

028416S02 HANDLING OF LIGHTING BALLASTS AND LAMPS CONTAINING PCBS AND MERCURY-Management of Fluorescent Light Wastes

Recent Federal and State regulations have been applied to fluorescent lighting waste due to minute quantities of mercury and other metals that may be contained in spent fluorescent bulbs. The University of Kentucky will manage all used unbroken fluorescent bulbs as "Universal Waste" under the new EPA regulations. These bulbs will be recycled as part of our continuing efforts for waste minimization.

What is Fluorescent Lighting Waste?

Fluorescent lighting waste refers to used fluorescent lamp bulbs that are spent, burned out or have been removed due to their low level of efficiency. Fluorescent bulbs may no longer be placed in the regular trash. Unbroken used fluorescent bulbs will be managed as Universal Waste using the procedures described below. Broken or damaged fluorescent lamp bulbs must be treated as hazardous waste and will be managed under UK's Hazardous Waste Program.

Managing Used Fluorescent Bulbs

Only properly trained maintenance personnel may change out fluorescent bulbs. The bulbs will be placed back into original shipping containers supplied by Hazardous Materials Management (HMM). These containers will be stored until they are full. Full containers marked with magic marker, or wax pencil, stating the words "Universal Waste Fluorescent Light Bulbs," the number of bulbs in the container, and the building(s) where they originated. Maintenance personnel on campus should contact HMM when containers are full. Off campus sites may make arrangements to deliver bulbs directly to HMM, contact HMM to make arrangements.

Central Storage Area

Full containers of spent bulbs will be taken to UK's central storage area for fluorescent lighting waste. Containers will be logged in on the sign-in sheet located in the storage area. The number of bulbs, location they came from, and the size of the bulbs will be recorded.

Managing Broken or Damaged Fluorescent Bulbs

Broken or damaged bulbs will be treated as hazardous waste. All the spill debris from broken or damaged bulbs must be cleaned up and placed into a sealed bag. The bag should then be placed in a puncture-proof container (such as a cardboard box) and labeled "Hazardous Waste." This waste will be managed under UK's Hazardous Waste Program utilizing waste tickets, like any other hazardous waste.

Who needs to be trained under this program?

All maintenance workers and any other UK personnel who change out fluorescent light bulbs and their supervisors. Initial training will be performed by Hazardous Materials Management. Subsequent training and training of new employees will be performed by supervisors or other designated persons within the units.