



IGNITABLE

CORROSIVE

REACTIVE

TOXIC

Hazardous wastes may have one or more of these characteristics.

ABOUT HAZARDOUS WASTE

Hazardous wastes are a by-product of our industrial society. They are produced by the chemical, petroleum and a host of other industries.

The Environmental Protection Agency, following the direction of Congress' Resources Conservation and Recovery Act, developed regulations to reduce the dangers of hazardous wastes by tracking and regulating them from creation (cradle) to disposal (grave).

RCRA

The Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, passed in 1976, is the most important law regulating hazardous waste. The act had several objectives but its principle concern was to establish a framework to insure the proper management of hazardous waste.

It is directed the EPA to develop regulations to protect our health and safety and the quality of our environment from improper hazardous waste management practices. It also defined hazardous wastes, set up rules for handling them.

What Are Hazardous Wastes?

Hazardous wastes are discarded materials that can cause or significantly contribute to an increase in mortality or illness, or that pose a substantial threat to human health or the environment when improperly managed. Hazardous wastes can be solid, semi-solid, liquid or contain gaseous materials.

Hazardous Waste Characteristics

Four particular characteristics are associated with hazardous wastes; ignitability, corrosivity, reactivity and toxicity. Some wastes may have more than one of these characteristics.

Ignitable wastes can catch fire easily.

Corrosive wastes can burn the eyes or contact or corrode standard containers.

Reactive wastes can catch fire, explode or give off dangerous fumes when exposed to water or air.

Toxic wastes are poisonous.

Hauling Hazardous Wastes

The EPA and the Department of Transportation have special regulations governing the transport of hazardous wastes. These regulations cover the generator, the carrier, the designated facility receiving the waste and anyone else who handles it.

Regulations Protect You

When your shipment includes hazardous wastes, there are strict documentation and reporting requirements you must follow. This paperwork is a part of the tracking system developed to reduce the dangers of hazardous waste.

Your compliance is critical to the success of the system. It also protects you.