

# Container and Tank Labeling and Marking

Guidance on Hazardous Waste Requirements



## Introduction

Containers and tanks used to accumulate and store hazardous wastes must be managed in accordance with state hazardous waste regulations. Recent regulatory changes, effective September 1, 2020, updated the labeling and marking requirements for these tanks and containers to ensure that hazardous waste is appropriately identified and handled safely to protect human health and the environment.

Hazardous waste regulations are found in chapters [NR 600-679](#) of the Wisconsin Administrative Code.

This document is intended to outline labeling and marking requirements and provide information on the new hazard identification labeling requirement.

## Definitions

**Accumulation start date:** The accumulation start date is the date when hazardous waste is first placed into a container or tank. It is not the date when the container or tank is full.

**Container:** A container is any portable device in which a material is stored, transported, treated, disposed of or otherwise handled. The definition is broad enough to include any situation in which hazardous waste is held for any period of time. [s. NR 660.10(14)]

Examples: roll-off boxes, 55-gallon drums, vials, cans, Intermediate bulk containers (IBCs – also known as totes).

**Tank:** A tank is a stationary device, designed to contain an accumulation of hazardous waste which is constructed primarily of non-earthen materials (e.g., wood, concrete, steel, plastic) which provide structural support. [s. NR 660.10(116)]

Examples: in-line waste storage tanks, large waste holding tanks, frac tanks, IBCs that are no longer movable due to being piped.

**VSQG under control of a parent LQG:** Control means the power to direct the policies of the generators, whether by the ownership of stock, voting rights, or otherwise, except that contractors who operate generator facilities on behalf of a different person as defined in s. NR 660.10(90), Wis. Adm. Code, are not be deemed to “control” those generators. [s. NR 662.014(1)(e) 8.a]

## Hazardous Waste and Hazard Labeling

Large and small quantity generators (LQGs & SQGs) have the same labeling requirements and must indicate the hazards of the waste in addition to the “Hazardous Waste” label historically required. Very small quantity generators (VSQGs) have some reduced requirements, depending on several criteria. This section outlines requirements for satellite and central accumulation containers and tanks based on generator status, and outlines what satisfies the new hazard indications.

### Large quantity generators must:

- Label satellite accumulation containers with the words “**Hazardous Waste**” and an **indication of the hazards** of the contents. [s. NR 662.015(1)(e)1. and 2.]
- Label central accumulation containers and tanks with the words “**Hazardous Waste**” and an **indication of the hazards**. [s. NR 662.017(1)(e) 1.a. and 2.a., and 662.017(1)(e) 1.b. and 2.b.]

### Small quantity generators must:

- Label satellite accumulation containers with the words “**Hazardous Waste**” and an **indication of the hazards** of the contents. [s. NR 662.015(1)(e)1. and 2.]
- Label regular accumulation (non-episodic) containers and tanks with the words “**Hazardous Waste**” and an **indication of the hazards**. [s. NR 662.016(2)(f) 1.a. and 2.a., and s. NR 662.016(2)(f) 1.b. and 2.b.]
- Label containers and tanks resulting from an **episodic event** with the words “**Episodic Hazardous Waste**” and an **indication of the hazards**. [s. NR 662.232(2)(d) 1.a. and 2.a., 662.232(1)(d) 1.b. and 2.b.]

### Very small quantity generators must:

- Label regular accumulation (non-episodic) containers and tanks with the words “**Hazardous Waste.**” [s. NR 662.014(4) and (5)(d)]
- Label containers and tanks resulting from an **episodic event** with the words “**Episodic Hazardous Waste**” and an **indication of the hazards**. [s. NR 662.232(1)(d)1.a. and 2.a., and 662.232(1)(d)1.b. and 2.b.]
- In the case of VSQGs sending their hazardous waste **to an LQG under the same control** as the VSQG, label their containers of hazardous waste with the words “**Hazardous Waste**” and an **indication of the hazards**. [s. NR 662.014(1)(e) 8.c.]

## Hazard Indicators

There are many ways to indicate the hazards of the waste that would fulfill the regulations:

- Labels with the applicable hazardous waste characteristic(s) (i.e., ignitable, corrosive, reactive, toxic).
- Hazard communication consistent with the US Department of Transportation requirements at 49 CFR part 172 subpart E (labeling) or subpart F (placarding).
- A hazard statement or pictogram consistent with the US Occupational Safety and Health Administration Hazard Communication Standard at 29 CFR § 1910.1200.
- Chemical hazard label consistent with the National Fire Protection Association Code 704.
- Global Harmonized System (GHS) hazard communication systems.



The labeling, marking or placarding used on the container or tank must clearly identify the hazard. There may be instances in which the waste you generated and the system (e.g., DOT, GHS, OSHA) you are using may be too generic and therefore fail to convey the hazard.

**For example:** A facility generates an F006 sludge that contains heavy metals. The appropriate US DOT placard for the F006 sludge is Class 9. A Class 9 placard means a miscellaneous hazardous material. In this instance, the Class 9 placard fails to convey the specific hazard of the F006 sludge, which is toxic due to heavy metals. The facility could still use the Class 9 placard but would need to use

something else in addition to convey the hazard. For example, the generator could write the words “Toxic – Contains Heavy Metals” on the container.

## Accumulation Start Dates

Tracking the accumulation time of hazardous waste is an important aspect of managing these wastes and is critical to maintaining generator status and exemptions. **The accumulation start date is the date when hazardous waste is first placed into a container or tank, and not the date when the container or tank is full.**

The accumulation start date for a container must be clearly visible for inspection. For tanks, tracking the accumulation start date can be accomplished through inventory logs, monitoring equipment or other records that demonstrate and document this information. [s. NR 662.016(2)(f) 2.c. and 662.017(1)(e) 2.c.]

