

METRO WASTEWATER RECLAMATION DISTRICT

Rules and Regulations

Section 2, Definitions of Terms (4-6, 24, and 36) and Section 6.16.1(Dental Amalgam Control Program)

SECTION 2: DEFINITIONS OF TERMS

4. Amalgam, for the purpose of these Rules and Regulations, means an alloy of mercury with various metals used by dentists to fill cavities in teeth.
5. Amalgam Separator means a device designed to remove Amalgam from a Dental Facility's wastewater before it discharges to the sanitary sewer system.
6. Amalgam Waste means any waste from a Dental Facility containing Amalgam. This includes any Amalgam generated or collected by chair side traps, screens, filters, vacuum system filters, Amalgam Separators and Amalgam that may have accumulated in the plumbing system.
 - (a) "Non-contact amalgam" includes scrap or excess Amalgam after the procedure is complete, as well as pre-encapsulated dental Amalgam capsules and the remaining Amalgam capsule.
 - (b) "Contact amalgam" means Amalgam that has come into contact with the patient or body fluids, including but not limited to extracted teeth with dental Amalgam and scrap collected chair side and by chair side traps and vacuum pump filters or other Amalgam capture devices.
24. Dental Facility means any facility that practices dentistry including, but not limited to, dental clinics, offices, hospitals and schools.
36. ISO 11143 means the International Organization of Standardization's standard for Dental equipment – Amalgam Separators.

SECTION 6. PRETREATMENT/INDUSTRIAL WASTE CONTROL

6.16 BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (BMPs)

6.16.1 Dental Amalgam Control Program.

1. Within six months of the effective date of the Rule, all Dental Facilities shall have implemented BMPs according to the requirements contained below, and within one year of the effective date of the Rule, shall have installed and are required to maintain and utilize an Amalgam Separator as specified below.
2. Amalgam Separators. All of the Dental Facility's Amalgam-containing wastewater shall be discharged through an Amalgam Separator that:
 - (a) Complies with ISO 11143 standards, or equivalent, and designed with a minimum removal of 98% solids, unless otherwise approved by the Metro District;

- (b) Has been properly sized for the volume and flow of the Dental Facility's Amalgam wastewater in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications and recommendations; and
 - (c) Has been installed and is operated and maintained according to the manufacturer's specifications.
- 3. Operations and Maintenance (O&M) Plan. Each Dental Facility shall develop an O&M Plan to ensure proper operation and maintenance of all Amalgam Separators and documentation of all maintenance activities. This plan must be kept current as facilities/maintenance activities change and must contain, at a minimum, the items identified in the District's Dental Amalgam Control Program Advisor.
- 4. At a minimum, unless specifically waived in writing by the Metro District, the following BMPs shall be implemented and compliance certified to annually.
 - (a) Amalgam selection. The Dental Facility shall use pre-capsulated, single-use Amalgam.
 - (b) Equipment. All dental chairs shall be equipped with chair-side traps and all vacuum pumps shall be equipped with traps or filters. All equipment shall be cleaned and maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
 - (c) Staff shall be trained in the proper handling and disposal of Amalgam material and keep a log documenting such training.
 - (d) The Dental Facility shall use non-chlorine or non-oxidizing disinfectants and neutral cleaners. When cleaning filters or collecting scrap Amalgam, the Dental Facility shall not rinse screens, filters, traps, or Amalgam Separators, or any other Amalgam containing equipment over sinks or drains. Spilled Amalgam must be cleaned up immediately. Each Dental Facility must provide protection from accidental discharges.
 - (e) All contact and non-contact Amalgam scrap shall be salvaged and stored in structurally sound, tightly closed and appropriately labeled containers.
 - (f) The Dental Facility shall recycle all bulk mercury and all Amalgam waste by transferring the waste to an offsite recycling facility for recycling of mercury or shall manage and dispose of the waste in accordance with applicable federal, state and local hazardous waste laws and regulations. At no time shall Amalgam waste be disposed of, or flushed, down the drain or toilet.
- 5. Record Keeping. The following documentation shall be established and maintained for no less than three (3) years and made available for review upon request from the Metro District:
 - (a) The receipts or documentation from recycling or disposal facility of all recycling and disposal shipments of Amalgam waste;

- (b) Logs of Amalgam waste removed for the vacuum system or plumbing;
 - (c) Documentation of maintenance performed on any Amalgam Separator; and
 - (d) Employee training logs.
6. Certifications. Within 30 days of installation and replacement of an initial Amalgam Separator(s) or the replacement of an existing Amalgam Separator, a certification of the Amalgam Separator installation must be submitted to the Metro District. Thereafter, annual compliance certifications must be submitted, stating that all Amalgam Separators were properly used and maintained and that all BMPs were followed. All certifications must be signed by an authorized representative of the Dental Facility.
7. Exempt Dental Facility. At the Metro District's discretion, waivers will be granted to dental facilities in which no dentist places or removes amalgams and/or teeth containing amalgams. A written request for a waiver must be sent to the District's Pretreatment/Industrial Waste Control Program. If approved annual certifications of "no Amalgam work" must be submitted to the Metro District.