



Advanced Search

A-Z Index

SEARCH

- LEARN THE ISSUES
- SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY
- LAWS & REGULATIONS
- ABOUT EPA

Enforcement in New England

Contact Us Share

- About EPA New England
- A-Z Index
- News & Events
- Enforcement & Assistance Home
- RCRA/Waste Enforcement Home
- RCRA Regulatory Interpretations Home
- Satellite Accumulation
- Movement of Hazardous Wastes to Storage Area
- Adequate Hazardous Waste Storage for Inspection
- Inspection Logs
- Container Labeling in Laboratories

You are here: [EPA Home](#) » [EPA New England](#) » [Enforcement & Assistance](#) » [Enforcement](#) » [RCRA/Waste](#) » [RCRA Regulatory Interpretations](#)

# Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Regulatory Interpretations

## Regional EPA Guidance (Pfizer Inc.)


On March 16, 1999, a Consent Decree was entered in Federal District Court, District of Connecticut, resolving a Complaint filed against Pfizer Inc., located in Groton, Connecticut. The Complaint alleged violations of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), the Clean Water Act and the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act. In conjunction with the settlement, Region I issued to Pfizer regulatory interpretations of certain RCRA requirements in order to facilitate future compliance at Pfizer's Groton facility. The specific requirements for which regulatory interpretations were issued are: satellite accumulation, movement of hazardous wastes to storage areas; stacking and configuration of drums to allow for proper inspection; inspection logs; and container labeling in laboratories. Some of the interpretations, such as those for the inspection log and container labeling requirements, are based on federally-authorized Connecticut hazardous waste regulations which are more stringent than the federal requirements. Moreover, the satellite accumulation interpretation has been geared toward specific factual scenarios that existed at the Pfizer plant in Groton, Connecticut. Nevertheless, the interpretations may prove useful to the regulated community in general throughout New England. The interpretations are set forth on the left. If you have any questions regarding these interpretations, please contact Richard Piligian at (617) 918-1757, or Andrea Simpson at (617) 918-1738.

Serving [Connecticut](#), [Maine](#), [Massachusetts](#), [New Hampshire](#), [Rhode Island](#), [Vermont](#), & [10 Tribal Nations](#)

EPA Home | Privacy and Security Notice | Contact Us  
Last updated on Wednesday, August 29, 2012

- News by E-mail
- EPA Mobile
- Widgets
- News Feeds
- Podcasts





United States Environmental Protection Agency

Advanced Search

A-Z Index

LEARN THE ISSUES

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

LAWS & REGULATIONS

ABOUT EPA

Enforcement in New England

Contact Us

Share

About EPA New England

A-Z Index

News & Events

Enforcement & Assistance Home

RCRA/Waste Enforcement Home

RCRA Regulatory Interpretations Home

Satellite Accumulation

Movement of Hazardous Wastes to Storage Area

Adequate Hazardous Waste Storage for Inspection

Inspection Logs

Container Labeling in Laboratories

You are here: [EPA Home](#) » [EPA New England](#) » [Enforcement & Assistance](#) » [Enforcement](#) » [RCRA/Waste](#) » [RCRA Regulatory Interpretations](#) » [Satellite Accumulation](#)

## Satellite Accumulation

This statement has been developed to provide Pfizer Inc with Regional EPA guidance to facilitate future compliance at the Groton, Connecticut facility.


Pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 262.34(c)(1), "a generator may accumulate as much as 55 gallons of hazardous waste or one quart of acutely hazardous waste listed in § 261.33(e) in containers at or near any point of generation where wastes initially accumulate, which is under the control of the operator of the process generating the waste, without a permit or interim status and without complying with paragraph (a) of [§ 262.34]." These areas are commonly known as "satellite accumulation areas." "Satellite areas are those places where wastes are generated in the industrial process or the laboratory and where those wastes must initially accumulate prior to removal to a central area." 49 Federal Register 49568 at 49569 (December 20, 1984). In Connecticut, containers in satellite accumulation areas must be marked with the words "hazardous waste" and other words that identify the contents of the container such as the chemical name. RCSA § 22a-449(c)-102(a)(2)(E).

