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MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR WIPES, RAGS AND SHOP TOWELS

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INTRODUCTION

Florida adopted by reference in Rules 62-730.020 and 62-730.030, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.) the federal rule [40 CFR 261.4(a)(26) and (b)(18)] for the management of solvent-contaminated wipes under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), effective January 31, 2014. The purpose of this guidance is to outline management options for both laundered and non-laundered wipes and shop towels, including wipes and shop towels that do not meet the conditional exclusions of 40 CFR 261.4(a)(26) and 261.4(b)(18), or the definition of "solvent-contaminated wipe" at 40 CFR 260.10.

The rule: 1) revises the definition of solid waste to conditionally exclude solvent-contaminated wipes that are laundered and reused (reusable wipes); and 2) revises the definition of hazardous waste to conditionally exclude solvent-contaminated wipes that are disposed (disposable wipes). Counties and municipalities may or may not accept for disposal excluded solvent contaminated wipes. Please check with your local solid waste department for more information.

MANAGEMENT OF SOLVENT-CONTAMINATED REUSABLE WIPES

Solvent-contaminated reusable wipes are not solid waste when reused provided they meet the conditions of the exclusion.

Conditional Exclusion

1. Wipes that after use or after cleaning up a spill, either: (*refer to the attached EPA's Solvent-Contaminated Summary Chart for additional details*)
 - a. Contain one or more F001-F005 listed solvents in 40 CFR 261.31, or
 - b. Corresponding P- or U- listed solvents found in 40 CFR 261.33;
 - c. Exhibit a hazardous waste characteristic from a solvent listed in 40 CFR 261; and/or
 - d. Exhibit ONLY the hazardous waste characteristic for ignitability (flashpoint of less than 140 F) when containing one or more non-listed solvents (Examples are mineral spirits and some paint thinners).
2. **Storage:** Container requirements are performance-based. They apply to accumulation and storage at the generating facility, during transportation, and at the handling facility. The containers must be non-leaking and closed. There must be complete contact between the fitted lid and the rim, except when wipes are being added or removed. During accumulation, closed containers do not have to be sealed. Containers must be sealed when the container is full, or no longer being accumulated, or when the container is being transported. Sealed means that the lid is properly and securely attached to the container and all openings securely bound or closed to prevent leaks and emissions.

3. **Label:** Containers must be labeled “Excluded Solvent-Contaminated Wipes”.
4. **Accumulation Time:** Generators can accumulate wipes for no longer than 180 days from the start date of accumulation for each container after which the wipes must be sent for cleaning.
5. **Prior to Transport:** When the wipes are sent for cleaning, the wipes and containers must not contain free liquids as determined by the Paint Filter Liquids Test (EPA Methods Test 9095B).
No Free Liquids Condition: Facilities may use mechanical wringers, solvent extraction technologies or process knowledge to meet the standard to ensure that if the Paint Filter Liquids Test was performed, the wipes would pass.
6. **Recordkeeping:** Generators must maintain documentation for three years that includes:
 - a. Name and address of handling facility receiving the wipes.
 - b. Documents that show the 180 day accumulation standard is being met.
 - c. Description of the process used to meet the “no free liquids” condition.
7. **Eligible Handling Facilities:** Laundries or dry cleaners whose discharge is regulated under sections 301 and 402 or section 307 of the Clean Water Act.

MANAGEMENT OF SOLVENT-CONTAMINATED DISPOSABLE WIPES

Solvent-contaminated disposable wipes are not hazardous waste when sent for disposal provided they meet the conditions of the exclusion.

Conditional Exclusion

1. Wipes that after use or after cleaning up a spill, either: *(refer to the attached EPA’s Solvent-Contaminated Summary Chart for additional details)*
 - a. Contain one or more F001-F005 listed solvents in 40 CFR 261.31, or
 - b. Corresponding P- or U- listed solvents found in 40 CFR 261.33;
 - c. Exhibit a hazardous waste characteristic from a solvent listed in 40 CFR 261; and/or
 - d. Exhibit ONLY the hazardous waste characteristic for ignitability (flashpoint of less than 140 F) when containing one or more non-listed solvents (Examples are mineral spirits and some paint thinners);
 - e. *Are not hazardous waste due to presence of trichloroethylene.*
2. **Storage:** Container requirements are performance-based. They apply to accumulation and storage at the generating facility, during transportation, and at the handling facility. The containers must be non-leaking and closed. There must be complete contact between the fitted lid and the rim, except when wipes are being added or removed. During accumulation, closed containers do not have to be sealed. Containers must be sealed when the container is full, or no longer being accumulated, or when the container is being transported. Sealed means that the lid is properly and securely attached to the container and all openings securely bound or closed to prevent leaks and emissions.

