

Who Regulates Hazardous Waste?

The Environmental Protection (Hazardous Wastes Management) Regulations, 2000, authorises the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to monitor HW and establish Guidelines for the proper disposal, treatment, storage, transport and any other activity related to the handling of HW.

Hazardous Waste Management

Proper management of Hazardous Waste is vital in order to prevent harm to human health and pollution of our environment. Proper HW management involves:

- ✓ Registration with and Authorisation by the EPA;
- ✓ Having an Emergency Preparedness Plan;
- ✓ Proper Storage and Transport System; and
- ✓ An environmentally sound disposal system.

What to do if an accident occurs?

Evacuate & Alert: This involves alerting everyone in the area that an accident has occurred. Removing all persons to a safe area and calling the relevant authorities.

Spill Assessment: This involves determining the nature of the spill; whether the spill was an incidental release (minor, non-emergency release) or small or large spill which influences the techniques employed to control the spill.

Spill control and clean-up: This involves the actual containment and clean up of the spill. If the spill was an incidental or small release it can be cleaned by an internal emergency preparedness team. If the spill is a medium or large one, help from relevant authorities would be necessary to clean the spill.

Who to contact if there is a major HW accident?

1. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Environmental Management Division (EMD), Ganges Street, Sophia, 225-0506, ext. 294 or 297.
2. The Guyana Fire Service, 912
3. The Ambulance Service, 913

Who need not apply for an Environmental Authorisation for HW?

- ✓ Facilities that generate or store hazardous wastes in Quantities less than one hundred (100) kilograms per month.
- ✓ Facilities that generate less than one (1) kilogram of Acutely Hazardous Waste per month.
- ✓ Facilities that accumulate up to one thousand (1000) kilograms of Hazardous Waste onsite at any one time.

Penalties

- ◆ Every person who is in unlawful possession of, or has unlawfully under his control, any hazardous waste to which these regulations relate shall be guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction to a fine of not less than \$60,000 nor more than \$150,000.

Designed by the Environmental Protection Agency

EIT Division

Ganges Street, Sophia, Georgetown.

Tel: (592) 225 5467/8; 225 5471/2; 225 6044/48

Fax: 225- 5481

E-mail: eit.epaguyana@gmail.com



Hazardous Waste Information Brochure



What is Hazardous Waste (HW)?

Hazardous Waste is “a waste or combination of wastes, which, because of its quantity, concentration or physical, chemical or infectious characteristics, may pose a substantial hazard to human health.” (Environmental Protection Act (Hazardous Wastes Management) Regulations,2000).

Characteristics of Hazardous Materials



Toxic Substances: These are either poisonous and would result in long-term illness if inhaled, ingested or penetrates the skin. Some examples of Toxic Waste are chlorine gas, malathion, lead and paint thinners. They usually have warning labels such as: *Use in well ventilated areas; Harmful or Fatal if consumed.*



Flammable Substances: They can catch fire very easily. These products include paint, thinners, and other solvents. Substances that are flammable usually carry warning labels such as: *Combustible, do not smoke during use of product; Not to be used near heat or flames.*



Corrosive Substances: They cause corrosion on materials. An example is acid in car batteries. Corrosive substances usually carry warning labels such as: *Causes severe burns on contact; Can burn eyes, skin, and throat.*



Reactive Substances: These instantly ignite or produce poisonous vapors when mixed with other substances, or can explode when exposed to heat, air, water or shock. Warning labels include: *Danger; Combustible; Not to be used near heat or flames.*



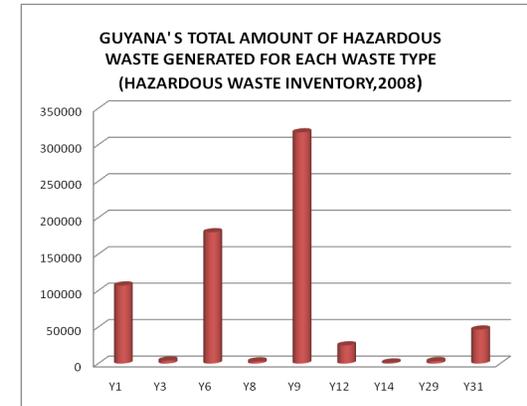
Infectious Waste: These are known or reasonably expected to contain a pathogen. (e.g. bacteria, viruses, parasites, fungi) or other agent that can cause disease in humans or animals. Infectious wastes are usually found in hospitals and health clinics. Infectious waste includes blood soak materials, sharps, etc. and would usually be labelled with the BIOHAZARD SIGN.

Common potential hazardous wastes/ materials

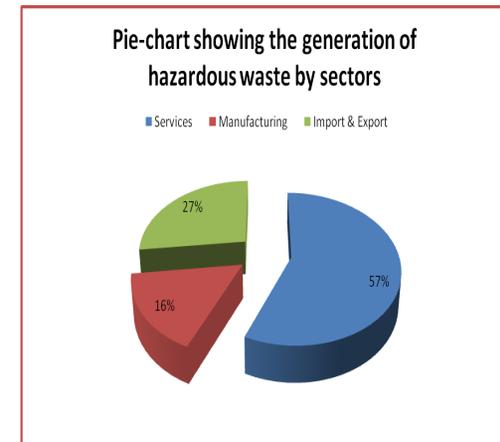
- Waste oil
- Clinical (bio-medical) wastes
- Chemical residue
- Varnishes
- Paint residues
- Cleaning chemicals
- Pesticides residue
- Herbicides residue
- Needles/sharps
- Lead acid batteries
- Contaminated waste water
- Polychlorinated Biphenyl (PCB or transformer fluid)
- Contaminated containers
- Expired drugs (pharmaceuticals)



According to the Hazardous Waste Inventory, 2008, waste oil, use of organic solvents and clinical wastes account for the majority of hazardous waste generated in Guyana.



In Guyana, the services sector accounts for most of the hazardous waste generated.



Y 1 - Clinic waste from medical care facilities.
Y6 - Waste from production, formulation and use of organic solvents.
Y 9 - Waste oil/ water, hydrocarbon/water mixtures, emulsions.
Y 31 - Lead; lead compounds.