



Airbag Waste Exemption Rule Fact Sheet

At the start of 2022, DEQ implemented the federal rule allowing the management of airbags as a conditional exemption from the hazardous waste requirements. If certain conditions are met, then state rule exempts airbag waste from hazardous waste regulations. This fact sheet describes the airbag rule in more detail.



Who is affected?

All airbag waste handlers as defined in 40 Code of Federal Regulations 260.10.

- Airbag waste handler means any person, by site, who generates airbag waste, subject to regulation under 40 CFR 260.10.
- Airbag waste collection facility means any facility that receives airbag waste from airbag handlers subject to regulation under 40 CFR 261.4(j) and accumulates the waste for more than ten days.

Key Benefits



Less stringent rules for handling waste airbags– When managing airbags under this rule, the airbag waste will not count toward the generator's hazardous waste status.



Less paperwork for handlers – No hazardous waste determinations or land disposal restrictions apply unless managed as hazardous waste.



Storage and accumulation times – Waste is accumulated in quantities of 250 airbags or less, and storage is no longer than 180 days.



Clearer labeling – Containers storing waste airbags must be labeled as "Airbag Waste – Do Not Reuse".

What changed?

This is a new rule that allows airbag generators to manage airbag waste that is less restrictive if certain management requirements are followed.

To be conditionally exempt from hazardous waste requirements, an airbag waste handler must do all of the following:

1. Do not accumulate more than a combined 250 airbag modules and airbag inflators at one time.
2. Do not accumulate airbag waste for longer than 180 days.
3. Package airbag waste in a container designed to address the risk posed by such waste.
4. Must label airbag waste "Airbag Waste – Do Not Reuse."
5. Must send airbag waste directly to either:
 - A. An airbag waste collection facility in the United States under the control of a vehicle manufacturer or their authorized representative, or under the control of an authorized party

administering a remedy program in response to a recall under the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, or

- B. A designated facility as defined in 40 CFR section 260.10, such as a hazardous waste treatment, storage or disposal facility.
- 6. Ensure their airbag waste shipments comply with all applicable U.S. Department of Transportation regulations in 49 CFR Part 171 through 180 for airbag waste during transit.
- 7. Maintain at least three years of records for all off-site shipments of airbag waste and all confirmations of receipt from the receiving facility.

	Previous Air Bag Rule, If not Recycled	Updated Air Bag Rule
Container requirements	Stored in closed containers (SQG/LQG)*.	Stored in closed containers.
Shipping requirements	Uniform Hazardous Waste Manifest and shipped to a permitted treatment, storage and disposal facility (SQG/LQG)*.	Shipped only to a designated collection facility subject to regulation under 40 CFR 261.4(j).
Accumulation times	180 days (SQG)* or 90 days (LQG)*.	Storage cannot exceed 180 days.
Labeling	Must be labeled as "Hazardous Waste" with an accumulation start date.	Must be labeled as "Airbag Waste – Do Not Reuse."

*small quantity generator/large quantity generator

Why was it done?

The new rule better protects human health by expediting the recall of defective airbag inflators. To do so, it exempts airbag waste from hazardous waste regulations when certain conditions are met.

Where to find more information?

Complete regulations for proper management of waste airbags are located in 40 CFR 273.6 and Oregon Administrative Rules 340-113.

Frequent questions about the regulation of airbag waste are on the web at epa.gov/hw/frequent-questions-about-regulation-airbag-waste.

Have questions?

DEQ has made it easy for you to get your questions answered. To learn more and request free, non-regulatory technical assistance, please visit oregon.gov/deq/Hazards-and-Cleanup.

Alternate formats

DEQ can provide documents in an alternate format or in a language other than English upon request. Call DEQ at 800-452-4011 or email deqinfo@deq.oregon.gov.