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SUNSET OF UNIVERSAL WASTE DISPOSAL EXEMPTIONS

After the temporary disposal exemptions ended on February 8, 2006, universal waste lamps, batteries, thermostats and certain electronic devices generated from households and small businesses may no longer be disposed in the trash. Many questions relating to the implementation and enforcement of this regulatory change have been posed to the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) and the Integrated Waste Management Board (IWMB).

On January 10, 2006, DTSC issued a memorandum to address the sunset of the disposal exemptions. On January 11, 2006, the IWMB issued an initial guidance letter for Local Enforcement Agencies (LEA) and solid waste facility operators addressing basic questions regarding the impact of the regulatory change on facility operations.

Today's guidance letter is jointly issued by the DTSC and the IWMB for the purpose of answering additional questions which have been raised and to insure consistency in the interpretation and application of relevant regulations and guidance. The DTSC and the IWMB jointly developed a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) format for addressing these additional questions. The DTSC and IWMB guidance documents and FAQs are posted on both of the following web pages. We will continue to augment the FAQs as new questions and issues arise.

DTSC: <http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/HazardousWaste/UniversalWaste/index.cfm>

IWMB: <http://www.ciwmb.ca.gov/LEACentral/UniWaste>

In conjunction with the specific guidance provided in the FAQs, the DTSC and IWMB expect that operators of solid waste facilities will continue to operate in accordance with existing load checking requirements and permit terms and conditions.

The DTSC and IWMB will continue to work together to ensure that implementation and enforcement of this change is consistent and is focused on the protection of public health, safety, and the environment.

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Any additional questions regarding this guidance may be directed to Karl Palmer of DTSC at kpalmer@dtsc.ca.gov or Robert Holmes of IWMB at rholmes@ciwmb.ca.gov.

Respectfully,

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