



The Business Compliance Newsletter

Summer 2007

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Do you need a speaker for an upcoming event? Would you like a specialized presentation for your next trade association meeting? Give us a call to schedule a time for your next educational needs. Lee County's Pollution Prevention Program has performed presentations in several parts of the country as well as Canada and Mexico. We are here to serve our business community. Just call (239) 652-6126

A Single Computer

As the demand for new electronics increases the amount of old electronics that must be disposed of also increases. This electronic waste (E-Waste), as of 2003, constitutes over 1% of the total solid waste produced. Much of this E-Waste is hazardous and needs to be recycled. As an example, let us consider a typical personal computer. A typical computer consists of a monitor, keyboard, mouse, and a tower. Inside the tower are a hard disk drive (HDD), CD-Rom drive (CDD), power supply (PSU) and a mother board (with Central Processing Unit (CPU)). Each one of these components has the potential to be hazardous waste.

A major contributor to the hazardous nature of E-waste is lead. Lead is found in the solder used to hold many of the computer components together. If not disposed of properly, lead accumulates in the environment and can affect the nervous, circulatory and endocrine systems of people and animals. According to federal regulations any waste containing more than 5mg/L of lead, by a Toxic Characteristic Leaching Procedure (TCLP) test, is considered hazardous waste. Let us consider the individual components of our example computer.

Monitor: Monitors can be cathode ray tube (CRT) based or Liquid Crystal Displays (LCD). A color CRT contains on average 22.2mg/L of lead and LCDs can contain up to 46 mg/L. Both are well above the regulatory limit.

Keyboard and Mouse: So many different types of keyboards and mice exist that it would be near impossible to gather a representative cross section. However, they all contain lead based solder and many of them will exceed the regulatory limit.

HDD: A computer's hard disk drive contains, on average, 234mg/L of lead. Many modern computers contain multiple HDDs, which increases the amount of lead in that computer.

CDD: The CD-Rom drive is also a large lead contributor, having an average of 279mg/L of lead. Again, many modern systems will have multiple drives in the form of DVD or CD writers.

PSU: Power supplies, although mostly copper, do contain a significant amount of lead, on average 302mg/L.

Mother Board: The mother board has an average of 258mg/L of lead. This not only comes from the motherboard itself, but also from many of the integrated circuits (chips) held on the board, including the CPU. In addition to lead, the mother board and CPU contain many other hazardous metals such as silver (4801mg/L), barium (208mg/L), and chromium (16mg/L). Any waste having silver, barium, or chromium in excess of 5.0mg/L, 100mg/L and 5.0mg/L respectively is considered hazardous waste.

When you add all the lead contributed from a single computer you get a grand total of 1119mg/L. This is over 223 times the regulatory limit for lead. The silver contribution is 960 times the regulatory limit. Barium levels are twice that of the regulatory limit and chromium is three times the regulatory limit.

Note that this is the hazardous waste from just a single computer. With millions of computers thrown out every year, the need to recycle them is obvious. So be sure to recycle them as a Universal Waste. Not only is it going to help the environment but it is also can reduce the facility's generator status. For information on recycling and/or the Universal Waste rule for electronics, please visit www.lee-county.com/pollution or call us at 239-652-6126.

How You Can Help Us Help You!

As Senior Environmental Specialists for the Lee County Pollution Prevention Program, we are here to assist the business community by performing “educational assistance” on how a business manages its regulated waste streams. When coming in contact with business owners, and/or business management, we sometimes get treated as if we are performing these assessments to cause trouble for the business. This is not our goal in performing the assessment. The P2 Program is designed to be an asset and assist the regulated business community with compliance issues. According to State law all counties within the State of Florida are mandated to perform a notification assessment and verification program of all businesses that have the potential to generate hazardous waste. The mandate requires a 20% per year, five year cycle assessment rate for all businesses based on the Programs occupational license list. While performing our assessments we talk to the owners, management, and employees, through a “non-enforcement educational” approach that meets the verification portion of the mandate. We look at all the possible regulated wastes streams a business may generate through any “process” performed in their operations. Each process is different depending on the businesses industry (automotive, beauty salon, medical, retail, manufacturing, etc.). After observing and speaking with the business owners/management, we help determine the monthly amounts of hazardous wastes generated through all processes. Sometimes we can offer alternatives to reduce the monthly amount generated. Some alternatives may include how to recycle waste and eliminate the hazardous waste disposal costs, the purchase of new product, and eliminate potential liability to the environment, which in turn provides more income for the business. We provide and discuss educational information handouts that relate to Local, State, and Federal laws/regulations governing the business operations. This practice removes any guess work and helps keep the business in compliance with these laws and regulations. Some of the handouts include pollution prevention technology that helps a business obtain a Conditionally Exempt Small Quantity Generator (CESQG) status. This classification is less encompassing than all other classifications under the Federal/State/County regulations. By listening and applying these rules a business can eliminate cost; eliminate frequent inspections; and eliminate costly rules associated with a facility’s generator status. The information we provide and discuss to help assist a regulated business are, Best Management Practices (BMP’s), pamphlets for understanding proper labeling, pamphlets for identifying hazardous wastes by use of Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS), and miscellaneous information on rules for proper handling of mercury containing lamps, recycling of E-waste, etc. All of these handouts if utilized properly can help operate a more efficient environmentally stable business and keep enforcement agencies from unscheduled visits that can ruin your day and bank account. This of course requires a team approach from business owners, management, and their employees to apply the information we provide.