3. **Label:** Containers must be labeled “Excluded Solvent-Contaminated Wipes”.
4. **Accumulation Time:** Generators can accumulate wipes for no longer than 180 days from the start date of accumulation for each container after which the wipes must be sent for disposal.
5. **Prior to Transport:** When the wipes are sent for disposal, the wipes and containers must not contain free liquids as determined by the Paint Filter Liquids Test (EPA Methods Test 9095B).
No Free Liquids Condition: Facilities may use mechanical wringers, solvent extraction technologies or process knowledge to meet the standard to ensure that if the Paint Filter Liquids Test was performed, the wipes would pass.
6. **Recordkeeping:** Generators must maintain documentation for three years that includes:
 - a. Name and address of handling facility receiving the wipes.
 - b. Documents that show the 180 day accumulation standard is being met.
 - c. Description of the process used to meet the “no free liquids” condition.
7. **Eligible Handling Facilities:** *Municipal solid waste landfills regulated under 40 CFR 258 or to a hazardous waste landfill under 40 CFR parts 264 or 265. Combustor regulated under section 129 of the Clean Air Act or to a hazardous waste combustor, boiler, or industrial furnace regulated under 40 CFR parts 264, 265, or subpart H.*

MANAGEMENT OF ALL OTHER WIPES AND SHOP TOWELS

Solvent-contaminated wipes that contain listed hazardous waste other than solvents, or exhibit the characteristic of corrosivity (D002), reactivity (D003) or toxicity (D004-D043) due to contaminants other than solvents, are not eligible for the solvent wipe exclusions at 40 CFR 261.4(a)(26) and 261.4(b)(18)), as adopted in subsection 62-730.030(1), F.A.C. Non-excluded wipes and shops towels are subject to a hazardous waste determination as required in 40 CFR 262.11. Wipes and shop towels determined to be hazardous waste must be managed according to the applicable regulations in 40 CFR 260 through 273. Non-hazardous waste wipes and shop towels may be disposed or sent to a dry cleaner or laundry for cleaning and reuse.

Solvent-Contaminated Wipes Final Rule Summary Chart*

This chart summarizes the federal regulations in regards to managing solvent-contaminated wipes under 40 CFR 261.4(a)(26), which conditionally excludes from the definition of solid waste solvent-contaminated wipes that are cleaned and reused (“reusable wipes”), and under 40 CFR 261.4(b)(18), which conditionally excludes from the definition of hazardous waste solvent-contaminated wipes that are disposed (“disposable wipes”).

This summary chart is a guidance document provided by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). This is not a regulation and, therefore, does not add, eliminate, or change any existing regulatory requirements. The statements in this document are intended solely as guidance. Additionally, state regulations may be different from the federal program.

