



## GUIDANCE DOCUMENT

Division of Materials and Waste Management

November 2014

### Satellite Accumulation

**THIS POLICY DOES NOT HAVE THE FORCE OF LAW**

**Hazardous Waste**

*The purpose of this guidance is to address questions we have received about management of hazardous wastes under Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) rule **3745-52-34(C)**, commonly called "satellite accumulation."*

*We intend this guidance is 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, 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.

OAC rule **3745-52-34(C)** does not specify a time limit for this accumulation period. After generators reach that amount, they have three days to move it to their centralized accumulation area where they can accumulate it for the normal amount of time, depending on the generators status. A Large Quantity Generator can accumulate waste for up to 90 days. A Small Quantity Generator may accumulate their waste for up to 180 days or 270 days if it must be shipped more than 200 miles.

#### **Under What Circumstances Can I Accumulate my Hazardous Waste On-site Where it is First Generated?**

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 up to 55 gallons of hazardous waste generated from a point of generation (less than 1 quart for acute hazardous waste). You must also mark the container with the words "Hazardous Waste" or other words that identify the contents of the container and keep the container closed except when adding or removing hazardous waste when you first add hazardous waste to the container. Your containers must also be in good condition and be compatible with the hazardous waste.

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When you exceed 55 gallons of hazardous waste from a point of generation, 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 days of the date you placed the date on the container. In order for you to get the most benefit from the reduced requirements, you should move hazardous waste to your centralized 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.

### 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 several 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 to accumulate.