

TRANSFER STATION AND COLLECTION GUIDANCE

October 2018

The purpose of this guidance document is to clarify Rule 391-3-4-.06 as it relates to the operation of solid waste transfer stations and solid waste collection operations.

Solid waste transfer stations and collection operations are regulated by the Rules for Solid Waste Management, Chapter 391-3-4. Below are excerpts from sections -.01, -.04, and -.06 as they apply to transfer station and collection operations.

391-3-4-.01 Definitions

(15) "Collector" means the person or persons as defined herein who, under agreements, verbal or written, with or without compensation does the work of collecting and/or transporting solid wastes, from industries, offices, retail outlets, businesses, institutions, and/or similar locations, or from residential dwellings, provided however, that this definition shall not include an individual collecting and/or transporting waste from his own single family dwelling unit.

(79) "Transfer Station" means a facility used to transfer solid waste from one transportation vehicle to another for transportation to a disposal facility or processing operation.

391-3-4-.04 General

(8) Asbestos Containing Waste

(a) Collection.

1. Vehicles used for the transportation of containerized asbestos waste shall have an enclosed carrying compartment or utilize a covering sufficient to contain the transported waste, prevent damage to containers, and prevent release or spillage from the vehicle.
2. Vehicles used to reduce waste volume by compaction shall not be used.
3. Vacuum trucks used to transport waste slurry must be constructed and operated to ensure that liquids do not leak from the truck.

Rule 391-3-4-.06 Permit by Rule for Collection, Transportation, Processing, and Disposal.

(1) Permit-by-Rule. Notwithstanding any other provision of these Rules, collection operations, transfer station operations, inert waste landfill operations, waste processing and thermal treatment operations, wastewater treatment and pretreatment plant sludge disposal operations, and yard trimmings waste landfill operations shall be deemed to have a solid waste handling permit if the conditions in paragraph (2) are met and the conditions in paragraph (3), for that particular category of operation are met.

(2) Notification. Within 30 days of commencing solid waste handling activities which are covered under a permit-by-Rule, notification must be made to the Director of such activity. Notification shall be made on such forms as are provided by the Director. Persons failing to notify the Director of such activities shall be deemed to be operating without a permit.

(3) Categories of Operations:

(a) Collection Operations:

1. Vehicle construction: vehicles or containers used for the collection and transportation of garbage and similar putrescible wastes, or mixtures containing such wastes, shall be covered, substantially leakproof, durable, and of easily cleanable construction.
2. Vehicle maintenance: solid waste collection and transportation vehicles shall be cleaned frequently and shall be maintained in good repair.
3. Littering and spillage: vehicles or containers used for the collection and transportation of solid waste shall be loaded and moved in such manner that the contents will not fall, leak or spill therefrom and shall be covered when necessary to prevent blowing of material from the vehicle.
4. No regulated quantities of hazardous wastes may be collected and transported except in accordance with the provisions of the Georgia Hazardous Waste Management Act, O.C.G.A. 12-8-60 et seq.
5. Local ordinances: it is the responsibility of the collector to comply with all local rules, regulations, and ordinances pertaining to operation of solid waste collection systems.
6. All wastewater from cleaning of vehicles must be handled in a manner which meets all applicable environmental laws and regulations.
7. All collected solid waste must be deposited only in a permitted solid waste handling facility authorized to receive the applicable waste types.
8. After July 1, 1992, municipal solid waste may not be transported from a jurisdiction to a municipal solid waste disposal facility located in another county unless the jurisdiction

generating the waste is actively involved in and has a strategy for meeting the state- wide goal of waste reduction by July 1, 1996.

