

Welcome to the Wonderful World of Waste and the School Laboratory

Part V

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This quarter's article regards the new rules for completing the waste transport certificates, which will apply to all schools if you dispose of chemicals. The requirement for this is outlined in the first article in this Wonderful Waste series.

From 1st July 2019, Victoria EPA, who administer the transport and disposal of chemical wastes, will not be accepting the paper-based waste transport certificates, ie the pink and green copies your friendly waste man leaves with you when your chemicals are collected. Remember, the pink must be posted to EPA within seven days and the green copy is to be retained by disposer, ie you, for 24 months. In place of the paper certificates, which have the additional benefit of being proof of legal disposal, all disposers will be required to register with the EPA via its Portal. Also, the waste producer, ie you, will need to purchase electronic versions of the transport certificates which cost \$0.50 each. The electronic system has been in place for years now but is rarely used by schools as your disposals usually only occur once or twice a year

Advantages are that only holders of permitted vehicles and licensed premises can be accessed, and you won't be able to use a waste company that does not have your waste stream (such as laboratory chemicals) on its list of wastes they are licensed to accept for treatment. We also understand that electronic certificates will be free of charge for the first 12 months, although this is subject to confirmation. The usually atrocious handwriting of the waste man will now of course become irrelevant, so no more wondering what is written on the paper certificates.

Disadvantages are that disposers must register themselves on the EPA Portal and therefore must have internet access and a computer with printer available. Envirostore is investigating doing school collections via the Accredited Agent system. This simply means we do the certificate on your behalf, but it only applies for a run of the same type of collections on the same day, which is often the case when we do a number of schools in an area, particularly in the country. Also on the cards is accessing the portal via handheld and mobile devices which would be a phone, pad or similar, but we will see how this works at the time.

It is the responsibility of the waste producer to initiate a certificate. This can be done well before the actual collection and final weights and amounts can be filled in on the day. The registration of the

vehicle used for the collection needs to be advised as this will complete part B of the certificate, which is the transporter details. In our case, this is the same as the disposal site. A printed copy of the certificate with parts A and B completed (the same as the paper certificates) is produced for the waste transporter (ie Envirostore) to carry with him. The waste treater (also Envirostore), when he gets back to HQ with your waste, logs in using their password and user name and retrieves the electronic certificate and completes part C online. You, as the waste producer, can go online and see the completed certificate

So how do you register to be a waste producer? You go to the following site <https://portal.epa.vic.gov.au> and follow the prompts. You (the school) will receive a username and password to access the Portal where you can prepare a waste transport certificate as a waste producer. There are three choices -waste producer, transporter or waste treater. Envirostore is all three.

We urge all schools to go to the EPA website, or to the above site, and have a look and register because we will not be able to do a collection from you after 1 July this year unless you are registered.

At this stage we are unaware of any exemptions or alternatives to the new rules. We will continue to use paper certificates up until the cut off but certainly feel free to register before then. If the school has any other disposals or prescribed waste (see article 1 for a definition) then the same requirements will apply. Your skips and bins will not usually be prescribed so won't need to do a certificate but any medical waste from sick rooms or first aid bays will require a transport permit to be completed.

As usual feel free to contact us for questions on the new requirements and don't panic, we are here to assist.

Next month we will get back to some of our favourite chemicals (eg anything we can recycle/reuse) and least favourite (white phosphorous of course the hands down winner here) plus some chemicals you won't come across in School, just to scare you. We still need to have a go at gas cylinders also.

Any comments good bad or otherwise contact me or Jessica the Lablines editor, especially if there are any topics you would like mentioned in future articles.