

The Advocate

For and about small businesses and local governments affected by environmental regulations

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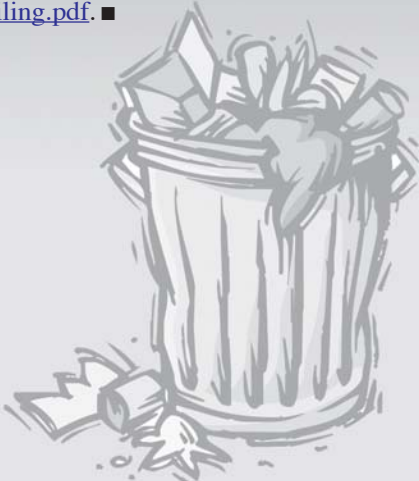
New Municipal Solid Waste Rules

New rules for all aspects of municipal solid waste (MSW) management in Texas became effective March 27, 2006. The commission has restructured these new rules to spell out clearly whether a facility needs a permit, registration, notification, or is eligible for an exemption.

The new rules continue to address all aspects of landfill and transfer-station design, permitting, processing, and operations. In addition, medical waste management, grease- and grit-trap processing, special waste, and MSW air authorization rules also changed.

For a direct link to the new rule go to www.tceq.state.tx.us/permitting/waste_permits/advgroups/msw_ch330_advgrp.html#rule.

A table is available to compare the old-rule language to the new requirements. Go to www.tceq.state.tx.us/assets/public/legal/rules/rule_lib/adoptions/Disposition-Table_adoCCO-filing.pdf. ■

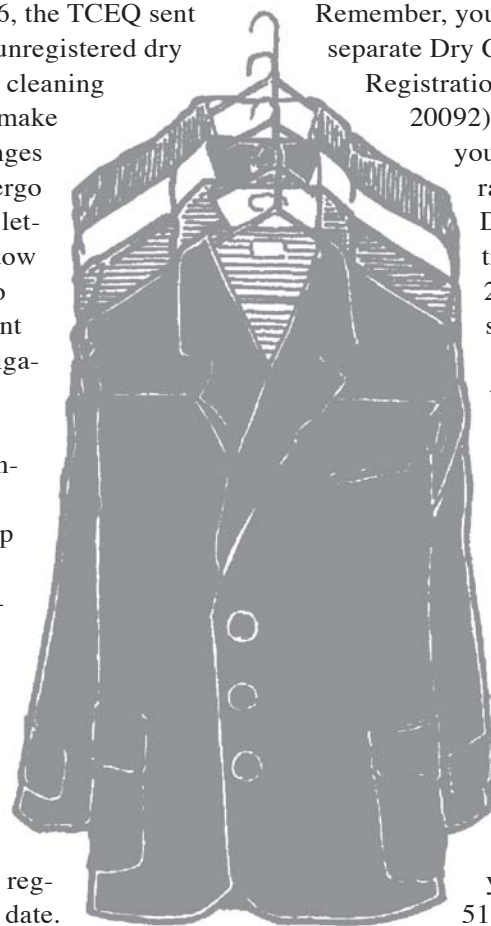


Dry Cleaners: Get Registered!

In March 2006, the TCEQ sent letters advising unregistered dry cleaners and dry cleaning drop stations to make compliance changes before they undergo inspection. This letter began a window of opportunity to become compliant before an investigator shows up.

Investigators began visiting unregistered dry cleaners and drop stations in May.

The investigations may result in fines of up to \$50 per day if the site has been unregistered. Take a minute to make certain that your registration is up to date.



Remember, you must complete a separate Dry Cleaning Facility Registration Form (TCEQ-20092) for each dry cleaner you operate and a separate Dry Cleaning Drop Station Registration Form (TCEQ-20207) for each drop station you operate.

Once your registration forms are processed and adequate payment has been received, you will receive your registration certificate.

To obtain an electronic copy of the registration forms go to www.tceq.state.tx.us/forms. If you have questions regarding your registration, call 512/239-2160. ■

New Waste Manifest in Effect Sept. 5

Beginning September 5, 2006, waste generators must use a new uniform hazardous waste manifest form to conform to federal rules. The new manifest will be used nationwide and will replace all state-specific hazardous waste manifests, including the Texas manifest. For updates on how to obtain copies of this new manifest, visit our Web site at www.tceq.state.tx.us/permitting/registration/ihw/epa_waste_manifest_system.html. ■

Submit Your Discharge Monitoring Reports Electronically

Looking for an easier way to meet your reporting requirements? Use a new Web-based system to submit required reports securely. The TCEQ has upgraded the State of Texas Environmental Electronic Reporting



Public Drinking Water Guide: Available Now!

The Small Business and Local Government Assistance program is proud to announce the completion of Public Drinking Water: A Guide for Local Governments (RG-422-LGG-2). This publication was developed to assist local officials in interpreting the revised public drinking water rules, give an overview of the programs administered by the Public Drinking Water Program, and provide financial and technical resources for water systems.

The guide covers requirements for complying with the rules, reporting criteria, investigations, certificates of convenience and necessity, and rates. You can obtain an electronic version of this publication at www.tceq.state.tx.us/publications or contact SBLGA at 1-800-447-2827 to request a copy today. ■

System (STEERS) to allow electronic submittal of discharge monitoring reports (DMRs). Facilities covered under various water quality permits complete these required reports.