This section outlines requirements for satellite and central accumulation area (SAA and CAA) containers and tanks based on generator status.

### Large quantity generators requirements:

- SAA containers do not need to be marked with the accumulation start date. Instead, SAA containers must be immediately marked with the date when the excess amount began accumulating, which is 55 gallons for non-acute hazardous waste and one quart (liquid) or 2.2 pounds (solid) for acute hazardous waste. [s. NR 622.015(1)(f)3.]
- **CAA containers must be labeled with the accumulation start date.** [NR 662.017(1)(e) 1.c.]
- **Tanks must use inventory logs, monitoring equipment or other records** (including placing the accumulation start date on the tank itself) to identify the date upon which the accumulation began. [NR 662.017(1)(e) 2.c.]

### Small quantity generators requirements:

- SAA containers do not need to be marked with the accumulation start date. Instead, SAA containers must be immediately marked with the date of when the excess amount began accumulating, which is 55 gallons for non-acute hazardous waste and one quart (liquid) or 2.2 pounds (solid) for acute hazardous waste. [NR 622.015(1)(f)3.]
- Regular accumulation (non-episodic) CAA **containers must be labeled with the accumulation start date.** [NR 662.016(1)(f) 1.c.]
- Regular accumulation (non-episodic) **tanks must use inventory logs, monitoring equipment or other records** (including placing the accumulation start date on the tank itself) to identify the date upon which the accumulation began. [NR 662.016(2)(f) 2.c.]
- SQGs engaging in **an episodic event using a container** must **date each container** with the start date of the episodic event. [NR 662.232(2)(d) 1.c.]
- When storing hazardous waste from **an episodic event using a tank**, SQGs must use **inventory logs, monitoring equipment or other records** to identify the date upon which each episodic event begins. [NR 662.232(2)(d) 2.c.]

### Very small quantity generators requirements:

- Regular accumulation (non-episodic) containers and tanks **are not** required to be labeled with the accumulation start date.
- VSQGs engaging in **an episodic event using a container** must clearly **date each container** with the start date of the episodic event. [NR 662.232(1)(d) 1.c.]

- When storing hazardous waste from **an episodic event using a tank**, VSQGs must use **inventory logs, monitoring equipment or other records** (including placing the accumulation start date on the tank itself) to identify the date upon which each episodic event began. [NR 662.232(1)(d) 2.c.]

## Pre-Transport Labeling and Marking

Prior to offering containers of hazardous waste for shipment, SQGs and LQGs must comply with the following labeling and marking code requirements:

### Labeling

Before transporting or offering hazardous waste for transportation off-site, a generator must label each package in accordance with the applicable US Department of Transportation regulations on hazardous materials under 49 CFR part 172. [s. NR 662.031]



### Marking

Before transporting or offering hazardous waste for transportation off-site, a generator must mark each package of hazardous waste in accordance with the applicable US Department of Transportation regulations on hazardous materials under 49 CFR part 172. [s. NR 662.032]

Before transporting hazardous waste or offering hazardous waste for transportation off-site, a generator must mark each container of 119 gallons or less used in such transportation in accordance with the requirements of 49 CFR 172.304 and with all of the following information: [NR 662.032(2)]

- HAZARDOUS WASTE—Federal Law Prohibits Improper Disposal. If found, contact the nearest police or public safety authority or the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.
- Generator’s Name and Address \_\_\_\_\_.
- Generator’s EPA identification number \_\_\_\_\_.
- Manifest Tracking Number \_\_\_\_\_.
- EPA Hazardous Waste Number \_\_\_\_\_.



An SQG or LQG may use a nationally recognized electronic system, such as bar coding, to identify the EPA hazardous waste numbers. [s. NR 662.032(3)]

Lab packs that will be incinerated in compliance with s. NR 668.42 (3), Wis. Adm. Code, are not required to be marked with EPA hazardous waste numbers, except D004, D005, D006, D007, D008, D010, and D011, where applicable. [s. NR 662.032(4)]

### Placarding

Before transporting hazardous waste or offering hazardous waste for transportation off-site, a generator must placard the waste or offer the initial transporter the appropriate placards according to US Department of Transportation regulations for hazardous materials under 49 CFR part 172, subpart F. [s. NR 662.033]

## Resources and Contact information

For more information including [publications, inspection forms, and administrative codes and statutes](#), go to [dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov) and search “hazardous waste resources.” Use the *Additional Resources* menu to

navigate to specific topics. For staff contact information, go to the [staff directory](#), enter “hazardous waste requirements” in the subject field and choose the appropriate county contact.

## **PUB-WA-1903 2020**

**Mailing address:** DNR Waste & Materials Management Program, PO Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707

**Email:** [DNRWasteMaterials@Wisconsin.gov](mailto:DNRWasteMaterials@Wisconsin.gov)

***Disclaimer:** This document is intended solely as guidance and does not contain any mandatory requirements except where requirements found in statute or administrative rule are referenced. Any regulatory decisions made by the Department of Natural Resources in any matter addressed by this guidance will be made by applying the governing statutes and administrative rules to the relevant facts.*

***Equal Opportunity Employer and Americans with Disabilities Act Statement:** The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources provides equal opportunity in its employment, programs, services, and functions under an Affirmative Action Plan. If you have any questions, please write to Chief, Public Civil Rights, Office of Civil Rights, U.S. Department of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20240.*

*This publication is available in alternative format (large print, Braille, etc.) upon request. Please call 608-266-2111 for more information. Note: If you need technical assistance or more information, call the Accessibility Coordinator at 608-267-7490 / TTY Access via relay – 711.*