Right to Know Update 2003

Overview

The New Jersey Worker and Community Right to Know Act, which became law in 1983, requires public and private employers to provide information about hazardous substances at their workplaces to:

- Give public employees information about what hazardous substances are located at their workplace and how to work with these hazardous substances safely;

- Help firefighters, police and other emergency response personnel to adequately plan for and respond to hazardous substance incidents such as fires, explosions or spills;

- Provide data for monitoring and tracking hazardous substances in the workplace.

Survey

The 2002 Right to Know (RTK) Survey Update will be mailed to employers during the month of April 2003. All covered public employers are required to complete this update survey and return it to the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services, Right to Know Program by July 15, 2003. In 2002, Survey forms were sent to 1,600 public employers with 11,300 facilities.

Regulatory Agencies

Private employers follow the regulations of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Agency and the Bureau of Chemical Release Information and Prevention. Public employers follow the regulations of the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS), Division of Epidemiology, Environmental and Occupational Health Services and the Right to Know Program.

Management of Universal Waste in New Jersey

On June 17, 2002 the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) adopted an amendment to the Universal Waste Rule (UWR) including consumer electronics as a universal waste. Consumer electronics are defined in the rule as: “any appliance used in the home or business that includes circuitry.” Consumer electronics includes the components and sub-assemblies that collectively make up the electronic products and may, when individually broken down, include batteries, mercury switches, capacitors containing PCBs, cadmium plated parts and lead or cadmium containing plastics. Examples of consumer electronics include, but are not limited to, computers, printers, copiers, telefaximiles, VCRs, stereos, televisions, and telecommunication devices.”

Under the Universal Waste Rule, a generator of consumer electronics is regulated as a small or large quantity handler. A small quantity handler of universal waste accumulates less than 5,000 kilograms (11,000 pounds) of universal waste at any given time. This includes all types of universal waste being generated at the site. A large quantity handler of universal waste accumulates greater than 5,000 kilograms of universal waste at any given time. The management requirements for small quantify handlers are found at N.J.A.C. 7:26A-7.4 and the management requirements for large quantity handlers are found at N.J.A.C. 7:26A-7.5. A generator of consumer electronics may send their electronics to another universal waste handler or to a demanufacturer.
Right to Know
Administration and Enforcement

In New Jersey, three state agencies work together to implement both federal and state Community Right to Know (CRTK) requirements.

New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS)

Enforces all provisions of the Community Right to Know Act in public workplaces.
- Enforces Community Right to Know labeling in private workplaces
- Prepares Hazardous Substance Fact Sheets (HSFS), the Right to Know (RTK) Brochure and related written material
- Community Right to Know Surveys from public sector employers must be sent to the Department of Health and Senior Services.

Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)

- Enforces the Community Right to Know provisions for private sector employees (except for labeling)
- Responsible for implementation of the federal emergency planning and reporting of hazardous chemicals
- Community Right to Know Surveys from private employers must be sent to the DEP

New Jersey Department of Labor (DOL)

- Community Right to Know fees from private employers are collected by the DOL

Although public and private sectors are administered by different agencies, the rules are the same.

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(continued)

Enforcement

The major enforcement responsibility of the Program is to conduct field inspections of 32,000 private and 1,600 public employers. Field inspectors review public employer workplaces for the survey, labeling, central file, poster and education and training requirements of the RTK Act. They review private employer workplaces for RTK labeling for compliance with the Community Right to Know Provisions of the Act.

Hazardous Substance Fact Sheets

Hazardous Substance Fact Sheets are prepared for substances listed on the New Jersey Right to Know Hazardous Substance List. One thousand six hundred and eleven (1,611) fact sheets have been completed. This year, fifty RTK Hazardous Substance Fact Sheets have been revised and 50 new fact sheets have been added to the on-line collection. The Spanish Fact Sheets are also available on-line.

The Hazardous Substance Fact Sheets are prepared on pure substances and contain information on health hazards, exposure limits, personal protective equipment, proper handling, first aid, and emergency procedures for fires and spills. Completed Hazardous Substance Fact Sheets are distributed to public employers for those chemicals reported on their Right to Know Surveys, and to workers residents who request copies from the Program. In addition, complete sets of Hazardous Fact Sheets are distributed to local health departments, fire departments, hospital and other public agencies.

The fact sheets are also disseminated on electronic media and are accessible on CD-ROM and on-line services.

For additional information contact the RTK Infoline at 609-984-2202 or visit the RTK website: http://www.state.nj.us/health/eho/rtkweb/rtkact.htm
Tick-Borne Disorders

In South Jersey, most residents are familiar with the symptoms of Lyme Disease caused by a spirochete named *borrelia burgdorferi*. According to the Lyme Disease Foundation, the black-legged, western black-legged and the lone star tick can transmit Lyme Disease. Many other disorders can be transmitted by ticks.

**Babesiosis**
Babesiosis is a malaria-like infection caused by several Babesia protozoa, that parasitize red blood cells. There are several species in the East and newly described species from the Midwest and West coast. The black-legged tick and probably the western black-legged tick transmit the infection.

