

Special Waste Regulations – General Information

Special wastes can negatively affect human health and the environment if they are not handled and disposed of properly. Improper handling of special waste can cause soil, groundwater and surface water contamination, air pollution, direct poisoning to people and wildlife, and fires and explosions. The *Special Waste Regulations* ensure that special wastes are safely and responsibly handled, stored, transported and disposed of.

Definition of Special Waste

Under Yukon's *Special Waste Regulations*, the following substances are special wastes:

- 1) Waste oil – this is oil that has become unsuitable for its intended purpose due to the presence of impurities or the loss of original properties. Any mixture containing waste oil in excess of 3% by weight is considered waste oil.
- 2) Biomedical waste – this includes human anatomical waste, animal waste, microbiology laboratory waste, human blood and body fluid waste, and waste sharps typically generated from human or animal health care facilities, medical or veterinary research and teaching establishments, and clinical and research laboratories. This does not include healthy and chemical-free animal slaughter wastes.
- 3) Dangerous goods no longer used for their original purpose – these are dangerous goods as defined in the federal *Transportation of Dangerous Goods Regulations* (TDGR) that are not used for their originally-intended purpose, as well as some hazardous wastes as defined in the *Export and Import of Hazardous Waste and Hazardous Recyclable Material Regulations* (EIHWHRMR).

Common special wastes in Yukon include used lubricating oil, used antifreeze, dead batteries, and leftover cleaners, solvents, paints, pesticides, industrial chemicals, and petroleum products.

Requirement for a Permit

Under the *Special Waste Regulations*, a permit is required to generate, dispose, collect, transport or otherwise handle special waste if greater than or equal to the following quantities of special waste are handled over the course of 30 days or stored onsite at any one time:

- In the case of waste oil, 20L;
- In the case of other liquid special wastes, 5L;
- In the case of one or more solid special wastes, 5kg; or
- In the case of a mixed solid and liquid special waste, 5kg or 5L.

The requirement to obtain a special waste permit does not apply to households that generate special waste, store that waste on their property, and transport it to a licensed collection facility, household hazardous waste day event, or have it collected by a licensed facility.

In accordance with the requirements of the regulation, the Environmental Protection and Assessment Branch issues two different types of special waste permits, depending on the activities being undertaken:

- 1) Special waste generator permits are issued to businesses or individuals that generate special wastes as a result of their regular commercial activities.
- 2) Special waste facility permits are issued to businesses or individuals that collect special wastes generated by other persons or businesses. This includes sites where special wastes are dropped off by other people and operations that pick up special wastes from others and transport them to a destination.

A special waste generator or facility permit may also authorize the permitted individual or business to transport special waste or dispose of special waste, such as through the incineration of waste oil. In order to be permitted to transport special waste in Yukon, a spill response plan describing the actions that will be taken in the event of a spill of the special wastes to be transported must be submitted as part of the permit application.

For more information on the Environment Act, please contact:

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The Environment Act and regulations may be viewed online at www.gov.yk.ca/legislation/env.html, or at any Yukon Public Library, territorial agent, territorial representative or regional services office. You may purchase copies at the Inquiry Centre, Yukon Government Administration Building, 2071-2nd Avenue in Whitehorse, request by email queens.printer@gov.yk.ca or mail: Yukon Government Queen's Printer, Box 2703 (W-4), Whitehorse, Yukon, Y1A 2C6 (phone 867-667-5146 or toll free 1-800-661-0408, extension 5146).