

MODERATE RISK WASTE



UPDATING THE “350” RULE

Solid Waste Handling Standards,” Chapter 173-350 of the Washington Administrative Code, is a regulation addressing waste management issues as diverse as used tires, surface impoundments, and incineration.

These rules govern how individuals, businesses and governments can manage solid waste, what materials can be recycled, when permits are required, and many other technical details.

Updating the rule allows Ecology to address emerging issues, look for ways to improve its effectiveness and get feedback from stakeholders.



Section 360 — Moderate risk waste

Household hazardous waste and certain exempted wastes from businesses that generate small amounts of hazardous waste are collectively known as “moderate risk waste.”

The moderate risk waste (MRW) section of the 350 rule outlines the requirements associated with the management of these materials. In the 350 update, the applicability section is being slightly modified to clarify where and when the MRW regulations will apply.

Additional requirements for product take-back centers are being considered to ensure proper management of materials collected and provide stronger worker and environmental protections.

One significant change is a permit exemption for law enforcement agencies, which often accept household hazardous waste, such as taking waste pharmaceuticals from consumers to ensure proper disposal.

Preliminary changes

The rest of the changes being proposed are to improve clarity in the following areas:

- Annual reporting
- Segregating incompatible wastes
- Signage requirements
- Protecting moderate risk waste from wind, rain and snow
- Shipping moderate risk waste to out-of-state locations
- Requiring facility training descriptions and the need for trained personnel need to be present when moderate risk waste is accepted
- Notification to the local health department and Ecology of compliance issues or discharges to the environment
- Records retention.

Ecology recognizes that some local programs may have concerns with the requirement to have staff present when accepting wastes from the public. Some moderate risk waste facilities are currently operated as drop-off sites, and having trained personnel onsite when accepting moderate risk

Contacts

You can find documents, schedules and other information on our website: www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/swfa/rules/wac173350/1308ov.html

To be kept up to date on developments in the 350 rulemaking, please subscribe to our ListServ at the link above.

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Special accommodations

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waste may be an added cost. Ecology believes these costs can be minimized and support for this staffing is an appropriate use of Coordinated Prevention Grant funds.



Public input

After releasing a draft version of the revised 350 rule, Ecology will hold informal workshops to educate interested persons about the proposed changes. Feedback during this informal process may result in changes to the draft rule.

In September 2016, Ecology plans to formally announce proposed revisions. This will begin a formal comment period, including hearings where stakeholders can comment on the changes and ask questions that will be answered in the official rulemaking documents. Ecology hopes to adopt changes to the rule in the spring of 2017.

350 rule update schedule (dates subject to change)

Now	Draft rule available
July 21	Informal workshop—Lacey
July 26	Informal workshop—Ellensburg
July 27	Informal workshop—Spokane
Sept. 6	Informal comments due
December	Proposed rule filed
January-March, 2017	Public hearings on proposed rule
Spring, 2017	Rule adopted