	Solvent-Contaminated Reusable Wipes	Solvent-Contaminated Disposable Wipes																				
Regulation Citation	40 CFR 261.4(a)(26) (Solid Waste Exclusion)	40 CFR 261.4(b)(18) (Hazardous Waste Exclusion)																				
Description	Solvent-contaminated wipes that are sent for cleaning and reuse are not solid wastes, provided the conditions of the exclusion are met.	Solvent-contaminated wipes that are sent for disposal are not hazardous wastes, provided the conditions of the exclusion are met.																				
Includes	<p>➤ Wipes containing one or more F001-F005 listed solvents listed in § 261.31 or the corresponding P- or U- listed solvents found in § 261.33, including:</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">- Acetone</td> <td style="width: 50%;">- Isobutyl alcohol</td> </tr> <tr> <td>- Benzene</td> <td>- Methanol</td> </tr> <tr> <td>- n-Butanol</td> <td>- Methyl ethyl ketone</td> </tr> <tr> <td>- Chlorobenzene</td> <td>- Methyl isobutyl ketone</td> </tr> <tr> <td>- Creosols</td> <td>- Methylene chloride</td> </tr> <tr> <td>- Cyclohexanone</td> <td>- Tetrachloroethylene</td> </tr> <tr> <td>- 1,2-Dichlorobenzene</td> <td>- Toluene</td> </tr> <tr> <td>- Ethyl acetate</td> <td>- 1,1,2- Trichloroethane</td> </tr> <tr> <td>- Ethyl benzene</td> <td>- Trichloroethylene (<i>*For reusable wipes only.</i>)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>- 2-Ethoxyethanol</td> <td>- Xylenes</td> </tr> </table> <p>➤ Wipes that exhibit a hazardous characteristic resulting from a solvent listed in part 261.</p> <p>➤ Wipes that exhibit only the hazardous characteristic of ignitability when containing one or more non-listed solvents.</p>		- Acetone	- Isobutyl alcohol	- Benzene	- Methanol	- n-Butanol	- Methyl ethyl ketone	- Chlorobenzene	- Methyl isobutyl ketone	- Creosols	- Methylene chloride	- Cyclohexanone	- Tetrachloroethylene	- 1,2-Dichlorobenzene	- Toluene	- Ethyl acetate	- 1,1,2- Trichloroethane	- Ethyl benzene	- Trichloroethylene (<i>*For reusable wipes only.</i>)	- 2-Ethoxyethanol	- Xylenes
- Acetone	- Isobutyl alcohol																					
- Benzene	- Methanol																					
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- Chlorobenzene	- Methyl isobutyl ketone																					
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- Ethyl benzene	- Trichloroethylene (<i>*For reusable wipes only.</i>)																					
- 2-Ethoxyethanol	- Xylenes																					
Does not include	<p>➤ Wipes that contain listed hazardous waste other than solvents.</p> <p>➤ Wipes that exhibit the characteristic of toxicity, corrosivity, or reactivity due to non-listed solvents or contaminants other than solvents.</p>	<p>➤ Wipes that contain listed hazardous waste other than solvents.</p> <p>➤ Wipes that exhibit the characteristic of toxicity, corrosivity, or reactivity due to non-listed solvents or contaminants other than solvents.</p> <p>➤ Wipes that are hazardous waste due to the presence of trichloroethylene.</p>																				

Storage Requirements	Wipes must be accumulated, stored, and transported in non-leaking, closed containers that can contain free liquids, should they occur.	
Labeling	Containers must be labeled “Excluded Solvent-Contaminated Wipes.”	
Accumulation Time Limits	Generators may accumulate wipes up to 180 days from the start date of accumulation prior to being sent for cleaning or disposal.	
Recordkeeping	<p>Generators must maintain documentation that includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ name and address of the laundry, dry cleaner, landfill, or combustor ➤ documentation that the 180-day accumulation time limit is being met ➤ description of the process the generator is using to meet the “no free liquids” condition. 	
Condition of Wipes Prior to Transport	<p>Wipes must contain no free liquids prior to being sent for cleaning or disposal and there may not be free liquid in the container holding the wipes.</p> <p>“No free liquids” condition is defined in 40 CFR 260.10 and is based on the EPA Methods Test 9095B (Paint Filter Liquids Test) or other authorized state standard.</p>	
Management of Free Liquids	Free liquids removed from the wipes or from the wipes container must be managed according to applicable hazardous waste regulations in 40 CFR parts 260 through 273.	
Eligible Handling Facilities	<p>Must go to a laundry or dry cleaner whose discharge, if any, is regulated under sections 301 and 402 or section 307 of the Clean Water Act.</p>	<p>Must go to a combustor regulated under section 129 of the Clean Air Act or to a hazardous waste combustor, boiler, or industrial furnace regulated under 40 CFR parts 264, 265, or 266 subpart H.</p> <p>Must go to a municipal solid waste landfill regulated under 40 CFR part 258 (including § 258.40) or to a hazardous waste landfill regulated under 40 CFR parts 264 or 265.</p>
Storage at Handling Facilities	Must store wipes in non-leaking, closed containers that are labeled “Excluded Solvent-Contaminated Wipes.” Containers must be able to contain free liquids should they occur.	
Management of Free Liquids by Handling Facilities	Free liquids removed from the wipes or from the container holding the wipes must be managed according to applicable hazardous waste regulations in 40 CFR parts 260 through 273.	

*Source: EPA