

	Environmental Health and Safety Manual	
	Interim University Policy Number: 8-1-5	
Title: Management of Used Mercury-Containing Lamps		
Effective Date: 1/00	Revision:	Number of Pages: 3

POLICY: The State University of New York at Stony Brook has recognized that the protection of the environment is a key element to the success of our operation and has committed to minimize the negative impact our operations have on the environment. It is the Policy of the University to properly handle and dispose of mercury containing lamps and to minimize or eliminate their use.

PURPOSE: To establish procedures and protocols to ensure that hazardous materials do not pose a threat to human health or the environment. The purpose of this standard is to outline the procedures SUNY at Stony Brook will follow to manage mercury-containing lighting fixtures. Used fluorescent lamps and high intensity discharge lamps will be handled as outlined in 40 CFR Part 273, *The Universal Waste Rule*.

SCOPE: University wide.

BACKGROUND:

1. Mercury, a heavy metal, is toxic to the human nervous system. Mercury in the water bio-accumulates in the tissue of fish. Children and unborn fetuses are more susceptible to the negative effects of mercury.
2. Fluorescent and high intensity discharge lamps (HID) contain mercury and are considered hazardous waste when removed from fixtures or when broken. This program does not cover incandescent light bulbs.
3. Although these lamps contain small concentrations of mercury, they typically leach mercury and fail the Toxicity Characteristic Leaching Potential (TCLP) test. Mercury concentrations greater than 0.2 mg/l are regulated as a hazardous waste.
4. Broken fluorescent lamps release 1-3% of their total mercury content. Lamp crushing releases 10 - 100% of mercury its content. The University will not intentionally crush lamps in recycling operations.
5. The EPA in Title 40 CFR Part 261 the Hazardous Waste Program has regulated fluorescent lamps and HID lamps and by Part 273, *The Universal Waste Rule* since 1999. SUNY at Stony Brook's goal is to keep these lamps out of municipal landfills and incinerators.

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6. Mercury containing HID lamps include arc lamps, deuterium lamps, germicidal lamps, high-pressure sodium lamps, mercury vapor lamps, metal halide lamps, neon lamps and ultra-violet lamps.

PROGRAM:

1. Employees must collect all used lamps in original containers, other suitable cardboard box or fiber drums.
2. Unbroken used lamps that are placed into original container will be marked “no good” and show the date discarded.
3. Boxes used solely for the collection of used lamps will be identified with the label “USED FLUORESCENT LAMPS - UNIVERSAL WASTE”. Labels are available from EH&S.
4. Broken lamps and debris will be collected in separate containers or metal drums for disposal as hazardous waste. Do not intentionally break lamps. Gloves should be worn when handling debris from broken lamps.
5. When full, notify the Department of Environmental Health and Safety at 632-6410. Boxes will be inspected, closed and transported to the Hazardous Materials Management Facility.
6. Boxes will be palletized and held for transport to an approved recycler.
7. Boxes must show accumulation date and be shipped to a recycler within one year.
8. The University will purchase lamps which either do not contain mercury or pass the TCLP test whenever feasible.
9. The University must provide training to waste handlers, including custodians, physical plant personnel, housekeeping staff, outside contractors and to the managers of these positions.

TRAINING:

The Department of Environmental Health and Safety or a trained physical plant or custodial supervisor will provide training to all employees who handle used mercury-containing lamps; using the following guidelines.

1. Lamps must be packaged in original shipping container, other suitable cardboard boxes or fiber drums.
2. Label box as “USED FLUORESCENT LAMPS” “UNIVERSAL WASTE”. Put accumulation date on label. Labels are available from EH&S.
3. Do **not** place broken bulbs into boxes with unbroken bulbs. Do **not** intentionally break lamps.
4. Broken bulbs and clean-up residue must be placed into a separate metal can or drum for disposal as hazardous waste.
5. Egg crate inserts are **not** required if boxes are filled to capacity.

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6. Lamps load easier if boxes are placed at a 45° – 60° angle. Do not force lamps into boxes.
7. Box ends must be secured with three-inch packing tape.
8. Boxes must be stacked on a pallet (5) across and no more than (5) high.
9. Boxes must be secured to pallet with stretch-wrap.
10. Do **not** store boxes outside or where container could be exposed to weather.
11. May accumulate boxes up to (1) year.
12. All used lamps must be sent to an approved recycler via an approved transporter.
13. Hazardous waste labels and manifests are **not** required for the transportation of used lamps.

The Department of Environmental Health and Safety will maintain copies of training rosters. The names of people receiving training will be entered into the Department of Environmental Health & Safety's training records.

INQUIRIES/REQUESTS: State University of New York at Stony Brook
Environmental Health and Safety
110 Suffolk Hall
Stony Brook, NY 11794-6200
Main Office: (516) 632-6410
Fax: (516) 632-9683

RELATED FORMS: *Guidelines for the Handling of Used Fluorescent & HID Lamps*

RELATED DOCUMENTS: 40 CFR Part 261 Environmental Protection Agency, *The Hazardous Waste Program*

40 CFR Part 273 Environmental Protection Agency, *The Universal Waste Rule*