demonstrate that personnel responsible for generating and accumulating the waste have adequate control over the temporary accumulation of this waste to prevent unknowing contact or addition of incompatible materials to the container.

Is Satellite Accumulation Limited to One Waste Stream?

There is no limit to the number of satellite accumulation containers that you may have at your facility. You may accumulate multiple waste streams as long as you ensure that the waste is being managed in accordance with the requirements for satellite accumulation.

Can I Have Multiple Satellite Accumulation Containers in Close Proximity to One Another?

Nothing in the rule limits the number of or how close satellite accumulation containers can be to each other. As long as each satellite accumulation container is used to hold a hazardous waste generated from a distinct point of generation in the process and is under the control of the operator of the process generating the waste. This means that you can have multiple satellite containers in close proximity to each other.

What is the Limit on the Total Number of Containers of One Waste Stream Allowed at a Point of Generation?

There is no limit on the total number of full containers for one waste stream provided that each container is securely closed and has been marked with the date the excess accumulation began, and the excess is removed within three days of the date that the excess accumulation began.

When Does the 90/180/270-Day Accumulation Period Begin, the day the Accumulation Limit is Exceeded or the Day the Waste Arrives in the Central Accumulation Area?

The 90/180/270-day accumulation period begins the day the waste arrives in the central accumulation area or three consecutive calendar days after the excess accumulation began.

Can I Use a Roll-off Box to Accumulate Hazardous Waste Under the Satellite Accumulation Requirements?

The satellite accumulation rule allows you to accumulate your hazardous waste in containers. The rule does not specify a container size. A roll-off box that is used to move waste is a container as defined in OAC rule [3745-50-10\(C\)](#), so a roll-off box may be used to accumulate hazardous waste where the hazardous waste first becomes subject to regulation, if all of the requirements for satellite accumulation are being met. U.S. EPA anticipated that the most common container to be used by industry for satellite accumulation would be 55 gallons in size. However, any size container and any number of containers may be used to accumulate hazardous waste under the satellite accumulation requirements. However, you must remove the excess accumulation from the satellite accumulation area within three days of exceeding 55 gallons of the waste stream.

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Can I Move My Hazardous Waste Within an Area Under the Satellite Requirements?

Yes, nothing in the rule says you cannot move hazardous waste you are accumulating under satellite requirements as long as satellite accumulation occurs in an area that is at or near where the waste first becomes subject to regulation and the waste remains under the control of the operator of the process where the waste is generated.

Example: When multiple employees, at separate work stations, in the same work area generate the same hazardous waste, or compatible hazardous wastes, and for the sake of efficiency or another reason, accumulate that hazardous waste at their individual work stations. Hazardous waste accumulated at individual work stations is then placed into a larger common container. Both the aggregate volume of hazardous waste present at each work station and the larger common container must meet all of the requirements for the accumulation of hazardous waste under the satellite requirements including the 55-gallon quantity limit.

Examples of where we have seen this in practice include circuit board manufacturers, laboratories, research facilities and companies who collect, puncture, and empty aerosol cans at centralized locations in the facility.

Contact

If you have questions that aren't answered in this guidance, please contact the Hazardous Waste Compliance and Inspection Support Unit of the **Division of Environmental Response and Revitalization** at 614-644-2924.

References

1. **U.S. EPA RCRA Online** Letter from Sylvia K. Lowrance, U.S. EPA, to T.R. Kirk, Fehr-Graham & Assoc., August 2, 1989. Faxback # **11452**
2. **Federal Register Volume 49. Number 246, Thursday, December 20, 1984**, Page 49568
3. **Federal Register** Volume 51. **Number 56, Monday, March 24, 1986**
4. **RCRAOnline 14703** (additional references at end)
5. U.S. EPA **FAQ**