EPA has made clear that the 55-gallon limit applies to the total quantity of non-acutely hazardous waste accumulated in a satellite area. In a letter dated August 2, 1989, from Sylvia Lowrance, Director, Office of Solid Waste, to T.R. Kirk, Fehr-Graham & Associates (OSWER Dir. 9453.1989(08)), EPA responded to a question concerning whether the 55-gallon limit on hazardous waste applied to the total quantity of hazardous waste accumulated at a satellite location, or if it applied to each waste stream accumulated at a satellite location. EPA stated, "The 55-gallon limit applies to the total of all the non-acutely hazardous waste accumulated at a satellite accumulation area." In addition, in the preamble to the final satellite accumulation rule, EPA explicitly stated that the 55-gallon limit on non-acutely hazardous waste applies to each satellite accumulation area." See 49 Fed. Reg. 49568, 49569 (December 20, 1984).

Neither the regulations nor the preamble to the regulations expressly defines the terms "at or near the point of generation" or "under the control of the operator" with reference to the distance from the point of generation or the level of control required. Therefore, the Region evaluates each situation on a case-by-case basis in order to determine if a storage area qualifies as a "satellite accumulation" area. In order to be considered satellite accumulation containers, containers of hazardous waste must be both "at or near" the point of generation and "under the control of the operator." Waste management scenarios specific to Pfizer's operations are discussed below.

1. Hazardous wastes stored in Buildings 4 and 48 outside of laboratories where the wastes were generated. In Buildings 4 and 48, Pfizer stored containers of hazardous waste outside of the laboratory in which the waste was generated. The Region does not consider such storage to be legitimate satellite accumulation because the accumulation container is not "at or near" the point of generation and is not "under the control of the operator." Satellite accumulation containers must be located in the room where the waste is generated. If Pfizer has significant operational and/or safety concerns which it believes might warrant a different storage arrangement, it should contact the Region in writing. The Region will consider an exception on a case-by-case basis.
2. Similar hazardous wastes generated at many locations within Building 150 or 171 and stored in a single container that is located either within or outside the building. In Buildings 150 and 171, Pfizer generated hazardous waste at many locations within each building and then stored the wastes in a single container located at a central point within the building. Such storage does not qualify as satellite accumulation because the satellite container is not "at or near" the point of generation and is not "under the control of the operator." Pfizer must either manage the container in the central location as a 90-day hazardous waste storage area or maintain satellite accumulation containers at each point where waste is generated.
3. Hazardous wastes generated at different points around the facility and stored in central location. Pfizer generated waste sandblast grit and paint and oil waste in many locations around the facility and stored the waste in locked cages in Building 31A. Such storage does not constitute satellite accumulation because the storage container is not "at or near" the point of generation and is not "under the control of the operator" of the process generating the waste. These wastes, generated at various locations around the facility and stored

http://www.epa.gov/region1/enforcement/waste/rcraregs/satell.html[5/1/2015 4:36:47 PM]



United States Environmental Protection Agency

Advanced Search

A-Z Index

LEARN THE ISSUES

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

LAWS & REGULATIONS

ABOUT EPA

Enforcement in New England

About EPA New England

A-Z Index

News & Events

Enforcement & Assistance Home

RCRA/Waste Enforcement Home

RCRA Regulatory Interpretations Home

Satellite Accumulation

Movement of Hazardous Wastes to Storage Area

Adequate Hazardous Waste Storage for Inspection

Inspection Logs

Container Labeling in Laboratories

You are here: [EPA Home](#) » [EPA New England](#) » [Enforcement & Assistance](#) » [Enforcement](#) » [RCRA/Waste](#) » [RCRA Regulatory Interpretations](#) » Movement of Hazardous Wastes to Storage Areas


# Movement of Hazardous Wastes to Storage Areas

This statement has been developed to provide Pfizer Inc with Regional EPA guidance to facilitate future compliance at the Groton, Connecticut facility.


Containers of hazardous waste that are being moved from satellite storage areas to 90-day or greater-than 90-day storage areas may sometimes need to be staged at a loading dock, platform or another similar type area. Could Pfizer store hazardous waste at such a location for up to 72 hours as specified in 40 C.F.R. §262.34(c)(2)?

Forty C.F.R. § 262.34 (c)(2) allows a 72 hour period for the transfer of hazardous waste from a satellite area to a 90-day or greater-than 90-day storage area once the volume of waste in a satellite area exceeds the 55-gallon limit. This provision requires that during this 72-hour storage period, the satellite containers must remain "at or near" the point of generation and must be in compliance with the remaining satellite accumulation provisions. Thus, hazardous wastes must be either stored in a satellite storage area, a 90-day, or a greater-than 90-day storage area. Therefore, a facility cannot store hazardous wastes in a staging area while the waste is in transit to a hazardous waste storage area, even during the 72-hour period. If, in the process of moving containers directly from a satellite storage area to a longer term storage area, containers must be placed on a loading dock, the containers must be attended by personnel trained with the appropriate level of hazardous waste training to perform the task and may be located in such an area for a very brief period of time (i.e., no longer than 60 minutes).