Features of the new system include:

- Online submittal of DMRs through Web forms; users need only an Internet connection and a Web browser. Users also can choose to upload their DMR data using an electronic file format.
- Users can verify and validate their DMR data before they actually submit it, and find and correct mistakes prior to submitting the data.
- Users get a detailed “Copy of Record” once the submittals are accepted, which allows users to view their DMRs and print out copies for their records.
- Users can access a detailed help system and supporting documentation.

Users can submit data electronically through the electronic-DMR (e-DMR) system for the following Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (TPDES) permits where the TCEQ has enforcement authority:

- Industrial and domestic wastewater discharge individual permits

- General permits for discharges from concrete production facilities (TXG110000), petroleum fuel or petroleum substances (TXG830000), and wastewater and contact storm water from petroleum bulk stations and terminals (TXG340000).

By using this system, you can save yourself the cost and expense of paper DMR submittals. The system is free to use for all regulated entities, and signup is simple. Log on and go to <https://www6.tceq.state.tx.us/steers/> to sign up. ■



Renew Environmental Licenses and Registrations Online

Do you register with the TCEQ as a(n):

- Leaking Petroleum Storage Tank corrective action specialist?
- Underground Storage Tank contractor?
- Wastewater Operations company?
- Water Operations company?

If your registration has not been expired for more than 30 days, you can now renew online at www.tceq.state.tx.us/compliance/online_renewals.html.

To renew online, you need your registration number and your registration expiration date. You must use capital letters when entering your registration number (for example, RCAS12345). ■

Storm Water Operator Training Available

Local government officials and environmental professionals at federal facilities should attend the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Operators Conference in San Antonio, June 26–30, 2006.

Conference highlights include:

- Storm Water 101 for Beginners
- Updates on State Storm Water Programs
- Construction and Post-Construction Programs
- Inspections
- Spill Response
- Ordinance Development
- Funding Sources, and much more.

For registration information and to view the conference agenda, visit the conference Web page at

www.epa.gov/region6/6wq/npdes/sw/ms4/conference.htm.

Phase I MS4s serve populations greater than 100,000 and should hold a Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (TPDES) permit. Phase II MS4s serve populations less than 100,000. Phase II MS4s in urbanized areas (as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau) will need to apply for a general permit (TXR040000) or meet a waiver when the TCEQ authorizes this permit some time later this year. For more information and to view the draft Phase II MS4 general permit, visit www.tceq.state.tx.us/permitting/water_quality/stormwater/storm-water-navigation/ms4.html. ■



Local Specialists are Ready to Help You!

You have free, confidential help right in your back yard.

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Ross Muir 806/468-0505

Region 2 - Lubbock

Celeste Hoehne 806/788-5005

Region 3 - Abilene

Mandy Ellifritz 325/698-6104

Region 4 - Dallas/Ft. Worth

Tasha Burns 817/588-5868
David Hudson 817/588-5929

Region 5 - Tyler

Kathy Bell 903/535-5158

Region 6 - El Paso

Pamela Aguirre 915/834-4974

Region 7 - Midland

Janet Prim 432/620-6116

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Ronnie Garza 956/389-7425

Region 16 - Laredo

Carmen Ramirez 956/721-8457

UPCOMING EVENTS

Hazardous Waste Rules Workshops

June 20 • Webster

Webster Civic Center

June 22 • Houston

University of Houston Small Business Center

June 27 • Fort Worth

Texas Manufacturing Assistance Center

August 1 • Farmers Branch

Manke Library

Call 512/239-3150 or e-mail events@tceq.state.tx.us
for more information on these events.

The Advocate

The Advocate is published quarterly by the Small Business and Local Government Assistance (SBLGA) Program of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ).

You are currently on our subscription list to receive the quarterly rules update, The Advocate. Instead of receiving the paper copy in the mail, you now have the option of receiving e-mails from us when we post the latest issue in PDF format on our Web site at www.tceq.state.tx.us/comm_exec/forms_pubs/pubs/pd/pd-006.html.

If you would prefer the e-mail instead of the printed copy, please e-mail us at sbap@tceq.state.tx.us. Be sure to let us know the name your subscription is under and the e-mail address you would prefer us to send to, if different from the one you use to contact us.

YOU CAN CALL ON US

Get free, confidential help with questions on air, water, waste, or pollution prevention issues from this special section of the TCEQ.

SBLGA works for you by:

- providing local environmental assistance when and where it's needed;
- giving small business and local government a voice in TCEQ rule and policy making; and
- communicating technical information in plain language.

SBLGA is entirely separate from TCEQ's enforcement program.



The TCEQ is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer. The agency does not allow discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, disability, age, sexual orientation or veteran status. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, this document may be requested in alternate formats by contacting the TCEQ at 512/239-0028, Fax 512/239-4488 or 1-800-RELAY-TX (TDD), or by writing P.O. Box 13087, Austin, TX 78711-3087.

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Toll Free and Confidential
1-800-447-2827

On the Web at:
www.sblga.info

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