

**HTRW Center of Expertise  
Environmental Regulatory  
Fact Sheet 99-05**

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**PCB Disposal Requirements**

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*Purpose*

On 29 June 1998, a final rule entitled, "Disposal of Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs)" was published. This rule contains multiple new requirements for managing PCBs. The purpose of this fact sheet is to discuss disposal requirements under the new rule.

*Summary of Requirements*

In general, TSCA disposal requirements apply to wastes containing greater than or equal to 50 ppm PCB, however they also apply to lower concentrations resulting from dilution of PCBs greater than or equal to 50 ppm. Therefore, diluted wastes are managed as if they were still at the pre-diluted concentration. Exceptions are as follows:

- Decontaminated wastes meeting requirements in 40 CFR 761.79;
- Transformers retrofilled and reclassified according to regulations in 40 CFR 761.30;
- PCBs < 50 ppm resulting from spills which occurred prior to 18 Apr 98;
- PCBs < 50 ppm resulting from spills which occurred prior to 2 Jul 79 and which were originally less than 500 ppm PCB.

The following table on pages 3 through 5 of this fact sheet summarizes disposal options available for various types of PCB wastes. These requirements differ from previous requirements in the following aspects:

- Provisions formerly at 40 CFR 761.60(a)(2)(ii) that allowed disposal of mineral oil dielectric fluid containing < 500 ppm PCB at a chemical waste landfill have been removed.
- Provisions were added at 40 CFR 761.60(a)(3) to allow PCB-contaminated liquids from incidental sources associated with non-liquids to be land disposed (i.e. condensation and precipitation).
- Open burning of PCBs was prohibited and operating conditions for disposal via scrap metal recovery ovens were established.
- New disposal requirements specific to remediation wastes, bulk product wastes, and research and development wastes were added.
- Decontamination standards were expanded to address procedures for removing PCBs regulated for disposal from water, organic liquid, non-porous surfaces,

concrete, and non-porous surfaces covered with porous surfaces (such as paint on metal).

***Reference:***

For additional details, see 63 Federal Register 35383, 29 June 1998, Disposal of Polychlorinated Biphenyls.

***Point of Contact:***

For technical assistance regarding this rule, contact Ms. Claudia Wiethop, Regulatory Specialist, Hazardous, Toxic, and Radioactive Center of Expertise at (402) 697-2561.

## 40 CFR 761

### PCB Disposal Requirements

	<b>Incinerate</b>	<b>High Efficiency Boiler</b>	<b>Chemical Waste Landfill</b>	<b>Municipal Solid Waste Landfill (MSWLF) or Non-Municipal, Non-Hazardous Waste Landfill</b>	<b>Other</b>
PCB liquid	Yes Ref:761.60(a)	Yes if <500 ppm Ref:761.60(a)	Only for incidental liquids such as condensation if < 500 ppm and not HW.  Ref: 761.60(a)(3)	Not an option.	Decontaminate per 761.79
PCB Transformer	Yes Ref: 761.60(b)(1)	Not an option.	Yes after drained and flushed.  Ref: 761.60(b)(1)	Yes for non-porous surfaces decontaminated per 761.79	Non-porous surfaces can be decontaminated per 761.79.  PCB transformers can be reclassified to PCB contaminated electrical equipment per 40 CFR 761.30(a)(2)(v) and managed accordingly.
PCB small capacitor, non-leaking	Not required	Not required	Not required	Yes unless you are the manufacturer.  Ref: 761.60(b)(2)	---
PCB large high or low voltage capacitor	Yes when > 500 ppm Ref: 761.60(b)(2)	No	Yes if containerized with adsorbent. Ref: 761.60(b)(2)(vi)	No per EPA phone clarification.	---
Hydraulic machines w/ >50 ppm	Not required	---	Yes after draining liquid. Flush if > 1000 ppm pcb. Ref: 761.60(b)(3)(i)(D) and 761.60(b)(3)(ii)	Yes after free flowing liquid removed. Flush if > 1000 ppm. Ref: 761.60(b)(3)(i)(B)	Decontaminate per 761.79. Ref:761.60(b)(3)(i)(A)  Thermal process to decontaminate per 761.72. Ref: 761.60(b)(3)(i)(C)

	<b>Incinerate</b>	<b>High Efficiency Boiler</b>	<b>Chemical Waste Landfill</b>	<b>Municipal Solid Waste Landfill (MSWLF) or Non-Municipal, Non-Hazardous Waste Landfill</b>	<b>Other</b>
PCB Contaminated elec. equip. (> 50, < 500 ppm pcb) except capacitors	Not required	---	Yes after drained Ref: 761.60(b)(4)(i)(C)	Yes after drained. Ref: 761.60(b)(4)(i)(A)	Thermal process to decontaminate per 761.72.  Ref: 761.60(b)(4)(i)(B)
PCB containers	> 500 ppm yes  Ref: 761.60(c)	---	> 500 ppm yes after drained  Ref: 761.60(c)	< 500 ppm yes after drained	Can decon per 761.79.  Thermal process to decontaminate per 761.72.
Light ballasts w/ pcbs in potting material	Not required	Not required	Yes. 761.60(b)(6)	Not unless pcb in potting material is < 50 ppm  Ref: 63 FR 35404	As bulk product waste.  Household waste  Decontaminate. Ref: 63 FR 35404
R & D generated waste	Yes for liquid where undiluted original concentration was > 500 ppm PCB Ref: 761.64  Yes for non-liquid Ref: 761.60(a)(4)	Yes for liquid where the undiluted original concentration was > 50, < 500 ppm PCB Ref: 761.64	Yes for non-liquid where undiluted original concentration was > 50 ppm PCB.  Ref: 761.60(a)(4)	Yes for extracted samples.  Ref: 761.64.	Except for extracted samples, dispose of based on the undiluted concentration prior to treatment.
Bulk remediation waste < 50 ppm	Not required	---	Yes for PPE and nonliquid cleaning materials Ref 761.61(a)(5)(i)(B)(2)(ii)	Yes for PPE and nonliquid cleaning materials Ref 761.61(a)(5)(i)(B)(2)(ii)	RCRA HW landfill for PPE and nonliquid cleaning materials Ref 761.61(a)(5)(i)(B)(2)(ii)
Bulk remediation waste > 50 ppm	Not required	---	Yes Ref 761.61(a)(5)(i)(B)(2)(iii)	Yes Ref 761.61(a)(5)(i)(B)(2)(iii)	

	<b>Incinerate</b>	<b>High Efficiency Boiler</b>	<b>Chemical Waste Landfill</b>	<b>Municipal Solid Waste Landfill (MSWLF) or Non-Municipal, Non-Hazardous Waste Landfill</b>	<b>Other</b>
Bulk product wastes**	Not required	---	Not required	Yes Ref 761.62(b)(1)(i)	As daily landfill cover or as roadbed. Ref 761.62(d)
Bulk product wastes - leaching less than 10 ug/L	Not required	---	Not required	Yes Ref: 761.62(b)(1)(ii)	
Bulk product wastes other than those addressed above	Not required	---	Not required.	Yes provided segregated from organic liquids and leachate is collected from the landfill and monitored for PCB. Ref 761.62(b)(2)	
Household				yes. Ref: 761.63	A facility approved for disposal of PCB bulk product waste under 761.62(c).

\*\* Bulk Product Waste means waste derived from manufactured products containing PCBs in a non-liquid state, at any concentration where the concentration at the time of designation for disposal was  $\geq 50$  ppm PCBs. Examples of bulk product waste include plastics, dried paints, caulking or sealants.