

Title: APS Policies and Procedures – Disposal of Solvent Wipes

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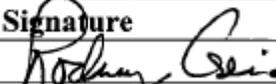
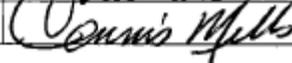
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Approvals

Review and approvals:

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APS Policy on Disposal of Solvent Wipes

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Purpose

This policy defines the storage and disposal requirements for wipes used at the Advanced Photon Source (APS) that were wetted with Acetone, Ethanol, or Methanol to clean high-vacuum components at APS.

1.2 Scope

This policy identifies the storage and disposal requirements only for wipes wetted with Acetone, Ethanol, or Methanol. These solvents are single-use reagents and have not been previously used in any other operation. The solvents are typically transferred from their original reagent bottles to normal laboratory polyethylene-type squeeze bottles with NFPA Hazard Communication labeling identifying the solvent. The component surfaces have no greases, oils, or hazardous material, and must be handled in such a manner as to minimize any contamination that would preclude the system obtaining an extremely pure vacuum typically in the range of 10^{-12} Torr. The wiping process is used to remove fingerprints, handling smudges, dust, etc.

The wipes would normally be lightly wetted with <5 grams of solvent prior to wiping surfaces. They contain no free liquid and would routinely dry in the process of wiping the surface or shortly thereafter.

Wipes contaminated with all other solvents or any greases, oils, or hazardous materials shall be disposed of as hazardous waste. Requested exceptions to the disposal requirements shall be reviewed on a case-by-case basis by the Divisional ESH Coordinator.

1.3 Applicability

This policy applies to all applicable wipes generated at APS.

1.4 Background

USEPA has not promulgated a national policy on solvent-contaminated rags or wipes. Rags or wipes that pick up incidental amounts of solvent while being used for their intended purposes are regulated by regional EPA offices and authorized states on a case-by-case basis.

Discussions with the EQO Environmental Group and PFS Waste Management Operations have concluded that the solvent wipes within the scope of this policy need to be disposed of through WMO as “Special Waste.” Special Waste is defined by the Illinois Environmental Protection Act as any waste that has not been declassified

based on its toxic score according to IEPA regulations. Requirements for special waste are much less stringent than for RCRA Hazardous Waste; but their disposal still must be managed properly.

2. USED WIPE STORAGE

All applicable solvent wipes must be collected and segregated from normal trash during work. Wipes may be stored in segregated storage cans or bags as generated. The wipes shall be transferred to conveniently located drums for collection and handled as Special Waste to be picked up by WMO. The drums will be clearly marked as “Special Waste” and a brief description of contents such as “Acetone, Ethanol, or Methanol Wipes from High Vacuum Components Only.” The location of the drums must be approved by the Division ESH Coordinator or CAT/CDT safety personnel. Groups, CATs/CDTs, divisions, etc. must assure that only wipes used with the listed solvents and which contain no greases, oils, or hazardous materials are placed in the containers. This can be accomplished by locking the containers or placing them within areas controlled by the respective groups or divisions.

Wipes generated in the accelerator enclosures must be surveyed by AOD-HP prior to removal.

Wipes soaked in solvents (dripping or able to be wrung out) must be brought to the attention of the Division ESH Coordinator or CAT/CDT Safety Officer before disposal or placement into the drums and before transporting them from the lab or beyond the immediate work area.

3. USED WIPE DISPOSAL

Full containers will be surveyed by AOD-HP and the proper WMO documentation and labeling will be completed by the Group/CAT/CDT/Division Hazardous Waste certifier.

References

- [ANL ESH Manual: 11.3 Flammable and Combustible Liquids](#)
- [ANL Waste Handling Procedure Manual: APPENDIX A: EPA HAZARDOUS WASTES - RCRA WASTES](#)
- [ANL Waste Handling Procedure Manual: APPENDIX G: WASTE DISPOSAL PATHS](#)