

Liquid Wastes - Disposal

It is vital that liquid wastes are disposed of properly. This ensures that the recyclable liquids are used again and that hazardous substances are kept safe.

Some wastes are classified as a “trackable liquids” under the Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997 which means that it is subject to special monitoring and reporting requirements. Whether a waste is defined as “trackable” or not determines its disposal procedures.

Trackable liquid wastes

These wastes which are typical in the motor industry are classified as trackable liquid wastes:

Waste oil
Transmission fluid
Engine oil
Batteries
Oil & fuel filters*
Solvent cleaners
Aqueous cleaners
Paint waste
Clarifier sludges

*unless crushed and drained free of oil

For a full list of trackable wastes please see the environmental information guide; “List of Trackable Wastes”.

Trackable wastes must be removed by a licensed contractor for recycling or reuse. Businesses can only dispose of it if it is licensed by the Department of Environment and Climate Change (DECC) in NSW or Territory and Municipal Services (TAMS) in the ACT. Make sure you view the licence.

▪ Authorised contractor obligations
Authorised contractors must:

1. Obtain a consignment authorisation number from a licensed facility

A consignment authorisation (CA) is an approval for a specified waste to be transported from a waste producer to a receiving facility. A CA can be valid for a period of up to one year. CAs for transport solely within NSW can usually be obtained from the facility to which the waste is being transported.

2. Fill in a transport certificate

A transport certificate (TC) is a record of individual waste movement. It contains details of the waste producer, authorised contractor and the receiving facility, as well as amount and characteristics of the waste. The TC records relevant dates when the various stages in the waste movement occurred. A hard copy TC must accompany all trackable waste movements.

3. Transport the required waste to a licensed facility

4. Provide a written receipt within 21 days detailing the transaction

Keep this receipt for four years for auditing purposes.

▪ Waste producer obligations

Before the liquid waste is transported, as the waste producer it is your responsibility to:

1. Correctly characterise the waste

All trackable liquid wastes must be correctly characterised for the transport and disposal process. This means that each waste needs to be labelled with the form of the waste, waste classification, waste code, waste description and dangerous goods properties.

For more information please see the environmental information guide; "Liquid Wastes - Characterising".

2. Ensure that the facility ultimately accepting the liquid waste is a licensed facility

Even though a contractor is being procured to transport the liquid waste, it is ultimately the waste producer's responsibility to ensure that the waste is being disposed of correctly. Check by contacting the DECC in NSW or TAMS in the ACT if you are unsure.

3. Check documentation that the contractor is licensed

All transportations must be completed using a licensed contractor. Contractors are licensed by the DECC in NSW or TAMS in the ACT. When entering into an agreement with a contractor check the licence documentation.

4. Have a written agreement with the contractor that states they are authorised to consign waste on your behalf

▪ Exemptions

The Waste Regulations allow for some exemptions. For automotive workshops, the relevant exemption is that waste batteries that are being recycled, reprocessed or reused do not require a consignment authorisation number or a transport certificate. The receiving facility must be able to legally accept the waste.

▪ Exception reports

When an irregularity occurs an exception report needs to be lodged with the DECC in NSW or TAMS in the ACT.

