

# Generator Improvements Rule: Marking and Labeling Fact Sheet

In 2021, Oregon's Environmental Quality Commission adopted the federal Generator Improvement Rules, or GIR. The GIR impacts all generators of hazardous waste. This rule includes over 60 changes to the hazardous waste generator regulations that clarify existing requirements, increase flexibility, and improve environmental protection. These changes also reorganize the regulations to make them easier to follow and make certain technical corrections. This fact sheet focuses on changes to the marking and labeling of containers.



## Who is affected?

All large and small quantity generators of hazardous waste and transfer, storage and disposal facilities are subject to new container marking and labeling requirements.

## What changed?

- In addition to the words "hazardous waste," containers and tanks labels now must indicate the hazards of the contents in hazardous waste storage units.
- Satellite accumulation containers must be labeled with the words "hazardous waste," and provide a label indicating the contents' hazards, same as for hazardous waste containers in 180-day or 90-day storage areas. The former option to label satellite containers with "other words that identify the contents of the container" is no longer allowed.
- For containment buildings, the generator must have a sign posted in an obvious and visible place with the words "hazardous waste" and the signage must indicate the hazards of the waste.
- Generators must add the applicable RCRA (Resource Conservation and Recovery Act) hazardous waste codes to these containers prior to shipment or use a barcoding system that performs the same function.

## Key Benefits



**Choose a labeling method** – Offers flexibility in complying with marking and labeling regulations by allowing several established methods.



**Increases protection** - Improves risk communication for workers, waste handlers and vendors, emergency responders and visitors.

## **“An Indication of the Hazards of the Contents”: Clarifications on Marking and Labeling Hazardous Waste Containers in a Satellite Accumulation Area**

- Labeling must occur at the initial point of generation.
- For containers with smaller containers inside, such as tubes and vials, generators may comply with the hazard communication requirement by marking the outer, or secondary, closed container, or attaching a tag with an indication of the hazards instead of marking each individual small container. The closed “overpack” container must still have a label with the words “hazardous waste” and indicate the hazards of the contents.
- For wastes in a container with appropriate markings and label, such as a commercial chemical product in its original container with an intact and legible label, the existing hazard marking and labeling are sufficient provided the hazards of the chemical are clearly readable. In this case, the generator must add the words “hazardous waste” to the existing label or on a new label placed obviously and visibly on the container, but not covering the label showing with required hazard information.

### **Why the change?**

- Improving labeling better communicates the potential risks from contents to workers, waste handlers, transporters, destination facilities, emergency responders and visitors.
- Adding the RCRA waste codes before shipping waste offsite better ensures that receiving treatment, storage, and disposal facilities (TSDFs), will know how to treat the wastes to meet land disposal restriction requirements.
- Offering flexibility by allowing several established methods of labeling waste hazards, such as: words indicating the applicable U.S. Environmental Protection Agency hazardous waste characteristic(s), including ignitable, corrosive, reactive, or toxic; HazMat labels or placards used by the U.S. Department of Transportation; hazard statement or pictogram used by the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration; or chemical hazard label used by the National Fire Protection Association.

### **Where to find more information?**

40 CFR 262.15(a)(5): satellite accumulation area regulations for small and large quantity generators, and 40 CFR 262.16(b)(6): conditions for exemption for a small quantity generator that accumulates hazardous waste. Oregon adopted this rule by reference in Oregon Administrative Rules 340-100-0002.

### **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 [www.oregon.gov/deq/Hazards-and-Cleanup](http://www.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](mailto:deqinfo@deq.oregon.gov).