How can you do your part in helping us and yourself?

- 1.) Let us perform the assessment. (It is a state requirement).
- 2.) If we leave a business card to schedule an appointment, please call us; remember “we are here to help you”.
- 3.) Listen to, and apply the educational information we talk to you about, it will help your business run more efficient, cleaner, safer, and keep your business in compliance with the laws and regulations (eliminating unwanted visits from environmental enforcement agencies).
- 4.) Ask questions, no question is a dumb question.
- 5.) Please be courteous to us as we are to you.
- 6.) Call our program (239) 652-6126 with any concerns or questions.
- 7.) Do your part to try and help keep Lee County beautiful and clean.

Hurricane Season 07

Hurricane Season is here and you should begin preparing your storage areas to avoid expensive clean ups from spills in case of a disaster. Hurricane season runs from June 1 through November 30. Business owners should think about their facility and the security of hazardous materials/waste stored onsite. Everyone should have a plan for what needs to be in place to minimize the impact of a storm should it hit our area. An important question to ask yourself is “Did the plan for the facility’s storage of hazardous waste/materials work in the past hurricane seasons”? If not, what went wrong and have steps been taken to correct the situation? Now is the time to work out any deficiencies you may have had in the past with containment or storage of your hazardous waste/material. To help you get started, remember there should never be any containers that store hazardous waste/material outside or unprotected. If the material is flammable or the waste is ignitable, and they are stored in a metal container, make sure they are grounded. Proper labeling on all storage containers and storage area/rooms should be placed and visible to any emergency responders. The P2 Program encourages everyone to take the time to inventory and/or clean out their hazardous waste, which includes unwanted cleaning supplies, outdated chemicals/products, over storage of used oil in multiple containers, lead acid batteries and any other contaminating sources. Dispose of any hazardous waste stored onsite through either a certified hauler or the Conditionally Exempt Small Quantity Generators >>

(CESQG) Collection Days. You can access the haulers list and/or the CESQG collection day schedule by visiting our web site: www.lee-county.com/pollution Business owners and their staff also have potential hazardous waste that is stored in household garages or detached sheds. Clean out these areas and utilize the residential hazardous waste collection days for your household hazardous waste. This will help your home with any potential problems that occur when a storm strikes. For the dates, location and waste disposal types accepted at the collection days go to our sister site: www.lee-county.com/solidwaste. On the left side of the Solid Waste website page, you will see a box, choose the drop down menu for Residential Information and select Household Chemical Waste. This should provide you with upcoming dates of the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day schedule. **NO BUSINESS WASTE WILL BE ACCEPTED AT HOUSEHOLD COLLECTION DAYS!**

The Latest (and greatest) In Lighting....or is it?