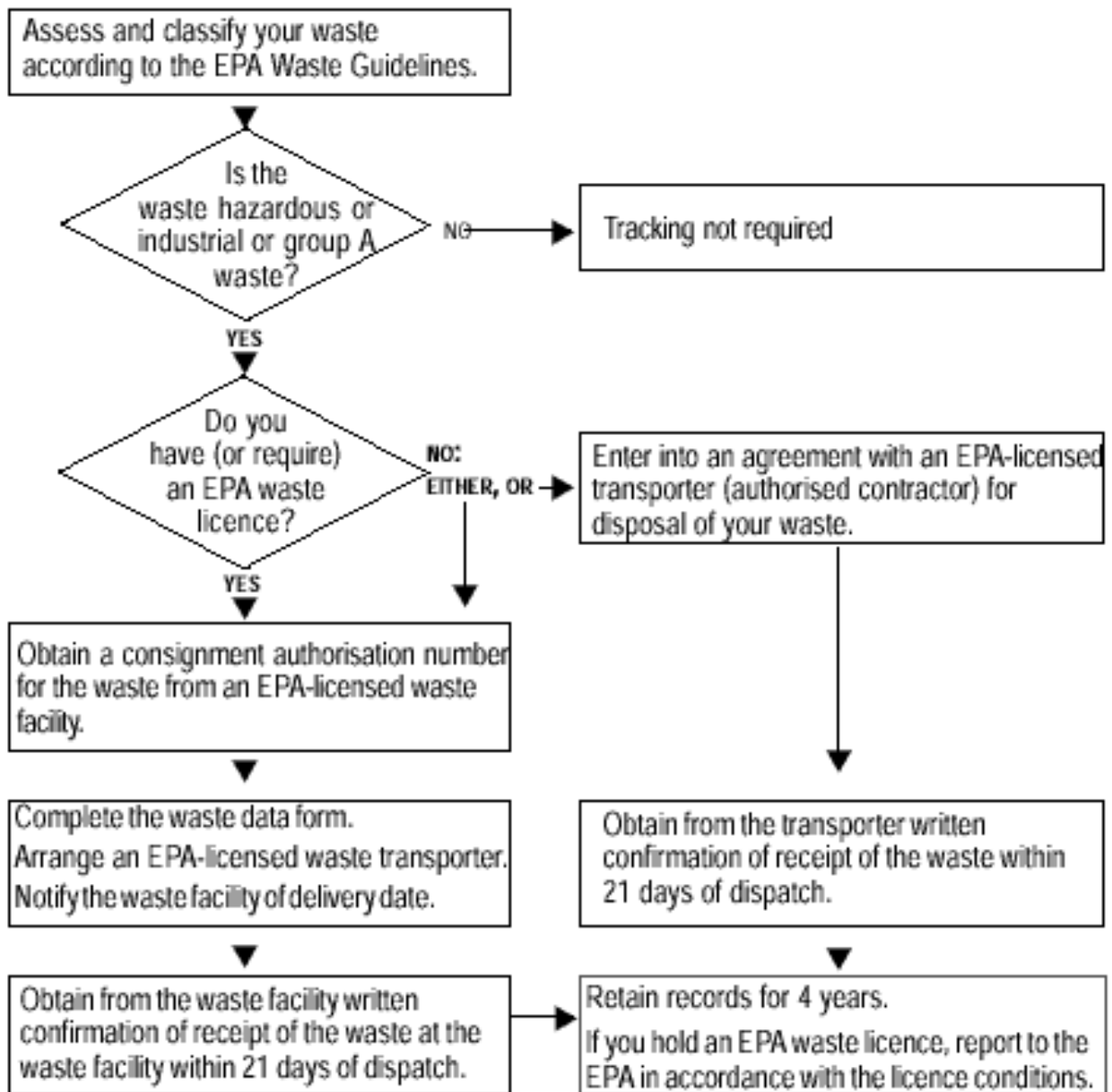
Waste producers, authorised contractors and waste facilities must notify the DECC or TAMS of any exception or discrepancy within the waste tracking system. This requirement is mandatory and intentional failure to lodge an exception report can be penalised.

The DECC and TAMS have the authority to conduct audits and check waste tracking documents at random.

Irregularities that require an exception report to be lodged are:

- Incorrect information on the TC
- Unallowable difference in quantities of waste recorded on the TC and delivered to the waste facility
- Absence of a hardcopy TC with the transported waste
- Transportation of waste with a CA
- Rejection of the waste by the waste facility.

Main steps in waste tracking



This information has been supplied by the Department of Environment and Climate Change (DECC) (source: <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/owt/index.htm#exemption>).

Online waste tracking (NSW)

Waste tracking obligations can be fulfilled by using the DECC's online waste tracking system. More information can be found at www.environment.nsw.gov.au/owt/index.htm.

This may help you to comply with the DECC's regulations without the hassle of paperwork. If the online waste tracking system is used by a business, the DECC does not require a quarterly report as it would for other waste producers.

Compliance

It is illegal to dump liquid wastes. The maximum penalty for dumping liquid waste that harms the environment is \$5 000 000 or a seven year jail sentence.

Supplying false or misleading information about waste is a maximum penalty of \$250 000 and causing waste to be transported to a place that cannot receive it is a maximum penalty of \$1 000 000.

Non-trackable liquid wastes

Liquid wastes that are not classified as "trackable" do not require the same procedures for disposal. However, the majority of liquid wastes produced in the automotive industry are trackable.

For liquid wastes that are not trackable, businesses should still take care to ensure that the wastes are properly disposed of or recycled where possible.

Key contacts

MTA NSW
02 9213 4222
www.greenstamp.mtansw.com.au

ACTewAGL (ACT)
13 11 93
www.actewagl.com.au

Department of Environment &
Climate Change (NSW)
131 555
www.environment.nsw.gov.au

Emergency Services
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Hunter Water (NSW)
1300 657 657
www.hunterwater.com.au

Local Council Contacts (NSW)
www.dlg.nsw.gov.au

Sydney Water (NSW)
13 20 92
www.sydneywater.com.au

Territory & Municipal Services (ACT)
13 22 81
www.tams.act.gov.au

WorkCover (ACT)
02 6205 0200
www.workcover.act.gov.au

WorkCover (NSW)
13 10 50
www.workcover.nsw.gov.au

Important Disclaimer

These Information Guides have been developed to assist MTA NSW and MTA ACT members to better manage their environmental impacts. However it remains the responsibility of the individual business to determine the extent to which various laws and best practice guidelines apply to them and to take appropriate steps to achieve compliance. Though every possible effort has been made, MTA NSW accepts no responsibility for the accuracy of the information.