

NH Small Quantity Hazardous Waste Generators



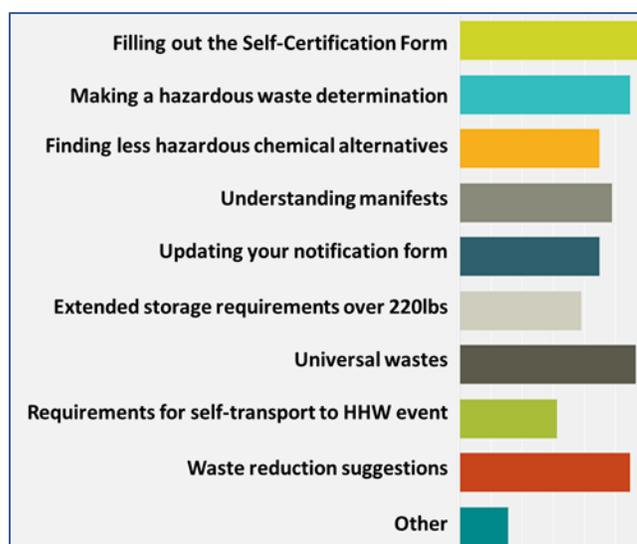
SQG News

Compliance Assistance and Pollution Prevention

Welcome to the First Edition of the New Hampshire Small Quantity Hazardous Waste Generator Electronic Newsletter

Recently, the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services sent a survey to approximately 300 randomly selected NH Small Quantity Generators (SQGs) to determine if there was a need for more information specifically designed to help SQGs better understand the rules and the process of filling out the self-certification form. The response was overwhelmingly positive.

The survey contained a list of proposed topics for the newsletter based on frequently asked questions. In this newsletter, we will provide information on requested topics and take requests for future topics.



Small Quantity Generators

Definition and Explanation

In New Hampshire, a small quantity generator (SQG) of hazardous waste is an individual or a company that generates or makes less than 220 pounds (100 kilograms) of hazardous waste in each and every month. The law requires each SQG to review their hazardous waste management procedures, conduct a self-inspection of their facility and certify compliance to the NH Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) every three years. Given the large number of hazardous waste generators in the state, NHDES has found self-certification and declaration of compliance to be the most effective way to regulate compliance at these facilities.



Why Self Certification?

The overall purpose of self-certification is to make generators aware of the hazardous waste regulations and how they apply to them. Why is that so important? Well, we say it's all about protecting the environment; but a lot of folks don't realize that WE are the environment, and it's US that we are protecting. There are about 2,000 SQGs in New Hampshire. Even though these businesses generate small amounts of hazardous waste, their impact is big. About 1/3 of New Hampshire's hazardous waste clean-up sites have been created by SQGs.

Groundwater in New Hampshire supplies water to 60 percent of the state's population. In addition, water stored beneath the ground surface replenishes rivers, lakes and wetlands during dry periods, ensuring healthy ecosystems and

water for other uses. Hazardous waste that gets into the ground can move into our drinking water. Your own well or your neighbor's well could become contaminated by hazardous waste leaks or spills that enter the groundwater. That contaminated groundwater might even still be there when your children or grandchildren are living in your home, impacting the health of your family beyond your lifetime. Hazardous waste that evaporates and gets into the air is an issue too. Dangerous vapors don't just go into the atmosphere where they become someone else's problem. Over time, chemicals getting into your body by breathing them can impact your health and even your ability to earn a living.



The point is, there are dangers with these wastes and it's important to handle them properly. But when running a business, there is a lot of competition for what becomes a priority. It's hard to focus on hazardous waste when there are so many other requirements and needs competing for your attention. What's more, hazardous waste is often out-of-sight-out-of-mind. Our goal is to help you recognize these dangers and understand how the risks can be reduced. We recognize how difficult it is to operate a business, and we want to help make understanding and complying with these rules as easy as we can. We believe the self-certification checklist is the least intrusive way to do this and it is mailed to you every three years as a way to: 1) remind you that there are rules for managing this stuff, 2) teach you what those waste handling rules are, and 3) get you to look at, notice, and think about the wastes you make.

Pollution Prevention

Wouldn't it be great to eliminate or reduce the use of hazardous chemicals? That's where our program – the NH Pollution Prevention Program (NHPPP) can help. There are many alternatives available that are less toxic than the ones you may be using. We will be featuring information about these alternatives in this newsletter. But, even better, NHPPP can work with you on a one-on-one basis to help find less toxic alternatives that will work for you and your business. Our services are free and confidential! We also offer free, confidential non-regulatory compliance assistance to help you with individual questions about your facility and your management of hazardous wastes. Please contact us anytime for a free consultation at nhppp@des.nh.gov or 603-271-6460.



Free Trainings

Free trainings covering the self-certification form and the rules are offered during the fall of every year. For convenience, these trainings are located in the counties in which the three year re-certification requirement is due. For more information on these trainings go to [SQG Self-Certification Training](#) page on the NHDES website.

Up Next

The next SQG newsletter will address common mistakes made when filling out the Self-Certification form. This newsletter is produced by the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services. If you would like to receive the electronic version, send an email to nhppp@des.nh.gov and type "SQG News" in the subject line.