(b) Transfer Station operations:

1. Solid Waste shall be confined to the interior of transfer stations buildings, and not allowed to scatter to the outside. Waste shall not be allowed to accumulate, and floors shall be kept clean and well drained.
2. Sewage solids shall be excluded from transfer stations.
3. Dust, odors and similar conditions resulting from transfer operations shall be controlled at all times.
4. Rodents, insects and other such pests shall be controlled.
5. Any contaminated runoff from washwater shall be discharged to a wastewater treatment system and, before final release, shall be treated in a manner approved by the Division.
6. Hazardous Waste: no person owning or operating a transfer station shall cause, suffer, allow, or permit the handling of regulated quantities of hazardous waste.
7. Liquid wastes restricted from landfill disposal by Rule 391-3-4-.04(9) shall be excluded from transfer stations. Transfer stations in existence on August 1, 2004 and in compliance with all other regulations applicable to permit by rule transfer stations may continue to handle such liquid wastes until a solid waste processing facility permit is issued or August 1, 2006, whichever occurs first.

(Note: Categories (c)-(f) are omitted from this guidance.)

General

The siting of transfer station and collection operations are subject to local zoning and land use regulations. As such, these operations may be located in or near residential areas or public facilities. The facility operator should be sensitive to the fact that this is a solid waste handling facility and continuously monitor the operation and minimize the impact the operation may have on the surrounding community.

The following sections expand on certain rules selected from the referenced section, 391-3-4-.06, for transfer stations and collection operations. These explanations aim to clarify for both operators and regulators what is meant by the Rules. This guidance is directed towards municipal solid waste and construction/demolition (C&D) waste transfer stations and collection operations. It is not intended to include other transfer stations and collection operations that may handle other types of waste such as biomedical waste.

Any operational changes required at existing facilities must be implemented by March 1, 2019. Structural changes to the facilities, including addition of or updates to enclosed structures and holding tanks, must be made by October 1, 2019.

Interpretations: Collection Operations

Applicability. An operation is considered solid waste collection and must comply with this rule if the collector, as defined in 391-3-4-.01 above, is aggregating waste from multiple individuals, or picking up solid waste from multiple locations per day. This includes house to house garbage pick-up as well as roll-off/dumpster operations.

Collection operations do not include personally owned vehicles used by individuals to transport their own wastes, or personally owned vehicles used for junk hauling that are not registered as a commercial vehicle.

Any collection operation that transports asbestos containing waste must also meet the criteria in 391-3-4-.04(8)(a) above.

1. Vehicle Construction

EPD interprets “covered” to mean that collection vehicles will be covered with a tarp or similar device when there is waste in the collection vehicle and after waste has been removed. Once the truck is cleaned after removal of waste, it is not necessary to cover until it picks up more waste.

EPD interprets “substantially leakproof” to mean that only intermittent drops of liquid can escape the collection vehicle. If the amount of liquid escaping is a steady stream then the collection vehicle is not considered substantially leakproof. If the rate of liquid release would, in the opinion of an enforcement officer, equal a significant release over the duration of the collection route, the vehicle is not substantially leakproof.

2. Vehicle Maintenance

Collection vehicles will be visually inspected for cleanliness at least daily, or more frequently when necessary. Cleaning efforts must remove litter that remains within trucks, trailers and other containers, or that is stuck to the exterior of the vehicle.

If complaints are received, the collector will implement regular cleaning procedures. Vehicles will not go unwashed overnight if they have transported particularly malodorous wastes. If vehicles are not cleaned overnight or particularly malodorous vehicles are left unwashed overnight, they must be covered with an impermeable tarp or parked inside an enclosed structure, or the vehicle must have a fully enclosed trailer so as not to attract vectors and create odors.

3. Littering and Spillage

Collection vehicles shall meet the conditions described in Vehicle Construction and Vehicle Maintenance above to prevent littering and spillage. If these conditions cannot be met, a vehicle shall not carry waste until the deficiencies have been corrected.

5. Local Ordinances

All local ordinances must be met for the Permit-by-Rule to be valid. EPD does not verify compliance with local ordinances prior to acknowledging a Permit-by-Rule application. If EPD becomes aware of a violation of local codes, the operation is non-compliant with the Permit-by-Rule and will be notified that they are handling solid waste without a permit.

