

RCRA 101:

A 10-Minute Introduction to the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act

Presented by
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OCTOBER 23, 2015 • PORTLAND, OR

What is RCRA?

Resource Conservation and Recovery Act

42 USC 6901 *et seq.*

- **Cradle-to-grave regulation of hazardous waste (Subtitle C)**
- Framework for regulation of non-hazardous solid waste (Subtitle D)
- Underground storage tank program

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What does it regulate?

Hazardous Waste

40 CFR 261.3

- Solid waste that is *listed* or exhibits a *characteristic* of hazardous waste

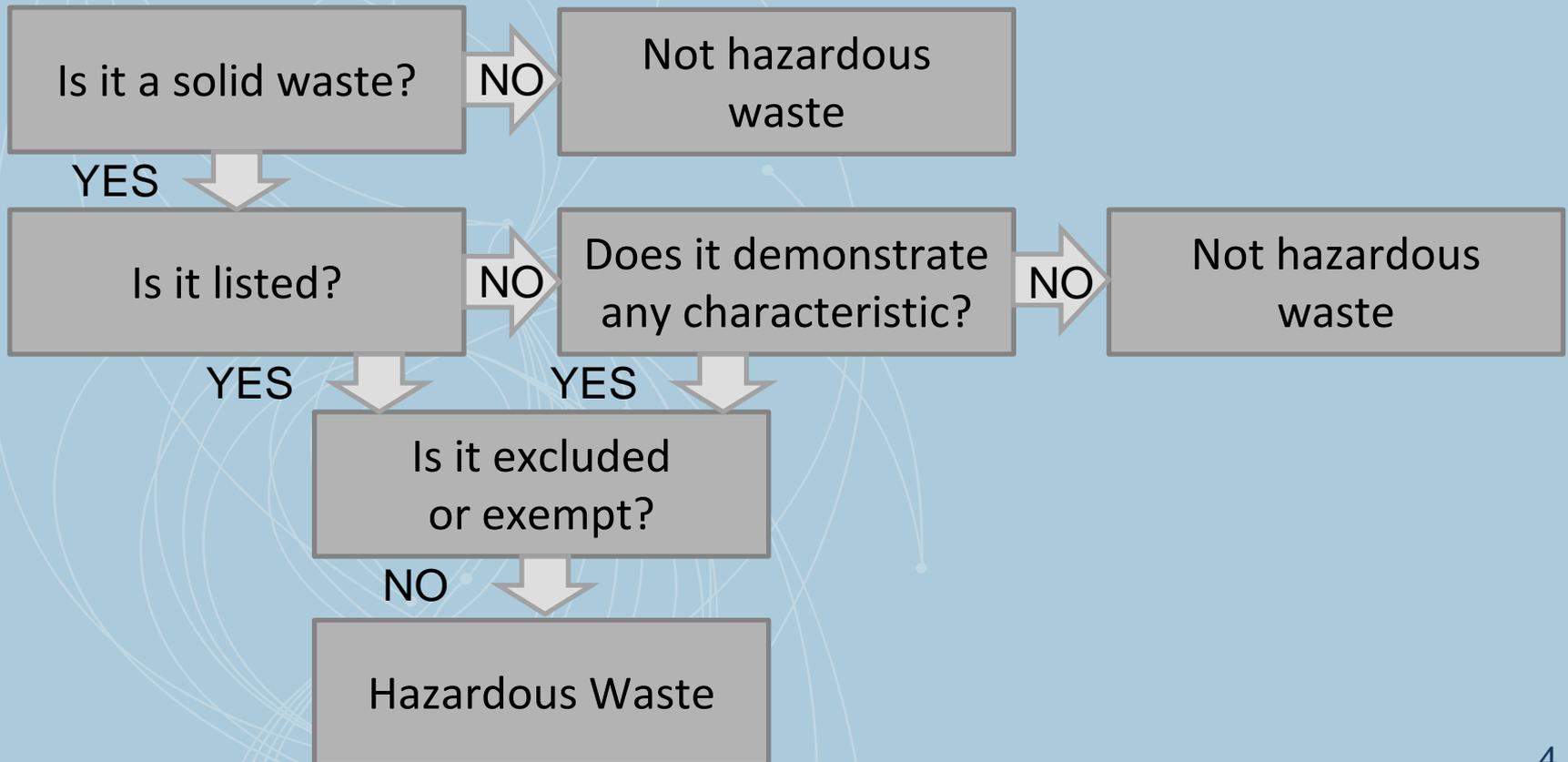
Solid Waste

40 CFR 261.2

- Discarded material (abandoned, recycled*, or inherently waste-like)

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Hazardous Waste Determination



Types of Hazardous Waste

- Listed Hazardous Waste (40 CFR 261 Subpart D)
- Characteristic Hazardous Waste
 - Ignitability (40 CFR 261.21)
 - Corrosivity (40 CFR 261.22)
 - Reactivity (40 CFR 261.23)
 - Toxicity (40 CFR 261.24)

Exclusions and Exemptions

Exclusions

- Solid wastes that are not hazardous wastes
- Materials that are not solid wastes

Exemptions

- Certain mixtures of solid and hazardous wastes
- Waste generated by CESQGs

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Who does it regulate?

Generators

Transporters

Treatment,
Storage, and
Disposal Facilities
(TSDFs)

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What is a generator?

A person who...

- produces hazardous waste, or
- first causes hazardous waste to be subject to regulation.

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Generator rules

- Hazardous waste characterization
- EPA ID number
- Manifest, package, label and mark for transport
- May accumulate up to 90 days or up to 55 gallons in satellite accumulation area
- Container and tank standards
- Biennial report, training and contingency plan

What is a Transporter?

A person engaged in the offsite transportation of hazardous waste by air, rail, highway, or water

- EPA ID number
- Manifest compliance
- May store at transfer facility for 10 days
- Immediate action to address discharge

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What is a TSDF?

A facility that treats or stores hazardous waste for more than 90 days or disposes of hazardous waste

- A permit is required
- Examples: landfills, incinerators, treatment facilities, long-term storage facilities

TSDF Requirements

- Recordkeeping and reporting
- Contingency plan and emergency procedures
- Preparedness and prevention
- Air emissions
- Construction, use and management
- Corrective action
- Closure and post-closure care
- Financial assurance
- Groundwater monitoring
- Land disposal restrictions (LDRs)

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Other Types of Waste

Used Oil

- Oil contaminated as a result of use (40 CFR Part 279)

Universal Waste

- Streamlined standards for certain hazardous waste (40 CFR Part 273)

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Resources

RCRA Statute, 42
USC 6901 *et seq.*

Hazardous Waste
Regulations, 40
CFR Parts 260-282

EPA Website
(RCRA Online;
FAQs)

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