



United States
Environmental Protection
Agency

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www.epa.gov/epawaste

EPA proposes streamlined disposal of hazardous pharmaceutical wastes

EPA is proposing to add hazardous pharmaceutical wastes to the Universal Waste Rule. Managing hazardous pharmaceutical wastes as universal wastes provides a streamlined system that is fully protective of public health and the environment. generate is safely managed.

Action

This is a proposed addition of hazardous pharmaceutical wastes to the Universal Waste Rule. The addition will make it easier for generators to collect and properly dispose of hazardous pharmaceutical wastes as hazardous wastes, resulting in a simpler and more streamlined waste management system. It will also encourage generators to dispose of non-hazardous pharmaceutical waste as universal waste, thereby removing this unregulated waste from municipal solid waste management systems. Finally, the addition of hazardous pharmaceutical waste to the universal waste rule will facilitate the collection of personal medications from the public.

This proposed rule applies to pharmacies, hospitals, physicians' offices, dentists' offices, outpatient care centers, ambulatory health care services, residential care facilities, and veterinary clinics, as well as other facilities that generate hazardous pharmaceutical wastes.

The federal Universal Waste Rule currently includes batteries, pesticides, mercury-containing equipment, and lamps.

Comments will be accepted for 60 days following publication in the Federal Register, which is expected within two weeks.

For More Information

For more information on the proposed Amendment to the Universal Waste Rule: Addition of Pharmaceuticals, please visit:

<http://www.epa.gov/epawaste/hazard/wastetypes/universal/pharm.htm>