6. Washwater from Cleaning of Vehicles

When collection vehicles are cleaned, all washwater must be treated before discharge to the environment. This means that collection vehicles will be cleaned in an enclosed and/or curbed structure with an impervious floor, or another location where the washwater can be collected. Washwater from collection vehicles shall not be allowed to run off or be discharged without treatment. Washwater from cleaning of vehicles can be handled in the same ways as wastewater at transfer stations (below). Washwater can be discharged to a permitted wastewater treatment system, or it can be collected in a holding tank and transported to a permitted wastewater treatment facility. Please review the Washwater section under Transfer Stations below for more detail on treatment options.

Interpretations: Transfer Stations

An operation is considered a transfer station and must comply with this rule if the facility is used to transfer solid waste from a collection vehicle to another vehicle for transportation to a permitted disposal facility or processing operation. In order to be registered as a transfer station, some type of facility with structures, machinery or devices must exist. It is not the intent of the EPD to regulate those types of waste collections which use smaller collection vehicles to directly transfer wastes to a larger collection vehicle or trailer without intermediate placement of waste on the ground. Any facility that transfers waste onto a tipping floor or other intermediate locations, and that does not currently operate within a building will be required to build an enclosed structure with an impervious floor. The structure must also serve as a means to contain the waste, prevent exposure of waste to precipitation, deter vectors, and reduce odors.

A convenience center is a facility consisting of one or more solid waste and/or recycling containers where individuals may deposit their own solid waste for eventual management at another location. A convenience center is not considered a transfer station and not subject to this rule.

1. Solid Waste Confined to Interior

EPD interprets this rule to mean that all solid waste must be contained inside transfer station buildings. A building is an enclosed structure consisting of an impermeable floor, roof, and at least three walls that are capable of confining all solid waste to the building. The building must be constructed to prevent precipitation from reaching solid waste inside the structure. The building must be constructed and operated in such a manner as to contain waste inside the building and control litter, liquid runoff, vectors, and odors. All solid waste unloading and loading must take place inside the building. Solid waste shall not be dumped or allowed to scatter outside the building. There are no solid wastes that are exempt from this rule: C&D and inert waste must also be kept inside the transfer station buildings.

To prevent solid waste accumulation, municipal solid waste must be continuously removed from the tipping floor during the operating day for transportation to a solid waste handling facility. At least once during each operating day all municipal solid waste must be removed from every portion of the tipping floor and the floor cleaned per the following guidelines.

To maintain clean and well drained floors at municipal solid waste transfer stations, the floors should be scraped clean daily. Periodic cleaning with pressure washers or other such devices may be necessary to control odors and vectors. Washing transfer station floors with water and cleaning compounds should be done when necessary to maintain a sanitary facility. EPD's expected best management practice is that cleaning is an ongoing process during operating hours, and that as waste is moved from one area to another or from the floor to the truck, the cleared area will be scraped clean. Any solid waste remaining on the floor of the transfer station shall be concentrated to the smallest possible area. For C&D transfer stations, floors are expected to be scraped clean at least weekly. All transfer stations should keep a written cleaning log that includes daily (or weekly for C&D facilities) photographic records showing that the entire floor has been cleaned. These records should be kept for 3 years and be available for any compliance inspections. Dated digital photographs documenting compliance are sufficient provided that EPD has a means to view them.

3. Dust and Odors

If there are still dust and odor issues while the above Solid Waste Confined to the Interior for transfer stations is being met, regardless of waste type, other methods will have to be employed. First, facilities should prioritize sending disproportionately malodorous waste for disposal as soon as possible to a permitted disposal facility. It may also be necessary to reduce or eliminate the amount of the malodorous waste if it cannot be sent for disposal promptly or if sending it promptly does not mitigate odor issues. It may further be necessary to install a deodorizing system, either within the transfer station building or at the edge of the property. Facilities can also provide a complaint system for neighbors, so that it may be easier to notice any patterns in odor issues and correct the problem.

4. Vectors

Keeping the transfer station buildings clean and removing (or securing) waste overnight should reduce the presence of vectors. If vectors are still a problem, control methods must be employed specific to the vector present.