**Symptoms:**
Fever, chills, fatigue, headache, muscle pain, and anemia. A blood test may reveal the parasite in red blood cells or demonstrate an immune system response to the infection. Chronic, mild infection occurs. Babesiosis is more severe, and sometimes fatal, in elderly people or those who have had their spleens removed. Immunosuppression may occur.

**Ehrlichiosis**
Ehrlichiosis is caused by *rickettsiae*-like organisms, which are intracellular parasites. **Human monocytic ehrlichiosis** is caused by *Ehrlichia (E.) chaffeensis*. The American dog, lone star and probably the wester black-legged ticks transmit the infection. **Human granulocytic ehrlichiosis**, is a related variation and is probably caused by an *E. equi*-related strain. It is transmitted by the black-legged tick and probably the western black-legged, American dog ticks. Cases have been found nationwide.

**Symptoms:**
Fever, malaise, headache, chills severe muscle aches/pain, vomiting, anemia, lung infection, decrease in white blood cells, decrease in platelets, and elevated liver enzymes. A rash can occur in a small percentage of people. Neurological symptoms include seizures, encephalopathy, meningitis, confusion, ataxia, cranial nerve palsy, change in mental status. Symptoms can also be nonspecific.

Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever (RMSF)
RMSF is caused by *Rickettsia rickettsii* and is reported from across North America, but is most prevalent in the Eastern U.S. The American dog, Rocky Mountain wood, Pacific Coast and possibly the lone star ticks transmit the infection.

**Symptoms:**
Flu-like aches/pain, headache, chills, confusion, light sensitivity and high fever. A reddish-to-black rash (resembling measles) starts on the extremities and may spread to the entire body. Death can occur. Blood tests will not be positive until 2 weeks after onset. Therefore, doctors must make a clinical diagnosis and treat early, as the main cause of death is delayed or improper treatment.

Other types of tick-borne disorders include:
- Tularemia (rabbit fever)
- Tick Paralysis
- Relapsing Fever and
- Colorado TickFever

A detailed description of the symptoms of these disorders can be found at the Lyme Disease Foundation website at: [www.lyme.org](http://www.lyme.org). Early detection and treatment for all tick-borne disorders can make a big difference in the intensity and long-term impact of a tick bite.

**NJ Universal Waste (continued)**

Companies that are strictly refurbishing electronics for resale or donation do not need an approval from the DEP to operate. A list of facilities that are approved to demanufacture consumer electronics can be found at: [www.state.nj.us](http://www.state.nj.us)

In addition to spent computers and computer monitors, waste regulated in New Jersey (NJAC 7:26-1,3) as Universal Waste are batteries, pesticides, thermostats, lamps, mercury-containing devices and oil-based finishes.

These items must be stored in marked containers that do not leak. The label must include information on the type of material stored and the date when storage began. The container can be used to accumulate the universal waste for a maximum time of one year before it is sent for recycling. Employees must receive training for proper handling of universal wastes and procedures to follow in case of an emergency. Records of universal waste shipments must be kept for 3 years.

Reference: New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection website: [www.state.nj.us/dep](http://www.state.nj.us/dep)

**Health & Safety Telephone Numbers:**

Safety & Compliance Coordinator:
Dennis Lepore ext 4751
Right to Know Clerk: Janet Mazzocca ext 4529
RTK Training Scheduler: Laura LaPorte ext4384

Atlantic County Department of Health:
(609)645-7700 ext 4378

NJ Department of Health and Senior Services:
Right to Know Information: (609)984-2202

NJ Department of Environmental Protection:
Community RTK Program: (609)292-6714
NJ Department of Labor (PEOSHA)
Div. of Workplace Safety Std: (609)633-2587
Div. of Workplace Health: (609)984-1863

Federal Depart. of Labor Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA): (609)757-5181
Campus Police: Emergency ext 911
Non-emergency ext 4390
Poison Control: 1-800-222-1222

**New Life Jacket Rule**

The United States Coast Guard’s Life Jacket Rule went into effect December 23, 2002. In support of the ongoing efforts of the states and Coast Guard to improve boating safety, the Coast Guard is requiring that all children under 13 years of age wear Coast Guard approved life jackets, while aboard recreational vessels underway, except when the children are below decks or in an enclosed cabin.

This rule was created to address the problem of childhood drownings while boating. Between 1995-2001, 210 children, under the age of 13 died while boating. One hundred and twenty one of them died by drowning. Most of these deaths could have been prevented if the child had been wearing a properly fitted life jacket.

**EPA Green Vehicle Guide2003**

Before you buy a new car or truck, check out the Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) Green Vehicle Guide which rates every vehicle according to the amount of tail pipe pollutants that contribute to smog. Vehicles are ranked on a scale of 0 to 10. The vehicle ratings can be found at [www.epa.gov/greenvehicles](http://www.epa.gov/greenvehicles). The information found on the website can help you choose a fuel-efficient vehicle. Low emissions and good fuel economy are both important for the environment.

**Safety Hotline**

Atlantic County has a highway safety hotline to report hazardous conditions on a county road. Call (1-877) 426-7623.

Stockton Safety website: [http://www2.stockton.edu/human_resources/health_and_safety/](http://www2.stockton.edu/human_resources/health_and_safety/)