The latest in lighting is a bulb that can use 75 percent less electricity, last 10 times longer, produces 450 pounds less greenhouse gases from power plants and can save the user \$30 over its lifetime. What is this marvelous breakthrough? A funny looking little device called a Compact Fluorescent Bulb [CFB]. What's even funnier than their shape is the fact that they have been around since 1979 and are just now catching on! Why? Maybe because they look strange, or they cost a little more, or more likely, people just weren't aware of their existence. Thanks to new environmental consciousness and new marketing strategies these little fluorescents are turning up everywhere. These bulbs can be used in a standard screw in light fixture in place of an incandescent bulb. The major problem with the CFBs is that most people do not realize that they are a hazardous waste just like the long tube fluorescent bulbs that are commonly used in households and businesses. As with everything in life though, there are pros and cons to using CFBs. One con is that initially they cost more than the ordinary incandescent bulb, but once you get past that, as stated earlier, they will save money and electricity. Another consideration before changing to CFBs is their disposal. Unlike incandescent bulbs, CFBs cannot be thrown in with your regular solid waste trash at a business. These bulbs contain the heavy metal mercury and must be recycled **or** treated as a hazardous waste. CFBs must be handled the same way that the long tube fluorescent bulbs are in order to keep the mercury from contaminating the environment. As a business, if you choose to dispose of them, you are required to follow the rules in the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act [RCRA] which governs the storage and disposal of hazardous waste. This is not the recommended procedure for handling these waste bulbs. The recommended method is to recycle the burnt bulbs properly through a registered hauler or the correct collection day event. If you choose to handle them as a Universal Waste, under the law you must recycle them and document the process. Following these simple suggestions will help keep your business in compliance. When you replace a burnt out CFB with a new one, place the "bad" bulb in the box and tape it closed. Write on the box "mercury containing lamp destined for recycling". These small boxes can then be placed in a larger box with the same labeling on the outside. This will help keep the CFBs from being broken and also have them managed in one place when the time comes to have them recycled. There are several ways to dispose of your CFBs when the time comes. As always Lee County offers Conditionally Exempt Small Quantity Generator Hazardous Waste Collection Days several times a year for small businesses to bring their hazardous waste to. Another option is to contact one of the many companies who will either come to your business and pick up the bulbs or supply you with packaging to send the bulbs out to be recycled. In all cases you will be given a receipt that needs to be kept on site for 3 years. You can find the dates of the collection days and a list of the companies on the Pollution Prevention website.

POLLUTION PREVENTION ON YOUR SUMMER VACATION

Summer is a great time to gear up for road trips, vacations and an opportunity to enjoy the natural beauty of your favorite destination, or appreciate the splendor of some new ones. It's also a good time to think about how we can reduce the impact we have on our environment by practicing simple pollution prevention strategies that will help keep the environment beautiful. Here are just a few things we can all do before we embark on our summer travels: Before you leave home, adjust the air conditioning and turn off lights to conserve energy. Turn your water heater down to 120 degrees Fahrenheit and you'll not only conserve energy but you'll also cut your water-heating costs by 6-10%. Before hitting the road, make sure your vehicle is well maintained. Be sure to keep your cars' tires properly inflated. Gas mileage drops 1% for every pound below the recommended level. Also, make sure your front end is aligned to reduce drag on the road and extra wear on the tires. This will improve fuel economy which prevents pollution and saves you money! If you change your own motor oil, recycle it at an automotive shop, gas station, or auto store that accepts used motor oil for recycling. When searching for lodging, look for establishments that practice conservation, commonly referred to as "green" lodging. Green Hotels Association, a national non profit organization, provides a list of member hotels that implement programs to save water, save energy, and reduce solid waste in the hospitality industry. While you're staying at a hotel, do your part by turning up the temperature of the air conditioning and turning off the lights and TV before you leave. Let your hotel know that it's not necessary to change your

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sheets and towels everyday. Or, if you're camping, practice low-impact camping. Remember to never burn garbage, plastics, cardboard, or Styrofoam in your campfire. Burning garbage releases many toxins and poisons into the air. Read labels before using insect repellants and pesticides around the campsite; many of these products contain hazardous ingredients. There are alternative natural insecticides on the market that work and are healthier for the user and the environment. It's best to prevent pests by removing sources of food, water, and shelter before deciding to use pesticides and repellants. When visiting beaches, parks, or wherever your summer excursions may lead you, be sure to take out everything you bring in so that you leave places uncluttered and undisturbed. Also, when choosing a destination, remember that there are many places to explore right at your doorstep. This will promote our local economy which depends on workers and supplies from the region. This helps cut down on the gas consumed in not only your vehicle, but also in fuel

guzzling delivery trucks. These are just a few ideas to practice pollution prevention in the summer months and some good tips to take with you all year long. Making these simple changes will let you enjoy your summer vacations while knowing you're helping to reduce the consumption of precious natural resources while preserving the beauty of the natural world for generations to come.

What's in the next edition of "The Business Compliance Newsletter":

Lee County's new Hazardous Waste Collection Facility.

Penalties for not complying with Lee County's Hazardous Waste Ordinance.

Compliance training schedule for specific Industries in Lee County.

And more fact filled stories from the P2 Programs experiences performing assessments on businesses within Lee County.

The Conditionally Exempt Small Quantity Generator (CESQG) Business Collection Day Schedule

**Sponsored by :
Lee County's
Department of Solid Waste
(Disposal Fee Involved)**

October 4, 2007

Collection times for the CESQG scheduled events are from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Location of the CESQG collection day is North Airport Road at Page Field. Scheduled collection days and times are subject to change and/or cancelations, depending on inclement weather. *There is a fee involved for disposal.* If you have any questions regarding the associated fees, please contact Jan Daniels of EQ Florida, Inc. at 1-800-624-5302 ext.231

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