5. Washwater

All liquids generated from solid waste, floor cleaning, or vehicle washing operations at the transfer station facility are required to be collected and discharged to a permitted wastewater treatment system or a permitted on-site treatment system.

Holding tanks may be used to collect liquids generated at solid waste transfer stations. The contents of the tanks must be periodically pumped out and transported to a permitted wastewater treatment facility. The tank must be sealed and there must be no openings other than the access opening for pumping the contents of the holding tank. The access opening must be located hydraulically higher than the wash down area that it serves or the tank must have a sealed or capped opening. A routine pumping schedule must be followed with all contents transported in a leak proof vehicle to a permitted wastewater treatment system. Manifests documenting

proper liquid disposal shall be utilized and records of those manifests maintained at the transfer station facility and available for EPD review during solid waste inspections for a minimum three-year period.

Frequently Asked Questions

Can solid waste remain at the transfer station overnight?

Solid waste may remain at the transfer station overnight provided that the building is fully enclosed, meaning that it must have a floor, roof, three walls, and a door or similar device on the fourth side to completely enclose the waste from the outside. If the building does not have a door or similar device on the fourth side, waste may remain at the transfer station overnight if the waste is in a covered container so as not cause odors or be accessible to vectors. Municipal solid waste shall not remain at the transfer station for more than 24 hours. Transfer stations that receive segregated C&D or inert waste may store that waste inside the transfer station building for up to one week.

Trucks loaded with solid waste and covered with mesh tarps may remain overnight if parked inside the enclosed structure. Loaded trucks may remain on transfer station property if they are completely enclosed or if covered with impervious tarps and are substantially leakproof. Care must be taken to ensure that this practice does not create or contribute to vector or odor problems, or in causing contaminated runoff from leaking trucks. If any odor, vector, or runoff issues are noticed due to these practices, the overnight storage of loaded vehicles must be discontinued immediately.

Can separate waste streams be handled in one building?

Yes, as long as the waste is delivered and kept separate until transported. Any co-mingled waste must be handled as municipal solid waste.

Can recycling take place in a transfer station?

Recycling may only take place at transfer stations where separate recycling containers have been placed in or near the transfer station buildings for individuals to place previously sorted recyclables. No processing or sorting of recyclables may occur at transfer stations under Permit-by-Rule. Any sorting or processing of solid waste requires a solid waste handling permit for a materials recovery facility. Routine removal of unacceptable waste from the solid waste stream is not considered to be recycling.

Is a transfer station required to have an Industrial Storm Water General Permit?

Storm water runoff from the areas outside of most transfer station buildings may be required to be covered under an Industrial Storm Water General Permit. There may be unique operations that qualify for the conditional exclusion from storm water permitting based on the “no exposure” of industrial activities to storm water. Transfer station owners should coordinate this permitting activity with EPD’s Non-Point Source Program at (404) 675-6240.

Does EPD issue the “DOT number” for collection operations?

EPD does not issue the “DOT number” for collection operations. It is up to the permittee to obtain a USDOT number from the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration.

What are the requirements for a Permit-by-Rule facility at a permitted solid waste handling facility?

Any transfer station, collection operation, or other Permit-by-Rule facility that will be within the permitted boundary of a landfill or other permitted solid waste handling facility must submit a *Notification of Permit by Rule* form and a *Request for Minor Modification*. Any transfer station or collection operation at a permitted solid waste handling facility must follow the conditions set forth in this guidance document, unless other site specific conditions are approved in the Design and Operation Plans.

Whose responsibility is it to maintain clean collection vehicles?

It is the responsibility of the collection operation permittee to maintain clean vehicles and prevent littering and spillage. It is not up to the facilities that receive the waste, unless they also own the vehicles. While facilities that receive the waste are not responsible for the cleanliness of independent collection vehicles, facilities are strongly encouraged to adopt cleaning policies for vehicles delivering waste.

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10-3-2018

Date

Replaces and supersedes: Transfer Stations, November 28, 2006 (Revised June 15, 2011)