

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

Office of Solid Waste



# Environmental Fact Sheet

## No Hazardous Waste Listing Determined for 14 solvents

### Background

Section 3001 of the Resources Conservation and Recovery Act required the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to identify and list those wastes that must be managed as hazardous waste under Subtitle C of RCRA. In 1980, EPA listed certain chemicals as hazardous waste spent solvents. In 1986, new spent solvents listings raised the total number of listings to 30. Many of these solvents were widely used in many different industries, and their use had resulted in environmental damage at many sites. Although the Agency listed these solvents as hazardous, other solvents potentially hazardous to human health and the environment were not examined. As a result of a consent decree issued in June 1991, EPA agreed to make hazardous waste listings determination on wastes generated from 14 additional chemicals used as solvents.

### Action

EPA is finalizing a proposal not to amend the regulations for hazardous waste management under RCRA for wastes generated during the use of certain organic solvents. The Agency will not list, as hazardous spent solvents, those wastes that are generated from the use of any of the following 14 chemicals which EPA found are sometimes used as solvents: acetonitrile, benzyl chloride, cumene, cyclohexanol, 1,4-dichlorobenzene, epichlorohydrin, ethylene dibromide, 2-ethoxyethanol acetate, furfural, isophorone, 2-methoxyethanol, 2-methoxyethanol acetate, methyl chloride, and phenol.

Based on current management practices and low levels of exposure, EPA has determined that those solvent wastes not already managed as hazardous pose little or no risk to human health or the environment. Only a few of these chemicals are widely used as solvents, and most have either no significant solvent use or only very specialized solvent use. The proposal is **not** a

determination that these chemicals are nontoxic. The vast majority of the nonwastewaters residuals generated from solvent uses are, in fact, already regulated as hazardous waste because they exhibit a hazardous waste characteristic. Rather, this is a determination that these specific wastes do not need to be added to the RCRA spent solvent hazardous waste listings.

### **For More Information**

The *Federal Register* notice and this fact sheet are available in electronic format on the Internet through the EPA Public Access Server. The notice is available <http://www.epa.gov/rules>, regulations, and legislation. This fact sheet and other documents related to this rule are available under "EPA Offices and Regions." For additional information or to order paper copies of any documents, call the RCRA Hotline. Callers within the Washington Metropolitan Area must dial 703-412-9810 or TDD 703-412-3323 (hearing impaired). Long-distance callers may call 1-800-424-9346 or TDD 1-800-553-7672. The RCRA Hotline operates weekdays, 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Write to the RCRA Information Center (5305W), US EPA, 401 M Street, SW, Washington, DC 20460.