

HUMBOLDT STATE UNIVERSITY

Risk Management and Safety Services

Standard Operating Procedure: EHS007-150822

Title: Requesting Containers Procedure

Policy Statement

Proper packaging of hazardous waste is necessary to ensure safe transportation from point of origin to ultimate disposal. The selection of appropriate containers helps prevent leaks and spills that may result in human exposure or environmental release during material handling, storage and transport. Routine handling occurs on the campus, in transit to the disposal facility or during the disposal process.

Containment of Hazardous Waste

Departments are responsible for procuring containers needed for waste accumulation and packaging. Environmental Health and Safety supplies a limited number and variety of containers for chemical waste collection for larger volumes (≥ 5 gal) and consistent waste streams (Contact RM&SS at extension 3302).

Original hazardous materials containers may be reused to collect the same type of waste material. For example, many solvents and acids come packaged in 1-gallon or smaller glass bottles which are suitable for waste collection. Remember, it is important that you only introduce waste into a container that once held a hazardous material that is compatible with the original material.

RM&SS Containers (Limited Stock)

- 5-gallon steel drum-closed head
- 5-gallon screw top plastic bucket
- 8-gallon polyethylene drum (blue container for photo waste only)
- 30-gallon fiber drum-open head
- 30 gallon lab pack
- 55-gallon fiber drum-open head
- 55-gallon steel drum-open head (specify if to be used for oil filter collection)
- 55-gallon steel drum-closed head (lined and unlined)
- 5-gallon poly jerricans or carboys
- 5-gallon fiber hat boxes

It should be noted that many of the above containers may need to be ordered from suppliers so it is advisable for generators to notify RM&SS at least two weeks in advance. If a waste stream is consistent and of predictable quantities, putting in an order for the entire semester is advised. If you have a consistent waste stream, of a smaller volume, please contact RM&SS to discuss accommodation.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ♦ SAFETY ♦ RISK MANAGEMENT ♦ EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ♦

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Packaging Procedures

Collect small volumes of waste in your own containers. Volumes larger than 5 gal may be collected in containers provided by RM&SS. Solid clean-up debris and certain solid wastes e.g., contaminated gloves, contaminated glassware, paper, etc., can be packaged in cardboard boxes lined with two plastic bags. **Keep liquid and solid wastes separate.**

NOTE!

- **Do NOT mix incompatible materials in the same container.**
- **Do NOT put corrosive or reactive chemicals in metal cans.**
- For liquids, fill containers to about 90% of container volume. **Do NOT fill containers to the top.** Leave at least 2 inches of space in 5-gallon liquid waste containers to allow for liquid expansion and pumping. Make sure the caps on all cans and bottles have gaskets and are tightly secured before pick up.