Serving [Connecticut](#), [Maine](#), [Massachusetts](#), [New Hampshire](#), [Rhode Island](#), [Vermont](#), & [10 Tribal Nations](#)




News by E-mail




EPA Mobile




Widgets



News Feeds



Podcasts




http://www.epa.gov/region1/enforcement/waste/rcraregs/haza.html[5/1/2015 4:40:48 PM]

in a central location, must be managed in accordance with the requirements for a 90-day hazardous waste storage area. An exception to this requirement would be for wastes which meet the definition of "universal wastes." See letter from Sylvia Lowrance, Director, Office of Solid Waste to Mr. D.B. Redington, Monsanto Company, dated February 23, 1993. The Region does not consider the sandblast grit, paint waste or waste oil to be "universal wastes."

- 4. Hazardous wastes generated in process/lab equipment. If, during the course of a laboratory experiment, hazardous wastes are removed from the process vessel and collected in a beaker or small container directly next to an experiment, such container will be considered a satellite accumulation container. Nonetheless, the waste in that container may then be placed in a larger container in the same laboratory, into which other compatible wastes from the same laboratory may be placed, as long as the larger container is at or near the point of generation, under the control of one of the operators in the laboratory who is generating such waste, and the total amount of waste in the containers does not exceed 55 gallons. The larger container referred to in the previous sentence will also be considered a satellite container.

Serving [Connecticut](#), [Maine](#), [Massachusetts](#), [New Hampshire](#), [Rhode Island](#), [Vermont](#), & [10 Tribal Nations](#)





United States Environmental Protection Agency

LEARN THE ISSUES

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

LAWS & REGULATIONS

ABOUT EPA

Advanced Search

A-Z Index

SEARCH

Enforcement in New England

About EPA New England

A-Z Index

News & Events

Enforcement & Assistance Home

RCRA/Waste Enforcement Home

RCRA Regulatory Interpretations Home

Satellite Accumulation

Movement of Hazardous Wastes to Storage Area

Adequate Hazardous Waste Storage for Inspection

Inspection Logs

Container Labeling in Laboratories

Contact Us

Share

You are here: [EPA Home](#) » [EPA New England](#) » [Enforcement & Assistance](#) » [Enforcement](#) » [RCRA/Waste](#) » [RCRA Regulatory Interpretations](#) » Adequate Hazardous Waste Storage

## Adequate Hazardous Waste Storage for Inspection

This statement has been developed to provide Pfizer Inc with Regional EPA guidance to facilitate future compliance at the Groton, Connecticut facility.


What guidelines should be followed for drum stacking and pallet configurations?

- Stacking All drums must be stacked no higher than two-tiers high in order to facilitate proper inspection of containers pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 265.174 and RCRA § 22a-449(c)-105(a)(1). This policy applies to fifty-five gallon steel or fiber drums, 30 gallon and 20 gallon fiber drums and any other drum in hazardous waste storage areas. In accordance with CTDEP’s draft memorandum dated January 4, 1993, entitled Secondary Containment and Aisle Space for Hazardous Waste Container Storage Areas, "[t]his stacking height may be exceeded if a fabricated rack storage system is being used to hold the containers. These racks must be constructed to safely hold the weight of the maximum number of containers and a means must be provided to adequately inspect each container (i.e. lift truck, etc.). This means must be available for use at any time by inspectors from regulatory agencies."
- Pallets Fifty-five gallon drums and 30 gallon drums should be limited to four drums per pallet. Twenty-gallon fiber drums can be stored with eight drums per pallet, provided that sufficient aisle space is maintained between stacks of pallets to allow for inspection of the center two drums on the pallet. See the attached diagram for an illustration of allowable drum storage configurations. If Pfizer uses drums other than the ones mentioned above in the future, Pfizer may wish to contact Region I or CTDEP to determine the appropriate storage configuration. If CTDEP makes a different determination with respect to storage configurations, Pfizer should obtain such determination in writing.


