



TOPIC: Hazardous Waste Manifest Rule

EPA Publishes Manifest Rule

On March 4th, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) improved and modernized the hazardous waste tracking system through publication of a Final Rule that will standardize the Uniform Hazardous Waste Manifest form.

Industry Impact

More than 139,000 businesses in approximately 45 industries will receive regulatory relief from this rule. These businesses ship approximately 12 million tons of hazardous wastes annually, and use between 2 and 5 million Hazardous Waste Manifests. In addition, at least 34 state governments reportedly spend between \$6 and \$37 million a year to administer the hazardous waste manifest system. EPA estimates the annual change in paperwork burden resulting from this rule will save states and industry between \$12 and \$20 million.

Rule Actions

The hazardous waste Manifest forms:

- Are standardized in content and appearance.
- Enhance reporting of international waste shipments (imports and exports).
- Are available from a wide range of sources.
- Clarify processing procedures for rejected waste shipments and shipment container residues.
- The new system reduces or eliminates many of the variabilities in state manifest requirements. For example, the new Manifest form uses check boxes and adds fields to better track "difficult" shipments, such as container residues, rejected wastes, and transboundary shipments.

The standard Manifest forms will be printed according to a precise specification to assure uniformity. Each form will carry a unique preprinted manifest tracking number. This change allows waste handlers with multi-state operations to register and use their own manifest forms everywhere they do business. EPA still has oversight of the registration process. Record keeping, reporting requirements, and other changes streamline and vastly improve hazardous waste tracking.

Effective Dates

The final rule is effective September 6, 2005, which begins a 12-month compliance delay for use of the new form. Mandatory use of the new form will not begin until September 6, 2006. The 18-month transition will allow:

- Waste handlers and states to continue use, and deplete stockpiles, of the old form from current sources.
- Sufficient time for registrants to apply to EPA Office of Solid Waste's registry and prepare to print and distribute the revised manifest forms.
- States sufficient time to update tracking databases to address the rule's changes to the manifest form and its data elements and to enable them to revise their authorized hazardous waste programs to adapt the revised manifest requirements.

After September 6, 2006, use of the new form is required in all states because the rule was promulgated under joint DOT authority. Waste Management is in the process of registering with EPA to be supplier of the new Uniform Manifests.

Additional Information Links

[Manifest Form](#)

[Final Rule](#)

[FAQs](#)

[General EPA Information](#)