Serving [Connecticut](#), [Maine](#), [Massachusetts](#), [New Hampshire](#), [Rhode Island](#), [Vermont](#), & [10 Tribal Nations](#)

EPA Home | Privacy and Security Notice | Contact Us


Last updated on Wednesday, August 29, 2012




News by E-mail




EPA Mobile




Widgets




News Feeds



Podcasts





United States Environmental Protection Agency

Advanced Search

A-Z Index

LEARN THE ISSUES

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

LAWS & REGULATIONS

ABOUT EPA

Enforcement in New England

Contact Us

Share

About EPA New England

A-Z Index

News & Events

Enforcement & Assistance Home

RCRA/Waste Enforcement Home

RCRA Regulatory Interpretations Home

Satellite Accumulation

Movement of Hazardous Wastes to Storage Area

Adequate Hazardous Waste Storage for Inspection

Inspection Logs

Container Labeling in Laboratories

You are here: EPA Home » EPA New England » Enforcement & Assistance » Enforcement » RCRA/Waste » RCRA Regulatory Interpretations » Inspection Logs

Inspection Logs

This statement has been developed to provide Pfizer Inc with Regional EPA guidance to facilitate future compliance at the Groton, Connecticut facility.

RCSA § 22a-449(c)-102(b)(2) requires that hazardous waste generators comply with the requirements of 40 C.F.R. § 265.15 for all hazardous waste storage areas. Forty C.F.R. § 265.15 requires that a facility conduct inspections and record those inspections in an inspection log or summary. Forty C.F.R. § 265.15(d) provides that "[a]t a minimum, these records must include the date and time of inspection, the name of the inspector, a notation of the observations made, and the date and nature of any repairs or other remedial actions." Observations made during inspections required by 40 C.F.R. §§ 265.15, 265.174, 265.195 and 265.1052 must be recorded in an inspection log or summary. A company may choose its own format for recording such observations as long as the format provides for full documentation of observations and any remedial actions taken. If a checklist is chosen as the documentation format, the checklists must be filled out completely. Each item on the checklist must be addressed by means of a checkmark or other item-specific notation.

Serving Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont, & 10 Tribal Nations

EPA Home | Privacy and Security Notice | Contact Us

Last updated on Wednesday, August 29, 2012


News by E-mail

EPA Mobile


Widgets

News Feeds

Podcasts



http://www.epa.gov/region1/enforcement/waste/rcraregs/inspec.html[5/1/2015 4:43:49 PM]



United States Environmental Protection Agency

Advanced Search

A-Z Index

LEARN THE ISSUES

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

LAWS & REGULATIONS

ABOUT EPA

Enforcement in New England

Contact Us

Share

About EPA New England

A-Z Index

News & Events

Enforcement & Assistance Home

RCRA/Waste Enforcement Home

RCRA Regulatory Interpretations Home

Satellite Accumulation

Movement of Hazardous Wastes to Storage Area

Adequate Hazardous Waste Storage for Inspection

Inspection Logs

Container Labeling in Laboratories

You are here: EPA Home » EPA New England » Enforcement & Assistance » Enforcement » RCRA/Waste » RCRA Regulatory Interpretations » Container Labeling in Laboratories

Container Labeling in Laboratories

This statement has been developed to provide Pfizer Inc with Regional EPA guidance to facilitate future compliance at the Groton, Connecticut facility.

RCSA § 22a-449(c)-102(a)(2)(E) requires that wastes stored in satellite accumulation areas be labeled with the words "hazardous waste and with other words that identify the contents of the containers, such as the chemical name."

The Region understands that Pfizer expressed concern to the CT DEP about practical problems relating to labeling satellite accumulation containers in laboratories where small amounts of many different wastes are generated. Subsequently, in consultation with CT DEP inspectors, Pfizer developed a generic label for hazardous waste solvents generated in laboratories. This label reads: "Hazardous Waste Solvents," "Caution: Flammable" and lists the solvents that are potentially stored in the container. CT DEP has reaffirmed that these labels are appropriate for use in laboratories at the Pfizer facility.

Pfizer must ensure that manifests and Land Disposal Restriction notification forms accompanying any shipments of mixed waste streams accurately document all of the solvents listed on the generic label.

Serving Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont, & 10 Tribal Nations

EPA Home | Privacy and Security Notice | Contact Us

Last updated on Wednesday, August 29, 2012


News by E-mail

EPA Mobile

Widgets

News Feeds

Podcasts



http://www.epa.gov/region1/enforcement/waste/rcraregs/label.html[5/1/2015 4:44:28 PM]